

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

JANUARY 19, 2021  
VIA CONFERENCE CALL  
6:30 PM OPEN SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency, the January 19, 2021 meeting of the Roseland Mayor and Council was called to order at 6:30 PM by Mayor Spango. Adequate notice of the remote Zoom 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 public was invited to join the Roseland remote Council meeting via computer by logging in to: <https://zoom.us/j/95597784464?pwd=b0dNdHFjZE9lQ2tSamFIT3orS1BUdz09> or via telephone by calling +1-312-626 6799, or +1-646-558-8656, or +1-301-715-8592, Webinar ID: 955 9778 4464, Passcode: 705407.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

James R. Spango, Mayor  
Christopher Bardi, Councilman  
Eileen Fishman, Council President  
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.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

Councilman Bardi made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 02-2021: "An ordinance to amend Section 7-24 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Roseland entitled "Routes for Trucks Over Four Tons". The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Perrotti and approved by a 6-0 voice vote. The public hearing will be held on February 16, 2021.

Councilwoman Perrotti made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 03-2021: “Bond Ordinance amending in its entirety Bond Ordinance No. 13-2020 of the Borough of Roseland, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, finally adopted May 19, 2020”. The motion was seconded by Councilman Freda and approved by a 6-0 voice vote. The public hearing will be held on February 16, 2021.

### **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Councilwoman Tolli made a motion to approve Resolution No. 41-2021 approving the January 15, 2021 bill list in the amount of \$235,673.04. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 5-0 voice vote with Councilman Freda abstaining from the vote.

### **ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

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

Resolution No. 42-2021 approving budget transfers

Resolution No. 43-2021 approving the release of Final Payment in the amount of \$5,814.46 to Fred Devens for Pressure Regulator Improvements

Resolution No. 44-2021 awarding a contract for the base bid and Alternat “A” in the amount of \$192,922.00 to Whirl Construction Inc. for the Harrison Avenue Playground Improvements

Resolution No. 45-2021 authorizing the Mayor to sign a contract with Vigilant Solutions Enterprise Service for license plate reading software at a cost of \$2,475.00

Resolution No. 46-2021 authorizing contracts with Approved Morris County Pricing Council Contract for various vendors from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021

Resolution No. 47-2021 appointing the official towing companies for 2021

Resolution No. 48-2021 appointing John Matheis as Office of Emergency Management Coordinator through January 31, 2024

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

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Mayor Spango received a letter from a Davenport Avenue resident expressing concern about a flooding situation. The Borough Engineer has walked the site and Mrs. Chumacas was asked to present the engineer’s findings to Council for further consideration.

### **MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Spango explained that Ordinance No. 02-2021, which was introduced earlier in

the meeting, is the first of several steps that Council plans to take in response to concerns posed by residents of Lincoln Street earlier this year. The proposed ordinance will amend the Borough's traffic ordinance to increase the maximum penalty and require a court appearance for large trucks that violate the four-ton limit on Lincoln Street. The recreation department has planned a full spring schedule which can be scaled back if Covid-19 restrictions haven't been eased. Roseland is negotiating the terms of the wastewater treatment agreement with the Borough of Caldwell, noting that it will be a fight, but Roseland should prevail. Mr. Spango received a letter today from Caldwell in response to Roseland's challenge of Caldwell's proposed new methodology for billing for treatment services.

The number of new Covid-19 cases reported has increased dramatically. There were seventeen cases reported last March, fifty-four cases in April, fifteen cases in May, no new cases reported from June through August, seven in September, thirty-four in October, fifty-five in November, eighty in December, and sixty-two new cases reported in January, through the nineteenth.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL**

Councilman Bardi reported that Council held a special budget meeting on Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss proposed, departmental, capital improvement projects. Council has another special budget meeting scheduled for 9:00 AM on Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup> and will begin a line-item review of the Borough's proposed 2021 municipal budget.

### **SHARED SERVICES**

Councilwoman Tolli thanked supporters for returning her to Council for another term. Mrs. Tolli also thanked Borough employees and the Borough's emergency services for continuing to work throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. Mrs. Tolli thanked all residents who volunteer to serve on committees and boards, and as coaches, scout leaders, and on town organizations.

Roseland received a letter from Caldwell in response to questions raised about the senior bus service during the pandemic. Additional inquiries will be made as this letter was inconclusive. The Beautification Committee is looking into new holiday decorations for the street light poles. Scholarships have been awarded to all four of the Municipal Youth Guidance subcommittee students who submitted applications. Those receiving the scholarships are Aaron Alberto, Michael Colitti, Jr., Liam Golden, and Stephanie Salvanto. Members of the Municipal Youth Guidance subcommittee will also be conducting a food drive to benefit the Roseland Food Bank, and will be working with Junior Women's Club to collect socks to present to several homeless shelters in Newark. Mrs. Tolli announced a number of important telephone numbers where residents can gain access to mental health crisis services. The numbers are currently posted on the Essex County website and will be added to Roseland's website.

## REDEVELOPMENT AND LEGAL

Councilwoman Fishman explained that Council awarded the bid earlier in the meeting for the improvements to the Harrison recreation complex. Mrs. Fishman noted that the number of Covid-19 cases and Covid-19 related deaths are increasing. Mrs. Fishman asked everyone to take a moment to remember all those who have passed due to Covid-19. Mrs. Fishman encouraged everyone to remain vigilant, wash their hands, wear their masks, and maintain safe distances. As more people are signing up to get the Covid-19 vaccine, it is getting more difficult to get an appointment. More doses are expected to be received, and residents are encouraged to keep trying to make an appointment to get the vaccine.

## PUBLIC WORKS

No report

## PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilwoman Perrotti reported that the proposed fire department ordinance has been delivered to new Fire Chief Rich Loveless. The office of emergency management recently assisted with two funeral escorts and assisted the police department during the recent snow storm. The Auxiliary Police continue to assist with traffic control at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church. Auxiliary Police Captain Sampson assisted the police department during the recent snow storm. Despite Covid-19, members of the Auxiliary Police logged more than four-hundred-man hours of service in 2020. The Auxiliary Police continue to seek new members.

## RECREATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Councilman Trillo thanked Councilwoman Tolli for her many years of service as Chair of the Recreation Committee. The Recreation Committee had their first meeting last week. The Committee is planning for a full baseball season. Registrations are coming in slowly for the online Madden game and the Rocket League. There is no cost for these online programs. Mr. Trillo attended his first West Essex Board of Education meeting and introduced himself as the new Council liaison. Due the closeness of Rosh Hashanah and Labor Day this year, schools will not open until September 9<sup>th</sup>, the Thursday after Labor Day.

Mayor Spango added that he met with recreation Director Colitti at the end of last year and they discussed planning a full day SCRAM program this year, if at all possible.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2021 Council Reorganization Meeting and the January 5, 2021 caucus meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tolli and approved by a 5-0 voice vote, with Councilman Freda abstaining from the vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Annamaria Bellino  
John Matheis                      OEM Coordinator

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

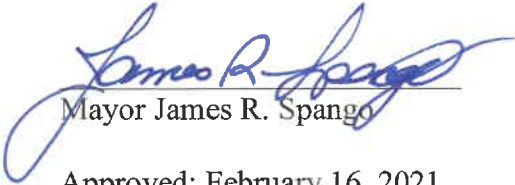
Councilman Bardi made a motion at 8:01 PM to approve Resolution No. 49-2021 Approval to Close to Executive Session to discuss the following:

1.     PSE&G – Request to Vacate a Portion of Locust Avenue
2.     Personnel
3.     Contract Negotiations

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

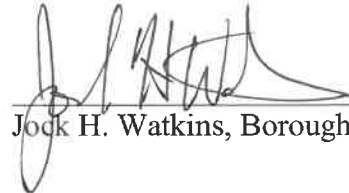
**ADJOURNMENT**

Council returned to open session at 10:44 PM and Councilman Freda made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bardi and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.



Mayor James R. Spango

Approved: February 16, 2021



Jock H. Watkins, Borough Clerk

**VOICE VOTE**

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

