

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

MAY 5, 2020
VIA CONFERENCE CALL
7:30 PM OPEN SESSION
EXECUTIVE SESSION TO FOLLOW

CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency, the May 5, 2020 meeting of the Roseland Mayor and Council was called to order at 7:30 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 website were posted on the website, sent to the official newspapers, posted on the doors of 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

Mayor Spango led the salute to the flag that was displayed on the computer screen.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 13-2020 by title only for the first time: Bond Ordinance providing for various improvements to the water/sewer utility in and by the Borough of Roseland, County of Essex, New Jersey, appropriating \$1,205,000.00 therefor and authorizing the issuance of \$1,205,000.00 bonds or notes of the Borough to finance the cost thereof'. Councilwoman Tolli made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 13-2020. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bardi and approved by a 5-1 roll call vote with

Councilman Freda voting against introduction. The public hearing will be held at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 via teleconference.

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 14-2020 by title only for the first time: Bond Ordinance providing for the acquisition of equipment for the Department of Public Works in and by the Borough of Roseland, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey, appropriating \$249,040.00 therefor and authorizing the issuance of \$236,588.00 bonds or notes of the Borough to finance part of the cost thereof. Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 14-2020. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Perrotti and approved by a 6-0 roll call vote. The public hearing will be held at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 via teleconference.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Councilman Freda made a motion to approve Resolution No. 147-2020 approving the May 1, 2020 bill list in the amount of \$275,282.97. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tolli and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

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

Resolution No. 148-2020 approving the proposal from Remington & Vernick Engineers to provide consulting engineering services for wastewater treatment alternative analysis and buildout flow calculations at a cost of \$23,600.00

Resolution No. 149-2020 correcting the term of the agreement authorized by Resolution No. 97-2020 "Authorize the Mayor and Borough Clerk to Execute a Renewed Shared Service Agreement Verona Construction Code Through December 31, 2020" to reflect the that the correct term of the agreement is three years through December 31, 2022 at the rates referenced in the contract

Resolution No. 150-2020 authorizing the guide movement of certain Department of Public Works Employees (DPW) effective May 11, 2020

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to approve the appointment of Kathleen Speer to the Beautification Committee with a term expiration of December 31, 2020. The motion seconded by Councilwoman Tolli and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Spango gave an update on the Covid-19 pandemic, advising that there are seventy-three reported cases in Roseland and there have been twelve deaths. The curve is flattening due to employees and the public adhering to social distancing practices. The Roseland Relief Fund received its first donation in the amount of \$1,000.00. The fund has been established to assist Roseland families in need due to the Covid-19 quarantine. Any unexpended funds will be used for families in need after the quarantine. Assemblywoman Sherrill, County Executive DiVincenzo and local health officers held a very successful and informative town hall meeting. Governor Murphy has ordered schools remain closed for the balance of current school year.

All spring recreation sports and other events are cancelled. Any recreation fees paid for cancelled programs will be fully refunded. Residents will be offered the option to either receive a full refund of the fees or to donate all or a portion of their refund to the Roseland Relief Fund. As of today, tax collections are stable at about the same rate as last year allowing the Borough to continue to operate and make full payments to Essex County and both Boards of Education. Dr. Smith is offering free Covid-19 testing for all Borough employees. The Borough has sent a letter to owners of the Everly and Avalon developments, imploring them to freeze rent increases during the health emergency, and asking Everly to pro-rate their recreation fees as the pool will be unable to open. In an effort to do something special for this year's graduating high school seniors, the West Essex Board of Education, with the approval of parents, will attempt to honor seniors with banners on light poles in center of town with student's name, senior picture and class. The Borough is also working with Noecker School to do something for students moving up to middle school

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL

Council authorized the administrator to advertise for a part-time code enforcement officer at a rate of \$15.00 per hour for twenty hours per week. The non-residential common meter fee has not been increased for at least ten years. The Committee will make a recommendation to increase the fee. Council agreed to amend water fees to provide a ten percent discount to eligible senior citizens and veterans. The Committee recommended changing the method of calculating the water bill when a water leak results in a high bill. The bill would be calculated on the average of the same quarter billed during the previous three years. There were no objections to the change. The Committee also recommended increasing the fee to perform a final water meter reading when a property is sold from \$100.00 to \$150.00. Due to the Coronavirus health emergency, the state budget adoption will be delayed this year. Council agreed to the state's recommendation to send out estimated tax bills this year due to the delay. A resolution authorizing estimated tax bills will be on the May 19th agenda.

Mayor Spango added that the Borough began tracking Covid-19 expenses at the end of March. Under current funding, the Borough will be eligible for reimbursement of seventy-five percent of those expenses.

SHARED SERVICES

Councilman Trillo reported that the Borough and the Home School Association have agreed to share the expense of purchasing lawn signs thanking first responders. Proceeds from the sale of the signs will go to first responders. One of the resolutions passed this evening corrected the term of the shared services agreement with Verona for Construction Code Services from one year to three years with a slight increase in the fee.

REDEVELOPMENT AND LEGAL

No report

PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee reviewed the Borough Engineer's road analysis report for roads that are eligible for DOT grant funding, and considered ADP Boulevard, Choctaw Way, and Freeman Streets as potential candidates for the 2021 DOT Municipal Aid Grant. Both ADP Boulevard and Choctaw Way may be subjected to heavy construction traffic due to pending developments on Livingston Avenue and Becker Farm Road, and Freeman Street may require water or sewer improvements prior to resurfacing. The Committee will continue to discuss the matter further as the deadline to submit the application is July 1st. Council discussed advertising for the Assistant Foreman position for DPW and possibly changing the job title of water/sewer foreman to better reflect job responsibilities.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilwoman Perrotti explained that the West Essex Board of Education introduced their budget last night. The Roseland Board of Education introduced their budget two weeks ago. Mrs. Perrotti noted that Police Chief McDonough wants residents to understand that the Governor has not relaxed social distancing limitations yet and that masks must be worn in town parks and people still cannot congregate. Residents are also cautioned not to leave their keys in their cars.

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Committee recommended that the ordinance be amended to reflect that anyone who is suspended or removed from a recreation program not be entitled to a refund of participations fees. Recreation Director Colitti has proposed new virtual gaming programs due to the health emergency quarantine. The name of the senior of the year and the mothers of the year will be announced in Friday's newsletter and will be announced on the website and PEG channels. Councilwoman Tolli reported that the Susan G. Komen Foundation sent a thank you letter for the six-hundred-dollar donation that was made by the Municipal Youth Guidance Sub-committee from donations collected at last year's bonfire. The Caldwell Food Bank on Park Avenue is open on Wednesday's from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM for anyone in need of food. Beautification Committee member Priscilla Narvaez is making face masks for anyone who needs one. All spring programs have been cancelled and fees will be refunded.

Mayor Spango announced that the Recreation Department will begin accepting registrations for SCRAM in the hope that the program will be able to run this summer. Registrations for fall soccer will also be accepted. Mr. Spango also encouraged everyone to submit their census surveys.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Trillo made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2020 Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Perrotti and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

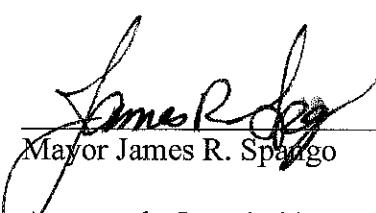
EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Bardi made a motion at 8:39 PM to approve Resolution No. 146-2020 Approval to Close to Executive Session to discuss the following:

1. Tax Appeal Settlements
2. Potential Litigation
3. Personnel

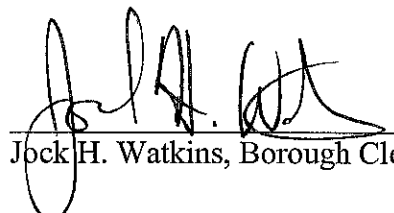
ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Freda made a motion to close the meeting at 9:28 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.



Mayor James R. Spango

Approved: June 2, 2020



Jock H. Watkins, Borough Clerk

VOICE VOTE

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