

BOROUGH OF ROSELAND  
COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DECEMBER 1, 2020  
VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL

6:30 PM OPEN SESSION  
EXECUTIVE SESSION TO IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency, the December 1, 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 rescheduled meeting were sent to the official newspapers, posted on the Borough's website and 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, and the teleconference access web address and telephone number were sent to the official newspapers, posted on the Borough's website, 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: <HTTPS://ZOOM.US/J/93530484582> or via telephone by calling +1 646-558-8656, Webinar ID: 935 3048 4582. The location of online documents for discussion at this meeting was announced, as was the procedure for making public comments during the meeting via computer or via telephone.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

James R. Spango, Mayor  
Christopher Bardi, Council President  
Eileen Fishman, Councilwoman  
Jean Perrotti, Councilwoman  
Michele Tolli, Councilwoman  
Marcelino Trillo, Councilman (6:38 PM)

**ABSENT:**

Roger Freda, 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**

Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to open the meeting to public comment. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tolli and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda absent). There being no one wishing to be heard, Councilman Bardi made a motion to close public

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Councilwoman Tolli made a motion to approve Resolution No. 355-2020 approving the November 25, 2020 bill list in the Amount of \$71,550.28. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda absent).

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON CDBG GRANT APPLICATION**

Councilman Bardi made a motion to introduce Resolution No. 361-2020 entitled "Authorizing Submission of a 2021 CDBG Grant Application for an ADA Accessibility Improvement Project to Provide Upgraded and Enhanced Accessibility Throughout Tedesco Park". The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Fishman and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda absent). The public hearing will be held on December 15, 2020 via teleconference.

**ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

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

Resolution No 356-2020 authorizing the purchase of 9 Dell computers through State Contract 19-TELE-00656 \$11,257.64

Resolution No 357-2020 memorializing cancellations of water sewer billings-balances

Resolution No 358-2020 approving budget transfers

Resolution No. 359-2020 amending Resolution No. 256-2020 "Appointing Lite DePalma Greenburg as Labor Counsel for 2020", increasing the not to exceed amount by \$15,000 to a new amount not to exceed \$55,000.00

Resolution No. 360-2020 approving the rejection of all bids for the Harrison Avenue Playground Improvement project and approval to re-bid

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Fishman and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda absent).

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilwoman Tolli made a motion to approve the one item on the Consent Agenda:

Approval to distribute funds to aid the Fire Department for 2020 in the amount of \$50,000.00

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Fishman and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda absent).

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Spango reported that there were nine new cases of Covid-19 reported yesterday making November the highest month with fifty-five cases reported, which represents approximately thirty percent of the total cases to date. Two residents are currently hospitalized and four new cases were reported today.

Mrs. Chumacas reported that the NJ Department of Community Affairs has recommended that municipalities waive building permit fees required by the Uniform Construction Code (UCC) for temporary structures such as tents during the Covid-19 pandemic. Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to waive UCC permit fees for temporary structures during the pandemic. The motion as seconded by Councilman Bardi and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda absent).

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications have been historically completed and submitted by the Superintendent of the DPW. With Mr. Schall's retirement, the Borough Engineer was asked to submit the application this year. The project selected for this application is to replace the sidewalks at Tedesco Park. This CDBG project will be done in coordination with the overall plans to improve Tedesco Park.

Mr. Spango met with Recreation Director Colitti to discuss the plans for the holiday tree lighting. The event will comply with the Governor's guidelines. The holiday house decorating contest will also take place again this year. The Cub Scouts will be conducting a toy drive with donations going to the Roseland Covid-19 relief Fund. Face masks with the Borough seal are for sale on the website with proceeds also going to the Covid-19 Relief Fund.

Mayor Spango received a letter from residents at Nob Hill expressing their concerns about fees being charged for amenities and the pool while the pool was not open. Mr. Spango would like to the Governing Body to send the property owner a letter from indicating unanimous support of the residents' position. All members present agreed with sending the letter. Borough Attorney McDonnell will draft letter under Mayor's name.

Councilman Bardi added that he received a letter from a Nob Hill resident asking for the Borough's support to get the 3.5% rent cap reduced to 1.5% during the pandemic. The Committee planned to take the matter under consideration at their new meeting. Mr. Bardi suggested that this subject be included in the letter to be sent to the property owner. Mayor Spango stated that a letter was sent to the management at the beginning of the pandemic asking them to freeze or reduce rent increases for seniors during the pandemic, but that no response has been received.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Councilman Bardi announced that the next budget meeting will be held via teleconference at 9:00 AM on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.

SHARED SERVICES

No report

REDEVELOPMENT AND LEGAL

Councilwoman Fishman announced that the Harrison Recreation Complex Improvements project will be going out for rebid. The plan remains to begin construction in early spring 2021. Mrs. Fishman noted that everyone is suffering from “pandemic fatigue” and encouraged anyone who is feeling isolated or lonely to contact the Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris at 973-509-9777.

PUBLIC WORKS

No report

PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilwoman Perrotti advised Council that the Mayor and the Police Committee have agreed with Police Department Officer in Charge Costello to begin a trial period using the Pittman schedule. The Pittman schedule is a twelve-hour work day which is hoped will decrease overtime and provide officers with more consecutive days off. Mayor Spango explained that the collective bargaining agreement allows the Chief to adjust the work schedule at his discretion. Mrs. Perrotti has a conference call scheduled tomorrow with Labor Attorney Afandor to finalize the proposed changes to the fire department ordinance. Concerns raised at the last meeting regarding first aid squad response times will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Councilwoman Tolli thanked three retiring members of the recreation committee, John Flood, Matthew Bonaguide, and Bill Styskal, for their many years of volunteer service to the committee and for their many years of volunteer coaching. Members of the Camp Wyanokie Commission have been making monthly inspections at the camp to check the dam and the property. Members of the Beautification Committee have been decorating the hanging planters around towns, and members of the Department of Public Works (DPW) have installed wreaths. Mrs. Tolli noted that the Environmental Commission and the Historical Commission are listed under their respective Council Liaisons on the Borough’s website and asked Administrator Chumacas to have add Camp Wyanokie Commission on Mrs. Tolli’s page.

Before continuing with the agenda, Councilman Trillo mentioned that tractor trailers continue to use Lincoln Street as a cut through despite being prohibited from the street, and suggested that some additional enforcement action be taken. Mayor Spango noted that meetings with Lincoln Street residents has not resulted in unanimous support of any of the suggested solutions, so the Borough is going to move forward with the least expensive and the least intrusive of the proposals, which is the installation of additional signs on Eagle Rock Avenue and Lincoln Street restricting turns at different times of the day.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilwoman Perrotti made a motion to approve the November 21, 2020 special budget meeting minutes and the November 24, 2020 executive session minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda absent).

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to open the meeting to public comment. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tolli and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda absent).

John Matheis                      OEM Coordinator

There being nobody else wishing to be heard, Councilman Bardi made a motion to close public comment. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Perrotti and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda absent).

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

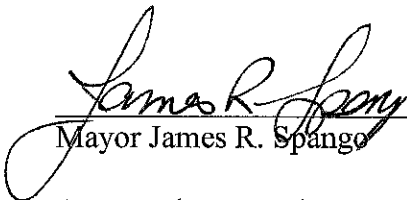
Councilwoman Perrotti made a motion to approve Resolution No. 362-2020 Approval to Close to Executive Session at 7:12 PM to discuss the following:

1. Personnel

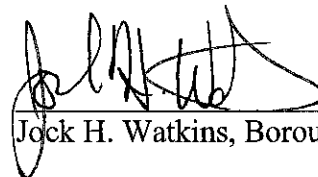
The motion was seconded by Councilman Bardi and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda absent).

**ADJOURNMENT**

Council came out of Executive Session at 7:22 PM. Councilman Bardi made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Perrotti and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda absent).

  
Mayor James R. Spango

Approved: December 15, 2020

  
Jock H. Watkins, Borough Clerk

**VOICE VOTE**

Aye: Bardi, Fishman, Perrotti, Tolli, Trillo

Nay: None

Abstain: Freda

Absent: None

