

BOROUGH OF ROSELAND  
COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

MAY 4, 2021  
VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL  
6:00 PM OPEN SESSION  
EXECUTIVE SESSION TO IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW

CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency, the May 4, 2021 meeting of the Roseland Mayor and Council was called to order at 6:00 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  
Roger Freda, Councilman  
Jean Perrotti, Councilwoman  
Michele Tolli, Councilwoman

**ABSENT:**

Marcelino Trillo, Councilman

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Maureen Chumacas, Borough Administrator  
Jock H. Watkins, Borough Clerk  
Joni McDonnell, Borough Attorney

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Mayor Spango led the salute to the flag.

**PRESENTATION**

Mayor Spango acknowledged Alan Pulitano's service to the Borough and said that a memorial proclamation will be presented to Mr. Pulitano's family at a future date.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **HEARING/ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES**

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 09-2021 by title only for the second time: "Calendar Year 2021 ordinance to exceed the municipal budget appropriation limits and to establish a Cap bank (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)". Councilwoman Perrotti made a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 04-2021. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bardi and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Trillo absent).

#### **Public Comment**

None

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

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 09-2021 for the third and final time: "Calendar Year 2021 ordinance to exceed the municipal budget appropriation limits and to establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)". Councilman Bardi made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 09-2021. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Fishman and approved by a 5-0 roll call vote (Trillo absent).

### **PUBLIC HEARING & ADOPTION OF THE 2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

Councilman Bardi made a motion to approve Resolution No. 134-2021 Self-Examination of the Budget. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Perrotti and approved by a 5-0 roll call vote (Trillo absent).

Councilman Bardi made a motion to approve Resolution No. 135-2021 Read Budget by Title Only. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Fishman and approved by a 5-0 roll call vote (Trillo absent).

Councilman Bardi made a motion to open the budget hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Perrotti and approved by a 5-0 roll call vote (Trillo absent). There being nobody wishing to be heard on the 2021 municipal budget, Councilman Bardi made a motion to close the budget hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tolli and approved by a 5-0 roll call vote (Trillo absent).

Councilman Bardi made a motion to approve Resolution No. 136-2021 Adoption of 2021 Municipal Budget. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Fishman and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Trillo absent).

Clerk Watkins read Section 2 of the budget, the adopting resolution for the budget. Councilman Bardi made a motion to approve the adopting resolution for the budget. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Fishman and approved by a 5-0 roll call vote (Trillo absent). Mayor Spango declared the resolution and the budget as adopted.

### **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Councilwoman Tolli made a motion to approve Resolution No. 137-2021 Approving the April 30, 2021 bill list in the Amount of \$85,505.79. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Perrotti and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Trillo absent).

### **ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

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

Resolution No. 138-2021 Amend Resolution No. 100-2021 "Establishing Temporary Fees for Outdoor Facility Use Permits During COVID-19 Pandemic"

Resolution No. 139-2021 Authorizing Funds for 2021 Planning Board Professionals

Resolution No. 140-2021 Amend Resolution 350-2020 Eliminating the Option Package and reducing price by \$7,271.19

Resolution No. 141-2021 Authorizing Mayor to sign Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council Agreement

Resolution No. 142-2021 Authorize Full Refund for Spring Track and Baseball for Certain Families

Resolution No. 143-2021 Approve Outdoor Facility Use Policy and Fee Schedule

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

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Approve Application of Michael Corcoran to be a Member of the Roseland Auxiliary Police

Approving 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Noecker Parent Committee to Host Power House Studios on Harrison Complex on May 12, 2021(rain date May 13, 2021) and Waive Fees and Insurance Requirements

Approving 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Noecker Parent Committee to Host 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Fun Night on Harrison Complex on May 24, 2021 (rain date May 25, 2021) and Waive Fees and Insurance Requirements

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

Councilman Bardi made a motion to approve the Roseland Jr. Woman's Club request to host the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance at Bond Force Park on June 14, 2021 with a rain date of June 17, 2021, and to waive the facility use permit fees. The motion was seconded by Councilman Freda and approved by a 4-0 voice vote, with Councilwoman Tolli abstaining from the vote and Councilman Trillo absent.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Spango congratulated Ashley Kennedy on the birth of her daughter. The baseball community had a great opening day. Council is planning a picnic in June with carnival games for the kids. Council is also working on plans to host three or four concerts during the summer, a movie night, and a Roseland Day in October. Borino Park improvements continue to progress. Mayor Spango thanked the police department and Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Coordinator Matheis for their assistance sorting out traffic difficulties at Noecker School upon the school's reopening.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

Councilman Bardi explained that the previously scheduled revaluation of all properties had to be postponed due to Covid-19. Council plans to request an extension of time to complete the mandatory revaluation. Changes are also under consideration to the outdoor dining ordinance to address hours of operation, seating, and safety barriers.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES AND OUTREACH**

Councilwoman Tolli reported that the Senior Transportation Committee held their first meeting of the year via conference call. The senior transportation bus is running, but occupancy is limited to a maximum of ten people per trip to maintain safe, social distancing. The bus is running Monday through Friday with regularly scheduled stops at Stop and Shop, Shoprite, and other locations. In 2021, there were two hundred seventy-eight trips taken by Roseland residents. Seniors who wish to get the Covid-19 vaccine may call Maria Burak at 973-403-4623. Ms. Burak will make an appointment to get the vaccine at a local pharmacy, and schedule the senior transportation bus to pick the resident up, take them for the vaccine, and return them home. The Roseland Senior Transportation Committee need one additional member. The next meetings are at 6:30 PM on June 7<sup>th</sup>, October 4<sup>th</sup>, and November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Thirteen student members and two adult members of the Municipal Youth Guidance Subcommittee went to the Hillside Food Bank this past Saturday. Students performed quality control, sorted, and packed approximately one hundred boxes of non-perishable food items. Pictures were taken and will be forwarded to the Borough. The Beautification Committee expects to start working on the butterfly garden at Noecker School by the end of May.

## REDEVELOPMENT AND LEGAL

Councilwoman Fishman explained that the new state law legalizing the use of cannabis products cancelled all existing municipal ordinances. The new law requires all municipalities to either opt in to the state law or opt out within 180 days of passage. The draft ordinance prohibiting growing or dispensing cannabis products within the Borough of Roseland will amend Section 30-404.8 of the Land Development Ordinance and will be on the May 18<sup>th</sup> Council agenda for introduction.

The proposed Forest Management Bill before the state legislature requires municipalities to develop a forest management plan for any municipally owned properties of twenty-five or more acres. Mrs. Fishman explained that this is an unfunded state mandate, but the Borough does not currently own any property that will be impacted by the new law, should it be adopted. Essex County owns four lots in Roseland that would be impacted.

Covid-19 cases are down or non-existent in Roseland and throughout the state. The demand for vaccines is down as more individuals have been vaccinated. The demand may increase soon because the US Food and Drug Administration is expected to approve the Pfizer vaccination for children age 12 and above. Currently the Pfizer vaccination is approved for people 16 years of age and older, and the Moderna vaccine is approved for people 18 years of age and older. Mrs. Fishman thanked Health Officer Carlo DiLizia for his efforts to get home bound seniors vaccinated.

## PUBLIC WORKS

Councilman Freda announced that the 2022 NJ Department of Transportation grant application is due by July 1<sup>st</sup>. The Borough Engineer has suggested that the grant application should be for improvements to Green and Glen Avenues. Council accepted the engineer's recommendation and a resolution authorizing the engineer to submit a grant application will be on the May 18<sup>th</sup> agenda for consideration. Water main improvements starting on Second Avenue is scheduled to begin tomorrow. The project is schedule to progress to Fourth Avenue, Stonegate Drive, and then Oak Drive. The Department of Public Works (DPW) will provide notices to residents prior to work beginning in their neighborhood.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilwoman Perrotti thanked Michael Corcoran for volunteering to serve as an Auxiliary Police Officer, and thanked OEM Coordinator Matheis for assisting with the traffic for the re-opening of Noecker School. Mrs. Perrotti expressed condolences to the Pulitano family.

The Public Safety Committee has recommended amending the Borough ordinances to create a Green Team as a subcommittee of the Environmental Commission. A draft ordinance was previously circulated to members of Council. Membership on the subcommittee would be for one year, and would include students from West Essex High School and Borough employees. Having a Green Team will open up new opportunities for grant funding. Council

agreed with the recommendation and an ordinance will be on the May 18<sup>th</sup> Council agenda for introduction.

### **RECREATION**

In Councilman Trillo's absence, Mayor Spango summarized a report provided by Councilman Trillo. Mr. Trillo acknowledged the retirement of Ms. McGrath as a teacher at Noecker School. All schools are back open every day, with high school students attending half days, middle school with a hybrid combination of in-persona and online, and Noecker students attending half days. Traffic conditions are improving at Noecker School. West Essex and Noecker school boards both adopted their budgets. Mr. Trillo thanked the Recreation Department and DPW for making opening day baseball a success.

Councilman Bardi noted the multi-purpose court is closed for resurfacing and relining. Mr. Bardi also wanted to discuss a complaint received from a resident at the Everly complex that the Borough's rent stabilization limit of 3-1/2% for seniors is too high, recommending a rate closer to 2-1/2% to match inflation. Council collectively agreed that the current ordinance is fair to seniors and the property owner. Mayor Spango added that the Everly ownership is attempting to help residents with a hardship as best they can.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilman Bardi made a motion to approve the April 13, 2021 executive session minutes and the April 20, 2021 executive session minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tolli and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Trillo absent).

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

John Matheis

OEM Coordinator

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilman Freda made a motion at 6:55 PM to approve Resolution No. 144-2021 Approval to Close to Executive Session to discuss the following:

1. Personnel and possible appointment

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

### **ADJOURNMENT**

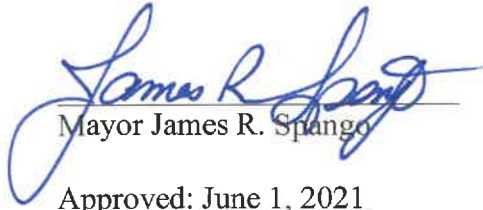
Council returned to open session at 7:40 PM. Councilman Bardi made a motion to approve hiring Maureen Critchley as a part-time employee at a rate of \$20.00 per hour, for twenty hours per week. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Fishman and approved by a 4-0 voice vote (Tolli, Trillo absent).

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Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to approve making a job offer to Heidi Levine as a full-time Technical Assistant at an annual salary of \$42,000.00. Upon state certification as a Technical Assistant, Ms. Levine's salary would be increased by \$5,000.00 to a new annual salary of \$47,000.00. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Perrotti and approved by a 4-0 voice vote (Tolli, Trillo absent).

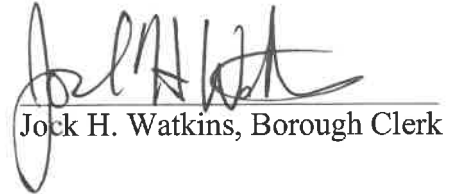
Councilwoman Bardi made a motion to approve making an offer to Renee Reynolds for a promotion from part-time Technical Assistant to full-time Technical Assistant. Ms. Reynolds' annual salary would be increased to \$47,000.00. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Fishman and approved by a 4-0 voice vote (Tolli, Trillo absent).

Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilman Freda and approved by a 4-0 voice vote (Tolli, Trillo absent).



Mayor James R. Spango

Approved: June 1, 2021



Jock H. Watkins, Borough Clerk

**VOICE VOTE**

Aye: Bardi, Fishman, Freda, Perrotti, Tolli

Nay: None

Abstain: Trillo

Absent: None

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