

BOROUGH OF ROSELAND  
COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

APRIL 13, 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 April 13, 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  
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.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS**

Councilman Bardi made a motion to approve the following annual appointments by the Mayor:

Board of Health

Patrick Conte, MD	4 Years	1/1/2021 – 12/31/2024
Ann Freeman	4 Years	1/1/2021 – 12/31/2024
John Matheis (Unexpired Term)	4 Years	1/1/2021 – 12/31/2023

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tolli and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

Councilwoman Perrotti made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 10-2021: “An ordinance to amend Section 4-11 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Roseland entitled “Licensing of Temporary Outdoor Seating Areas”. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 6-0 voice vote. The public hearing will be held on May 18, 2021.

**PUBLIC HEARING – COMCAST FRANCHISE RENEWAL**

Charles Smith, Senior Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs with Comcast read a prepared statement outlining the procedure and timeline for Comcast’s cable television franchise renewal application.

Comcast is in the final stages of cable television franchise renewal process which is governed by federal and state statutes and regulations. Comcast began the renewal process on April 5, 2018, by sending a letter to the Borough of Roseland advising of Comcast’s intent to seek renewal of their non-exclusive franchise in accordance with Section 626A of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 and 1996. This was followed by the ascertainment period during which the Borough had the opportunity to examine the past performance of Comcast and determine future cable needs of the Borough.

Comcast filed their application for renewal of municipal consent on October 27, 2020. The application has been on file in the Clerk’s office and is available on the Borough’s website. Mr. Smith explained that Council can only deny the franchise renewal for one or more of the following reasons:

1. The cable operator has not substantially complied with the material terms of the existing franchise and with applicable law.
2. The quality of the operator's service, including signal quality, response to consumer complaints, and billing practices, but without regard to the mix or quality of cable services other services provided over the system, have not been reasonable in light of community needs.
3. The operator does not have the financial, legal, and technical ability to provide the services, facilities and equipment it has proposed to provide.
4. The operator's franchise renewal proposal is not reasonable to meet the future cable related needs and interests of the community, taking into account the cost of meeting such needs and interests.

Mayor Spango opened the hearing to the public. No members of the public wished to be heard. Mr. Smith answered several questions from members of the governing body. Mrs. Chumacas will coordinate a meeting between representatives of the Borough and Comcast to discuss conditions of the new franchise agreement. The current agreement expires July 8, 2021.

### **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Councilman Freda made a motion to approve Resolution No. 113-2021 approving the April 9, 2021 bill list in the Amount of \$384,768.67. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bardi and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

### **ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

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

Resolution No. 114-2021 requesting a one-year extension to complete the municipal wide property reevaluation

Resolution No. 115-2021 approving termination of the Caldwell Little League as a Sanctioned Group by the Recreation Department

Resolution No. 116-2021 approving the hiring of Hire Liz Benne as a seasonal, youth track program director for the recreation department

Resolution No. 117-2021 approving the award of a non-fair and open contract in the amount of \$21,554.25 to Edmunds & Associates for proprietary computer software

Resolution No. 118-2021 supporting the Borough's participation in the Sustainable Jersey Municipal Certification Program

Resolution No. 119-2021 authorizing the submission of a grant application for the SFY21 body-worn camera grant program

Resolution No. 120-2021 authorizing the Mayor to sign a contract with Accurate Irrigation, LLC

Resolution No. 121-2021 authorizing the Mayor to sign a hold harmless agreement between the Borough of Roseland and Ridgewood Diagnostic Laboratory, LLC

Resolution No. 122-2021 approving the appointment of 2021 spring recreation program aids

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

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilman Freda made a motion to approve the four items on the Consent agenda:

Approval for 6th Grade Noecker Parent Committee to host a movie night on O'Beirne Field on April 28, 2021 and waiving of fees and insurance requirements

Approval of cadet applications of Chineme Ewenike and Anthony Cestone for the Roseland Volunteer Fire Department

Approval of Blue Light Permit Applications of Sophie Bloch, Arthur Calise and Olivia Alonso of the Roseland First Aid Squad

Approval of fire department membership application of George D. LaBrunda for the Roseland Volunteer Fire Department

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

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Spango announced that Roseland received an Honorable Mention from the New Jersey League of Municipalities in the League's 2021 Show Off Your City Contest. The Borough has applied for a 2021 Local Recreation Improvement Grant. If the grant is approved, the funds will be used to make improvements to Tedesco Park, including the installation of a pickle ball court.

Local Covid-19 testing began today at the Roseland First Aid Squad building. Free testing will continue until further notice on Tuesdays from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, and on Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The Easter Bunny drive around town, and the annual Easter Egg Hunt were very successful. Mayor Spango thanked Recreation Director Colitti, the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), the police department, fire department, first aid squad, and all of those who helped with the event. Council is working on plans for movie nights and concerts during the summer, and a full day of activities for Roseland Day in October, culminating in the annual bonfire.

Mayor Spango asked for feedback from Council on the scheduling of work on the tennis courts, and the layout of the courts. The scheduling options are to bid in June and close the courts for work in July and August, or bid the project in August, and close the courts in August and September. The consensus of Council was to do the work in August and September. The layout options are to keep the current court layout and line each court for tennis and pickle ball, or to eliminate one or two of the tennis courts, and add two or three pickle ball courts. The consensus of Council was to eliminate two tennis courts, and reconfigure the area for two or three pickle ball courts, and to line each court according to which activity will take place on that court. Mayor Spango explained that a change order was needed for the improvements to Borino Park to correct some drainage issues, and the equipment arrived on site today and work on the improvements has commenced.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

Councilman Bardi thanked the recreation department, the police department, the Municipal Youth Guidance Subcommittee, and all those who helped to make the Easter events a great success. Council will conduct a public hearing on the adoption of the municipal budget at their next meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES AND OUTREACH**

Councilwoman Tolli noted that the Bunny Trail organized to comply with Covid-19 safety procedures was a huge hit with residents. Mrs. Tolli made a motion to authorize fifteen student members and three adult members of the Municipal Youth Guidance Subcommittee to visit the Hillside Food Bank on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bardi and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

Several worthy causes are celebrated in April. The Run 4 Answers will be held on April 24<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:30 AM. Proceeds from the event will go to Alzheimer's research. April has also been designated as Ovarian Cancer Awareness month and Child Abuse Prevention month.

The Beautification Committee is currently choosing what plants and what flowers they will plant in the baskets around town. Weather permitting, the planting will be done in May. Yesterday was National Grilled Cheese Day, and tomorrow is National Look Up in the Sky Day. April 22<sup>nd</sup> is Earth Day and April 30<sup>th</sup> is National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day.

### **REDEVELOPMENT AND LEGAL**

Councilwoman Fishman reported that Essex County has provided approximately 125,000 Covid-19 vaccinations to date. The Johnson and Johnson vaccine has been taken out of the rotation because there have been six reported cases of unusual blood clotting in women between the ages of 18 and 48. Approximately 7 million Johnson and Johnson vaccinations have been administered to date. The State of New Jersey continues to offer the Pfizer vaccine at their locations to people 16 years of age and older. Essex County is dispensing the Moderna vaccine to people 18 years of age and older. Mrs. Fishman thanked everyone who worked very hard and participated in the Easter events.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

Councilman Freda reported that the Department of Public Works (DPW) began curbside collection of yard waste last week and will continue through October. Grass, weeds, and yard trimmings can be put in brown leaf bags or 32-gallon garbage cans. Waste placed in plastic bags will not be collected. The DPW will begin curbside collection of branches and brush on the first Monday each month. Branches and brush should not be placed at the curb

until just before collection. The DPW will continue performing pot hole repair over the next several weeks. The water department will be painting and servicing fire hydrants. Hydrant flushing will not be performed during this maintenance.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilwoman Perrotti thanked and welcomed two new cadet members of Fire Department. Mrs. Perrotti is a proponent of body cameras and is glad that the body camera grant application was submitted. Council passed a resolution tonight supporting the Borough's participation in Sustainable Jersey. Mrs. Perrotti suggested that Council consider adding a Green Team subcommittee to the Environmental Commission. Having a Green Team will make the Borough eligible to filing for a variety of grants for such things as establishing a community garden or passive walking trails.

### RECREATION

Councilman Trillo congratulated everyone who worked to make the Easter celebrations very successful. Opening day for baseball is scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup>. The preparation of the fields is coming along, and the kids and parents are excited for the start of the season. Mr. Trillo noted that prior governing bodies restricted the use of the Fernwood Baseball Field for recreation use only. The Recreation Committee recommends allowing the issuance of permits to use the field by others. Mr. Trillo expressed concern about residents walking their dogs at Fernwood Field and Harrison Park, and not cleaning up after them. Mrs. Chumacas noted that the Recreation Department either has or will be ordering signs notifying park users to clean up after their pets.

Mrs. Chumacas was asked to follow up with the police department about the status of the new signs for Lincoln Street, reflecting increased fines for oversized truck traffic. Mrs. Chumacas was asked to follow up with police department about police observation of traffic speed on Harrison Avenue, near the flashing speed sign. OEM Coordinator Matheis advised Council that the Essex County Engineer has been notified that the timing of the traffic light on Harrison Avenue at Roseland Avenue is sporadic. The County Engineer plans to investigate the problem.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Bardi made a motion to approve the March 2, 2021 caucus meeting minutes, the March 16, 2021 Council meeting minutes, and the March 16, 2021 executive session meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Perrotti and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

Councilwoman Tolli made a motion to approve the March 30, 2021 special meeting minutes and the March 30, 2021 executive session meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Fishman and approved by a 5-0 voice vote, with Councilman Trillo abstaining from the vote.

Councilman Freda made a motion to approve the April 5, 2021 special meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Perrotti and approved by a 4-0 voice vote, with Councilman Bardi and Councilman Trillo abstaining from the vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

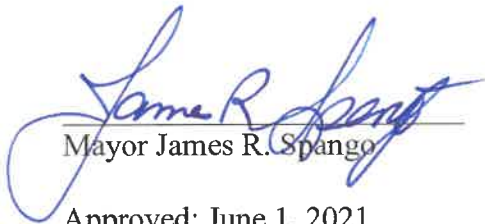
Councilman Bardi made a motion at 6:58 PM to approve Resolution No. 123-2021 Approval to Close to Executive Session to discuss the following:

1. Personnel

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Fishman and approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

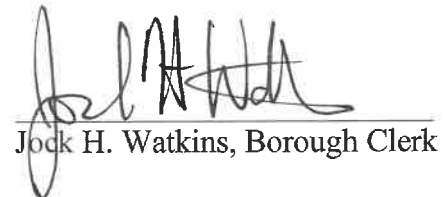
**ADJOURNMENT**

Council returned to open session at 7:21 PM. Councilwoman Fishman 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: June 1, 2021



Jock H. Watkins, Borough Clerk

**VOICE VOTE**

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

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