

BOROUGH OF ROSELAND
COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

FEBRUARY 18, 2020
PUBLIC MEETING ROOM
19 HARRISON AVENUE
6:30 PM OPEN SESSION
EXECUTIVE SESSION TO FOLLOW
IMMEDIATELY AFTER OPEN SESSION

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The February 18, 2020 meeting of the Roseland Mayor and Council was called to order at 6:30 PM by Mayor Spango. Adequate notice of the meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act in that the date, time, and location of the meeting were included in the Annual Meeting Schedule, the time change was advertised in The Progress, sent to the official newspapers, posted on the public bulletin board in the Municipal Building and filed in the office of the Borough Clerk.

IN ATTENDANCE:

James R. Spango, Mayor
Christopher Bardi, Council President
Eileen Fishman, Councilwoman
Roger Freda, Councilman
Jean Perrotti, Councilwoman
Michele Tolli, Councilwoman
Marcelino Trillo, Councilman

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Maureen Chumacas, Borough Administrator
Jock H. Watkins, Borough Clerk
Joni Noble McDonnell, Borough Attorney

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Former Honorary Mayor Aaron Klaff and other members of Roseland Cub Scout Pack 801 led the salute to the flag.

PRESENTATION

After an introduction to municipal service by Mayor Spango, members of Cub Scout Pack 801 asked questions of the Governing Body.

MAYOR'S STATE OF THE BOROUGH ADDRESS

Mayor Spango presented his State of the Borough Address, accompanied by a PowerPoint slide presentation.

At the conclusion of the address, Councilwoman Perrotti made a motion that the address be incorporated into the minutes of the meeting:

"To begin our State of the Borough address, I would like to have a moment of silence to honor all of our residents we have lost in the last year. Thank you.

They say that starting a speech is one of the hardest things to do. How do you introduce the topic you want to discuss? Do you jump right in, tell a story? Do you illustrate your points?

Similar to starting a speech, starting a letter also has its difficulties. Yeah, starting a speech or a letter is usually one of the hardest things to do unless it's from the heart. And for my first State of the Borough, I'm going to focus on what is at the end, rather than the beginning.

If any of you have ever received a letter from me, you know that before I sign my name, my concluding parting words and greeting have always been Always for Roseland. It's this concluding phrase that really belongs at the beginning and the forefront of how I focus on my job as your mayor.

Every day I consider the following questions; Is what I'm trying to accomplish, is what we as the governing body are trying to accomplish, is what the borough employees are trying to accomplish, and is what we as the residents of this town are focused on, is it's Always for Roseland.

When I ran for mayor, I campaigned on bringing our community together, implementing more teamwork at Borough Hall, and making sure Borough government focused on improving the lives and experience that our residents have, while living in what truly is the Gem of Essex County, and in my opinion, the entire State of New Jersey, all while maintaining the small-town feel while making modern improvements.

While there's still so much work to be done and improvements to be made, we have taken important steps to make sure the focus is Always for Roseland. So what does this phrase, Always for Roseland, mean? Primarily, Always for Roseland means to ensure our residents receive the services they want and expect while keeping taxes stable. To further this, we created the West Essex Mayors' Shared Services Coalition, and maintain our past agreements with various communities. We made sure that taxes will be kept affordable to the average homeowner, as the average home in town only saw a tax increase on a municipal site of \$14 in 2019, all while improving services.

We also made an agreement with Essex County to release agreement to purchase equipment for our Fire Department and purchase license plate readers for our Police Department, to give our police the most up-to-date tools to combat the stolen car epidemic. These improvements enable our amazing first responders to have the tools they need to do their job to the best of their ability and keep us all safe.

Always for Roseland means that we focus on accomplishing things that benefit the public good in different ways, and we had many accomplishments in 2009 that directly benefitted every single Roseland resident. We started developing plans to upgrade the tennis courts in Harrison Avenue playground, which we completed in 2020. We purchased new benches for our borough parks. We thanked residents for their contributions to or own parks and recreation systems.

We congratulated Eagle Scouts and residents for beautifying areas all over town. We renamed Lynn DeBell Field to include former Mayor Louis DeBell, in a show of our thankfulness for their dedication and service to our community. We improved and expanded on our town picnic, and saw it grow to an attendance of over 500 residents. We started a tradition of holding summer concert series, which was completely funded by donations, so there was no cost to the taxpayer, and we plan to only expand that series this year to have up to four concerts that residents can attend and enjoy.

We started our first annual Halloween decorating contest, and Christmas and Hanukkah decorating contests to encourage residents to make their homes festive. We acknowledge and thanked our veterans on Veteran's Day with a ceremony in front of Borough Hall, partnering with local businesses, donating lunch for those in attendance. We expanded our municipal use guidance, helped our town events with our high school students, the future of our borough. Continue and expanding the tradition of volunteerism in our youth will only benefit our borough when our youth becomes our leaders.

We brought back the tradition of holiday storytelling with the help of Roseland resident Neil Grabowsky, who donated services to the borough and created a high-quality professional product that was broadcast on Roseland TV throughout December, excuse me. We revamped the Christmas Tree lighting event by providing more entertainment options, a nicer setup for photos with Santa, and new lights for the Christmas Tree.

Always for Roseland 2020 means that we are committed to keeping our tax rate as low as 2019 while also being committed to improving services. We are exploring shared services agreements with our neighboring towns for police dispatch and fuel, which again will save our residents money and actually be a revenue generator for the borough.

Always for Roseland in 2020 means planning to redo Tedesco Park, bringing the Team 94 Run home to Roseland, exploring the feasibility of a full-day SRAM camp, so our families can have affordable summer camp; initiating community block parties throughout the warm months; expanding and making our Christmas event even better, expanding and making our Easter event even better; having a new Residents' Day, having a Roseland Day, with a lot of activities throughout the day, including an Oktoberfest, a concert that will lead up to our bonfire and our family movie night.

Always for Roseland means we listen to the residents when they say they want better access to information and increased communication. Last year brought about the rollout of our new borough website, our revamped Insider, which is now called This Week in Roseland, refreshed and additional new social media accounts, new calendars, community event signs all over town, and a free app that will even tell you when garbage is supposed to be picked up.

Always for Roseland means we continue the progress this year as we examine the possibility of creating an official borough calendar to better broadcast our council meetings, and to stream Roseland TV channel online. Always for Roseland means that we get the community more involved and spirited, so we return to the days when neighbors happily talk to each other, complement each other, care about each other, and bring some more fun and some more small-town charm into the borough.

Always for Roseland means that we listen to your feedback from these events and other events to examine what we can then do to improve it for this year and years down the road. Also this year, with the help of Former Mayor Pacio, we are bringing back the much beloved Mayor's Ball. This year we will aim to raise money for the First Aid Squad and Library for this event.

Lastly, and more importantly, Always for Roseland means we make sure the hot-button issues plaguing our community, our country, our state, and our county are discussed and handled in a way that protects and benefits our residents.

We were on the forefront of prohibiting the sale of electronic smoking products, and passed the vaping ordinance and a marijuana — excuse me, the marijuana ordinance to address concerns that arose last year with a nationwide epidemic and statewide discussion on those issues. Roseland was ahead of the curve.

We continue to press for answers regarding our maligned postal service as we remain in contact with our federal representatives and sending them your complaints and feedback as to what you experience when you do or don't receive your mail as you should.

We addressed the statewide issue of affordable housing, and we settled our yearlong litigation by negotiating an agreement that was announced this fall, and has been very well-received for making the best of a bad situation that Roseland and so many other towns across the state find themselves in.

This settlement was a collaboration of previous and current administrations, and we all, like I said, made the best of a bad situation. We listened from the most minor issues to the most major issues. We attacked these issues head-on and immediately.

With these actions we have taken thus far, it's already showing to make a difference. Engagement is increasing. Residents are going to continue to come forward and join different boards and committees because they want to be a part of this Roseland, our great borough). And to cap it all off, New Jersey monthly magazine towards the end of last year named Roseland the second-best town in Essex county, and the 14th-best town in the entire State of New Jersey. This is something we should be very proud of and is a sign we're heading in the right direction.

There have been three mantras that I have said over and over throughout the last year and have resonated and become almost tangible. The Roseland governing body, if not the most, must attain to be one of the most responsive local governments in the state. And I truly believe we are. If any resident contacts us with an issue, we immediately respond and begin to work on a solution. Solutions don't come overnight, but our initiation of addressing a problem is immediate.

Second, strength through community, and third, Always for Roseland. I thank the dedicated Roseland public servants, who have been essential to the progress and success that we have made in the last year. I thank the community of volunteers who are vital to this borough's success, and I thank my peers on the Borough Council, who have all shared a vision. We have all made it happen together.

I've always said that similar expressions have been uttered before. There isn't a Democratic way, a Republican way to take out the trash. What matters most so the trash gets done affordably, it

gets done well, and it gets done in a way that the residents can be satisfied and proud of at the end of the day.

This is the way we are approaching getting things done. And if we keep the focus on making sure what we are doing is Always for Roseland, we will be doing the right things for those who live, work and play in this gem of a town we call home, Roseland. Thank you, and God bless Roseland."

The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

PROMOTION & SWEARING IN OF POLICE OFFICERS

Councilwoman Perrotti made a motion to approve the three resolutions promoting patrol officers to the rank of Sergeant:

Resolution No. 65-2020 appointment of Raymond Boulard to the rank of Sergeant

Resolution No. 66-2020 appointment of David Courter to the rank of Sergeant

Resolution No. 67-2020 appointment of Michael Luongo to the rank of Sergeant

The motion was seconded by Councilman Bardi and approved by a 6-0 voice vote. Mayor Spango administered the oath of office individually, in the order of seniority, to Sergeant Courter, Sergeant Boulard, and Sergeant Luongo.

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Spango introduced Nicole Sabato from Team 94. Ms. Sabato explained that Team 94 is a non-profit organization working toward opening a program in September 2020 for continuing education for adults with autism. Team 94 is in the midst of their fund-raising season, and their 2nd Annual Color Run is scheduled for April 6th in Roseland.

Ms. Sabato explained that Team 94 would like to honor and express sincere appreciation to Maschio's Food Service for providing equal opportunities, and a safe, friendly, and professional environment for their employees. Mrs. Sabato presented Team 94's Humanitarian Award for 2020 to Frank Machio, Margaret Carnevale, and Lesley Reilly.

Mayor Spango presented a proclamation congratulating Christian Styskal upon his attaining the rank of Eagle Scout, and for completion of his Eagle Scout project, building an American flag drop box for the Caldwell American Legion Post.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 03-2020 by title only for the first time: "An ordinance amending Chapter 22 entitled "Flood Damage Prevention" by replacing the current ordinance in its entirety with the new Chapter 22 herein". Councilwoman Tolli made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 03-2020. The motion was seconded by Councilman Freda and approved by a 6-0 voice vote. The public hearing will be held at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 19 Harrison Avenue, Roseland, NJ.

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 04-2020 by title only for the first time: "An ordinance of the Borough of Roseland relating to electronic file submission standards for subdivision plans, site plans, utility plans, and certain permit applications". Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 04-2020. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 6-0 voice vote. The public hearing will be held at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 19 Harrison Avenue, Roseland, NJ.

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 05-2020 by title only for the first time: "An ordinance of the Borough of Roseland to repeal Ordinance No. 12-2018 as amended which provided for salaries and compensation to be paid to non-union employees of the Borough of Roseland and substitute salaries and compensation for the year 2020". Councilwoman Perrotti made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 05-2020. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bardi and approved by a 6-0 voice vote. The public hearing will be held at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 19 Harrison Avenue, Roseland, NJ.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Councilman Bardi made a motion to approve Resolution No. 68-2020 approving the February 14, 2020 bill list in the amount of \$368,405.28. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Perrotti and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Councilman Trillo made a motion to approve the fourteen resolutions on the agenda:

Resolution No. 69-2020 adopting emergency temporary budget

Resolution No. 70-2020 appointing Official Towing Companies for 2020

Resolution No. 71-2020 approving the water and sewer payment plan for 35 Artho Lane 441580-0

Resolution No. 72-2020 appointing John Manganaro from the firm of Water Resource Management Inc. as the Water Operator and Waste Water Operator for contract year 2020 at a cost of \$11,880.00

Resolution No. 73-2020 authorizing the Mayor and Borough Clerk to execute a shared service agreement with the Township of Verona for street sweeping services through December 31, 2020 at a cost of \$3,500.00 per sweeping and \$125.00 per hour for spot sweeping

Resolution No. 74-2020 authorizing the Borough Administrator to purchase tree removal, tree trimming, and stump grinding services through the Morris County Pricing Council Contract #18 at an estimated cost of \$140,000.00 for the two-year contract period beginning January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2021

Resolution No. 75-2020 awarding a contract to Allied Oil, Inc. for delivery of Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel through Morris County Co-Op Contract #12 at a cost not to exceed \$165,000.00 for the three-year contract period beginning January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2022

Resolution No. 76-2020 adopting a Parent/Guardian Code of Ethics Policy for the Recreation Department

Resolution No. 77-2020 establishing a retention policy for audio and video recordings of Public Body meetings

Resolution No. 78-2020 cancelling Water Sewer Billing-Balances

Resolution No. 79-2020 approving a one-year renewal of the employee life insurance policy with Met Life Insurance Company

Resolution No. 80-2020 rescinding Resolution No. 49-2020 "Appoint Friend & Wenzel as Special Litigation Attorney for 2020"

Resolution No. 81-2020 awarding a five-year contract to Joseph Smentkowski Inc. for collection and hauling of solid waste and recycling in the amount of \$1,614,800.00 for the contract period

Resolution No. 82-2020 ratification of salaries – January 2020

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tolli and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to approve the three items on the Consent Agenda:

Accept with regret the resignation of Catherine Maddrey as the Land Use Administrator effective February 7, 2020

Approval for Ashley Kennedy to attend a licensing seminar on March 6, 2020 in Fairfield, NJ at a cost of \$95.00 plus reimbursement for mileage

Approval for Ashley Kennedy to attend an ethics seminar on March 27, 2020 in Fairfield, NJ at a cost of \$95.00 plus reimbursement for mileage

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Perrotti and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL

Councilman Bardi congratulated Sergeants Courter, Boulard, and Luongo on their promotions. Mr. Bardi congratulated Mayor Spango on his State of the Borough address. Mr. Bardi thanked Administrator Chumacas and the department heads for their work on the 2020 municipal budget. The budget will be introduced at the March 17th meeting. Tonight's meeting is being live streamed via You Tube.

SHARED SERVICES

No report

REDEVELOPMENT AND LEGAL

Councilwoman Fishman congratulated Sergeants Courter, Boulard, and Luongo on their promotions. Mrs. Fishman reported that the plan is to have the Harrison Avenue playground upgrade completed by this fall. The Committee is working with the Borough Engineer to complete plans for the upgrade of Tedesco Park. The Committee is also developing plans to increase participation in the senior organizations.

PUBLIC WORKS

Councilman Freda congratulated Mayor Spango on his State of Borough Address. Branch collection will begin on the first Monday in March. The paving of Roosevelt Street is scheduled to begin in April/May, weather permitting. The new recycling/trash collection schedule will be posted on the Borough's website by March 1st. Yard waste collection will begin on each Wednesday in April and May. Paving of other streets which have undergone underground utility work, including Conover Avenue, Cobb Terrace, and Crestview Court, are also scheduled to be paved this year. Councilman Freda thanked the OEM for performing fifty hours of volunteer traffic control since the last Council meeting.

Mayor Spango added that the Borough Engineer has been engaged to perform a rating of the condition of all borough streets to prioritize repaving of streets that are in the greatest need.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilwoman Perrotti congratulated Sergeants Courter, Luongo, and Boulard on their promotions. Mrs. Perrotti thanked Chief McDonough for obtaining a Narcan dosing grant, saving the Borough several thousand dollars. Mrs. Perrotti thanked the officers of the police department for working diligently and aggressively to maintain the safety of Borough residents. The fire department has had one meeting, two drills and responded to twenty alarms in the month of January. Fire fighters performed one hundred and nine manhours of emergency service, and two hundred thirty-one manhours of non-emergency service in January. The West Essex and Roseland Boards of education are working on their respective budgets.

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Councilwoman Tolli reported that use of the senior bus has increased. The recreation department is working on plans for the Easter extravaganza in April. Mrs. Tolli recognized Leslie Klaff as member of Municipal Youth Guidance Subcommittee. The Harrison tennis courts will be resurfaced as part of the playground upgrade. Mrs. Tolli attended the Roseland First Aid Squad (RFAS) awards ceremony on February 8th, noting the celebration of their 40th anniversary. Joe Silvia was recognized for thirty-three years of service, responding to two hundred forty calls in 2019. Tom Loucopolos was recognized for responding to two hundred and four calls in 2019, and Jessica Kelly for responding to one hundred sixty-seven calls last year. Jessica Kelly, Robert Geraghty, Tim Allendorf, Joe Silvia, Robert Friedman, and Daisy Puli were credited with two CPR saves in 2019. Councilwoman Tolli thanked the members of the RFAS, Fire Department, Office of Emergency Management, Police Department, Department of Public Works, and Auxiliary Police for their many hours of service to the residents of Roseland. Mrs. Tolli congratulated Sergeants Courter, Luongo, and Boulard on their promotions.

Mayor Spango thanked residents for their patience while the entrance hall of the building undergoes renovation and a face lift.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilwoman Tolli made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2020 caucus meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Perrotti and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

Councilman Bardi made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2020 special budget meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 5-0 voice vote, with Councilwoman Fishman abstaining from the vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

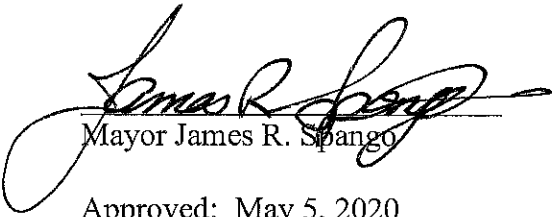
Councilman Bardi made a motion to approve Resolution No. 64-2020 Approval to Close to Executive Session at 7:24 PM to discuss the following:

1. COAH Litigation

The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

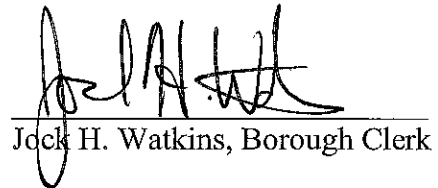
ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Bardi made a motion to close the meeting at 7:43 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tolli and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.



Mayor James R. Spango

Approved: May 5, 2020



Jock H. Watkins, Borough Clerk

VOICE VOTE

Aye: Bardi, Fishman, Freda, Perrotti, Tolli, Trillo
Nay: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None