

BOROUGH OF ROSELAND
COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

FEBRUARY 2, 2021
VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL
6:30 PM OPEN SESSION
EXECUTIVE SESSION TO IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW

CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency, the February 2, 2021 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 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 special 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
Jean Perrotti, Councilwoman
Michele Tolli, Councilwoman (6:34)
Marcelino Trillo, Councilman

ABSENT:

Roger Freda, Councilman

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Maureen Chumacas, Borough Administrator
Jock H. Watkins, Borough Clerk
Elnardo Webster, Borough Attorney

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Mayor Spango led the salute to the flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPOINTMENTS – MAYOR WITH ADVICE AND CONSENT OF COUNCIL

Councilman Bardi made a motion to approve the following annual appointments by the Mayor with advice and consent of Council:

Council Caucus Meeting Minutes February 2, 2021

Board of Adjustment

Frank Perrotti	4 Years	1/30/2021 – 12/31/2024
Eric Fauerbach (Unexpired term)	4 Years	1/30/2019 – 12/31/2022
Leonard Mendola, Jr. Alternate 1 (Unexpired term)	2 Years	1/30/2021 – 12/31/2022

The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 3-0 voice vote with Councilwoman Perrotti abstaining from the vote and Councilman Freda and Councilwoman Tolli absent.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

Councilwoman Perrotti made a motion to approve the following annual appointments by the Mayor:

Planning Board

Joseph C. Rolli	4 Years	1/30/2021 – 12/31/2024
William Johnson Alternate 1	2 Years	1/30/2021 – 12/31/2022
David Jacobs Alternate 2 (Unexpired term)	2 Years	1/30/2020 – 12/31/2021

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Fishman and approved by a 4-0 voice vote (Freda, Tolli absent).

PRESENTATION

Mr. Kevin Dunshee, chief Commercial Officer, from Solar Landscape explained the new Community Solar Program initiated by the State of New Jersey. Unlike solar installations that benefit the business who installs the solar panels on their own property, this program allows the contractor to put solar panels on commercial properties and the energy will be sold to the public at a 20% discount. Mr. Dunshee reported that Solar Landscape has applied to the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) for a proposed project at the self-storage facility at 465 Eagle Rock Avenue. The BPU requires the contractor to notify the Borough when a project has been proposed in their community.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Councilwoman Tolli made a motion to approve Resolution No. 51-2021 Approving the January 29, 2021 Bill List in the Amount of \$306,457.82. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda absent).

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

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

Resolution No. 52-2021 authorizing Change Order #1 to North American Pipeline for 2021 utility televising services

Resolution No. 53-2021 authorizing the award of a non-fair and open contract to O'Toole Scrivo for Special Counsel Services

Resolution No. 54-2021 authorizing cancellation of water and sewer billing balances

Resolution No. 55-2021 appointing Anthony Smith as a full-time Utility Grade 1 Laborer for the Department of Public Works (DPW)

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

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Spango thanked the DPW, police department, fire department, Office of Emergency Management (OEM), and the first aid squad for their response to the recent, heavy snow storm. At the January 30th budget meeting, Council made a lot of cuts in order to minimize the tax increase. Mr. Spango spoke with Recreation Director Colitti discuss doing a drive around town with the Easter Bunny for the second year. Mayor Spango reported that he received a complaint from a resident at the Avalon Bay complex that their rent was increased by ten to twelve percent. The complaint has been forwarded to the Borough Attorney for review. A resident has expressed a desire to donate trees on Arbor Day. Mr. Spango thanked residents for not throwing snow into street following the recent snow storm.

There were ninety new cases of COVID-19 reported in January, the highest monthly total to date. Six new cases have been reported in February. There have been three hundred and fifty-eight cases in Roseland since March 2020, and no recent deaths have been reported.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL

Councilman Bardi thanked the DPW, police department, fire department, and first aid squad for the excellent job during and after the recent snow storm. Mr. Bardi thanked the Mayor, members of Council, Administrator Chumacas, Attorney McDonnell, and Clerk Watkins for attending the special budget meeting on Saturday morning. The line-by-line review resulted in cuts totaling approximately \$215,000.00. One more meeting will be scheduled on a night in February, prior to introduction of the budget in March.

SHARED SERVICES

Councilwoman Tolli and the Chairwoman of the Beautification Committee have been reviewing options for new holiday decorations for the center of town. The Municipal Youth Guidance Subcommittee (MYGS) had a very successful food drive, collecting a lot of food that was then donated to the local food banks. Councilwoman Tolli made a motion to allow the MYGS to set up a collection box at the library for sock donations. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda absent). Mrs. Tolli thanked all departments that assisted with the recent snow storm.

REDEVELOPMENT AND LEGAL

Councilwoman Fishman thanked all Borough departments for their efforts during and after the recent snow storm. Mrs. Chumacas summarized an ordinance that the Committee has proposed that will provide more enforcement power to ensure that affordable housing units are occupied by qualified residents. The ordinance will be introduced at the February 16th Council meeting. The Roseland Covid-19 Relief Fund has gift cards available for families in need. There Roseland Food Bank is well stocked for those in need, and donations continue to be received. Mrs. Fishman urged all residents to get the Covid-19 vaccination and urged residents who need computer assistance to register for the vaccine to contact the Essex County call center.

PUBLIC WORKS

Councilman Freda asked Mrs. Perrotti to express his thanks to the DPW for the great job that they did in response to the recent snow storm.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilwoman Perrotti commended the police department, fire department, first aid squad, and OEM for the great job they did during and after the snow storm.

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Councilman Trillo reported that the Noecker School has gone to virtual classes for the next two weeks due to Covid-19 restrictions. West Essex High School is currently operating as a single cohort. The middle school is still doing two days.

The Madden Virtual League and the Rocket League sponsored by the Recreation Department are progressing well. The proposed Arts and Crafts program at the Library was rejected by the Health Officer, so the program will be done virtually. This will allow more students to participate. Roseland will not be hosting any track events. The track program will be a road team competing at other West Essex sites. Baseball registration is not out yet, but registration will be open soon.

Mayor Spango noted that due to the snow storm, garbage was not picked up on Monday and pickup was delayed on Tuesday. Garbage will be picked up tomorrow and recycling remains on schedule.

Mrs. Fishman added that the federal government will begin distributing the Covid-19 vaccines to all local pharmacies, not just the large chains.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to approve the January 16, 2021 executive session minutes and the January 19, 2021 executive session minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bardi and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda absent).

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

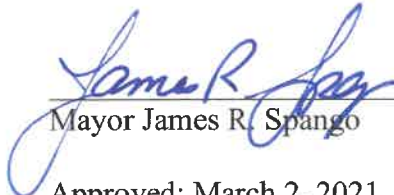
Councilwoman Tolli made a motion to approve Resolution No. 56-2021 Approval to Close to Executive Session at 7:25 PM to discuss the following:

1. Contract Negotiations
2. Personnel

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

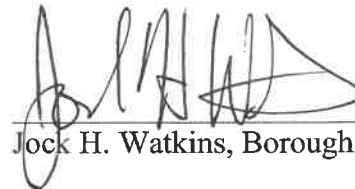
ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Bardi made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Fishman and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda absent).



Mayor James R. Spango

Approved: March 2, 2021



Jock H. Watkins, Borough Clerk

VOICE VOTE

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

