# BOROUGH OF ROSELAND COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

JUNE 16, 2020 VIA CONFERENCE CALL 6:30 PM OPEN SESSION

### **CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES**

# **CALL TO ORDER & SUNSHINE STATEMENT**

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency, the June 16, 2020 meeting of the Roseland Mayor and Council was called to order at 6:30 PM via teleconference 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, sent to the official newspapers, posted on the public bulletin board in the Municipal Building and filed in the office of the Borough Clerk. The change of the location of the meeting to telephonic, the teleconference access telephone number, and the teleconference access were advertised in The Progress, sent to the Star Ledger, posted on the Borough's website, posted on the doors of the municipal building, and filed in the office of the Borough Clerk. The public was invited to join the Roseland Council Meeting via computer by logging in to: <a href="https://ZOOM.US/J/93530484582"><u>HTTPS://ZOOM.US/J/93530484582</u></a> or via telephone by calling +1 646-558-8656, Webinar ID: 935 3048 4582

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

Mayor Spango led the salute to the flag. Mayor Spango asked that everyone observe a moment of silence in honor of all of those affected by the Covid-19 health emergency, and also for the Country during this time of unrest.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Bonnie Sturchio

37 Lincoln Street

Elizabeth Phillips

29 Lincoln Street

### **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 16-2020 by title only for the first time: "An ordinance amending and supplementing chapter 17 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Roseland entitled "Water and Sewer". Councilman Bardi made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 16-2020. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Fishman and approved by a 6-0 roll voice vote. The public hearing will be held at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 via teleconference.

# PUBLIC HEARING/ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 12-2020 by title only for the second time: "An ordinance amending and supplementing Chapter 19 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Roseland entitled "Streets and Sidewalks"". Councilman Trillo made a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 12-2020. The motion was seconded by Councilman Freda and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

#### **Public Comment**

Bonnie Sturchio 3'

37 Lincoln Street

There being no one else wishing to be heard, Councilwoman Perrotti made a motion to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tolli and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 12-2020 for the third and final time: "An ordinance amending and supplementing Chapter 19 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Roseland entitled "Streets and Sidewalks". Councilwoman Perrotti made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 12-2020. The motion was seconded by Councilman Freda and approved by a 6-0 roll call vote.

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 15-2020 by title only for the second time: "An ordinance to amend Section 2-75.7 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Roseland entitled "Fee Charged by the Department of Recreation – Recreation Fee Refund Policy". Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 15-2020. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tolli and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

#### **Public Comment**

Annamaria Bellino 20 Lincoln Street

There being no one else wishing to be heard, Councilwoman Perrotti made a motion to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bardi and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 15-2020 for the third and final time: "An ordinance to amend Section 2-75.7 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Roseland entitled "Fee Charged by the Department of Recreation – Recreation Fee Refund Policy". Councilman Bardi made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 08-2020. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Perrotti and approved by a 6-0 roll call vote.

## APPROVAL OF BILLS

Councilwoman Tolli made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 183-2020 approving the June 11, 2020 bill list in the amount of \$352,462.04. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

### **ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to approve the first twelve resolutions on the agenda:

Resolution No. 184-2020 Ratification of salaries – May 2020

Resolution No. 185-2020 increasing the bid and quote threshold effective July 1, 2020

Resolution No. 186-2020 approving the promotion of Louis Zagada to Assistant Foreman of the Department of Public Works effective June 22, 2020

Resolution No. 187-2020 authorizing the Mayor to sign a contract with Piazza Associates for affordable housing administrative services

Resolution No. 188-2020 authorizing the adoption of the 2020 Essex County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Resolution No. 189-2020 approving the purchase of park and playground equipment from Marturano Recreation Company Inc. through State Contract No. 16-FLEET-00121 in the amount of \$182,685.61 for the Harrison Avenue Park

Resolution No. 190-2020 approving the submittal of a NJ DOT Municipal Aid grant application and the execution of a contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Steel Court Project

Resolution No. 191-2020 authorizing the use of contract extension #4 for State Contract 19-TELE-00656 to Dell for computer equipment, peripherals, and related services through July 31, 2021

Resolution No. 192-2020 approving the purchase of fifteen (15) computers and monitors from Dell through State Contract 19-TELE-00656 at a cost of \$15,265.49

Resolution No. 193-2020 authorizing the refund of the convenience fee for payment of 2nd quarter taxes for 8 Mulford Court

Resolution No. 194-2020 accepting Sheryl Ryan's retirement effective June 1, 2020 and authorizing the payment of sick days in the amount of \$8,884.85

Resolution No. 195-2020 approving the purchase of Rubberbond flooring for the Harrison Avenue Park from RubbeRecycle in the amount of \$112,500.00 through state contract 16-FLEET-00131

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

Councilman Freda made a motion to approve the next five resolutions on the agenda:

Resolution No. 196-2020 authorizing the Mayor to sign a Municipal Service Act Agreement with Roseland Glen Condominium Association

Resolution No. 197-2020 authorizing the Mayor to Sign a Municipal Service Act Agreement with Eagle Rock Condominium Association

Resolution No. 198-2020 authorizing the Mayor to Sign a Municipal Service Act Agreement with Stonegate Condominium Association

Resolution No. 199-2020 authorizing the Mayor to Sign a Municipal Service Act Agreement with Roseland Green Condominium Association

Resolution No. 200-2020 authorizing the Mayor to Sign a Municipal Service Act Agreement with Fullerton Brook Condominium Association

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Perrotti and approved by a 5-0 voice vote with Councilwoman Fishman abstaining from the vote.

Councilman Bardi made a motion to approve the remaining four resolutions on the agenda:

Resolution No. 201-2020 approving the hiring of seasonal employees for the 2020 SCRAM Recreation Program

Resolution No. 202-2020 authorizing the extension of the Competitive Contract with Professional Property Appraisers for revaluation services through December 31, 2021

Resolution No. 203-2020 accepting Gary Schall's retirement Effective July 1, 2020 and authorizing the Payment of sick days in the amount of \$15,000.00

Resolution No. 204-2020 temporarily amending Chapter 4, Section 11 of the Borough Code Entitled "Licensing of Temporary Outdoor Seating Areas"

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

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Accept with regret the resignation of Auxiliary Sergeant Andrew Sikorski from the Roseland Auxiliary Police effective May 16, 2020

Approval of red-light permit for Timothy Allendorf of the Roseland First Aid Squad

Accept with regret the resignation of Ashley Kennedy as Planning Board Secretary effective June 30, 2020

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

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Spango announced that there have been eighty-six cases of Covid-19 reported in Roseland, with fifteen deaths. There have been no changes to these numbers in two weeks.

Mayor Spango congratulated Gary Schall and Sheryl Ryan upon their retirement and wished them both the best of luck in their retirement. Council adopted a resolution tonight to expedite the reopening of local restaurants. The Department of Public Works (DPW) has taken advantage of the closed building to redo the public meeting room at 19 Harrison Avenue. In lieu of the cancelled summer concerts, there will be two or three movie nights planned – details to follow. The Mayor thanked the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and Captain Mathies for facilitating the graduation parade this past Friday, when Noecker School teachers paraded by each of the students' homes. With the reopening of the Roseland Post office, mail complaints have dropped from an average of fifteen per day, to one or two per week.

With respect to the recent demonstrations that have taken place in New Jersey and across the Country, Mayor Spango noted that New Jersey is way ahead of the curve compared to other states in police officer training. All New Jersey police officers are required to have training in de-escalation, bias crime, fair and impartial policing, and cultural diversity. New Jersey also has an early warning system in place to provide assistance to officers in need. Police department records indicate that there have not been any use of force complaints during the past twenty years.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL

Councilman Bardi congratulated Gary Schall and Sheryl Ryan upon their retirement, wishing them health and happiness in their retirement. Mr. Bardi thanked the Public Works Committee for their hard work getting the condominium reimbursement agreements up to date, and for their work with representatives of the Condominium Associations in the development of the ordinance that was adopted this evening amending the private roads section of the Streets

and Sidewalks ordinance. The revaluation of property that was scheduled to take place this year has been postponed until next year for implementation in 2022.

#### SHARED SERVICES

Councilman Trillo congratulated Gary Schall and Sheryl Ryan upon their retirement.

#### REDEVELOPMENT AND LEGAL

Councilwoman Fishman congratulated Gary Schall and Sheryl Ryan upon their retirement. Council approved resolutions this evening authorizing the purchase of playground equipment for the improvements to Harrison Park. Mrs. Fishman cautioned residents that although the number of Coronavirus infections is down, please don't become complacent. Essex County is continuing their weekly food deliveries, with the next distribution scheduled for Thursday at Colgate Park in West Orange.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS**

Councilman Freda congratulated Gary Schall and Sheryl Ryan upon their retirement. The DPW is currently working to repair a water main break on Passaic Avenue. Residents in the area may get dirty water when the system is turned back on. Mr. Freda thanked the OEM for their efforts during the Covide-19 emergency, and for their assistance with teacher parade this past weekend. The Police Committee will be reviewing police department policies and standards.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilwoman Perrotti congratulated Gary Schall and Sheryl Ryan upon their retirement. The fire department currently has thirty-seven members. The department responded to fifteen alarms in May, compared to ninety-three during the same time period last year. The police department has installed license plate readers in several cars, and they are awaiting delivery of the computers to complete the project. The Roseland police officers are currently in the process of receiving their annual de-escalation training.

Mayor Spango thanked Recreation Director Colitti for his efforts to keep the SCRAM program alive during the Covid-19 quarantine, and for planning to allow the operation of a modified SCRAM program now that quarantine restrictions are being cancelled in phases.

## RECREATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Councilwoman Tolli congratulated Gary Schall and Sheryl Ryan upon their retirement, wishing them good luck and good health in their retirement.

Recreation Director Colitti thanked Council for their support during the Covid-19 emergency. Mr. Colitti outlined some of the changes that will be implemented for the SCRAM program this year. A nurse or EMT will be on site for every session; the number of staff has been increased to reduce the counselor to camper ratio to 1:7 or 1:10 maximum; due to Covid-19, the program will not be rain or shine this year, all of the Borough's outdoor facilities will

be used, only outdoor activities will be conducted, and sessions will be cancelled if there is rain or high heat; the projected start date is July 14<sup>th</sup>; any fee increase will be solely Covid-19 related. Mr. Colitti thanked Chief McDonough, OEM Coordinator Mathies, First Aid Squad Coordinator Allendorf, and Detective Hiter for attending a meeting yesterday to work out traffic control for the SCRAM program. Covid-19 procedures are being developed to survey campers as to illness or temperature prior to attending sessions. Rules and procedures specific to Covid-19 are being developed which will be submitted to the Administrator, Borough Attorney, and Health Officer for review and approval. One hundred and eleven campers have been pre-registered for the program.

Councilwoman Tolli announced that the first movie night has been tentatively scheduled for July 15<sup>th</sup> and will be held in the parking lot at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church on Livingston Avenue. Student members of the Municipal Youth Guidance Committee have been notified to submit their essays for scholarship consideration. The Beautification Committee is hoping that as Covid-19 quarantine restrictions are relaxed, that the winter banners will be removed in the center of town. The recreation department will be offering another Rocket League beginning June 30<sup>th</sup>, and will be looking into other online gaming opportunities for all ages.

Areas scheduled for repair on Cortlandt Street have been marked with white paint. Administrator Chumacas was asked to draft a letter to the County Executive and the County Engineer requesting an additional speed limit sign be installed on the eastbound side of Harrison Avenue, prior to the nursery school, and requesting consideration of further reducing the speed limit on Harrison Avenue. Council decided to keep the July 7<sup>th</sup> Caucus meeting

Mr. Colitti reported that PMA Companies performed the annual park and playground risk assessment inspection on June 11<sup>th</sup>. The Borough received a good bill of health with no major safety concerns, and only minor repairs needed.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Bardi made a motion to approve the May 19, 2020 Council meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to approve the June 2, 2020 caucus meeting minutes and the June 2, 2020 executive session minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Perrotti and approved by a 5-0 voice vote, with Councilman Freda abstaining from the vote.

# **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Elizabeth Phillips
Bonnie Sturchio
David Veneri
Jack Goldberg
Annamaria Bellino

29 Lincoln Street
37 Lincoln Street
34 Bovensiepen Court
55 Leonard Terrace
20 Lincoln Street

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilman Freda made a motion at 7:54 PM to approve Resolution No. 205-2020 Approval to Close to Executive Session to discuss the following:

#### 1. Personnel

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to close the meeting at 8:22 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilman Freda and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

Mayor James R. Spango

Approved: July 7, 2020

## **VOICE VOTE**

Aye:

Bardi, Fishman, Freda, Perrotti, Tolli, Trillo

Nay: Abstain: None

None

Absent:

None