

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

FEBRUARY 21, 2023  
19 HARRISON AVENUE  
6:30 PM EXECUTIVE SESSION  
7:00 PM OPEN SESSION

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

The February 21, 2023 meeting of the Roseland Mayor and Council was called to order at 6:30 PM 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. This meeting was also available via Zoom conference call.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

James R. Spango, Mayor  
Christopher Bardi, Councilman  
Eileen Fishman, Councilwoman  
Jean Perrotti, Councilwoman  
Michele Tolli, Councilwoman (Via Zoom)  
Marcelino Trillo, Council President (6:53 pm)

**ABSENT:**

Roger Freda, Councilman

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to approve Resolution No. Resolution No. 73-2023 Approval to Close to Executive Session to discuss the following:

1. Potential Litigation
2. Personnel

The motion was seconded by Councilman Bardi and approved by a 4-0 voice vote (Freda, Trillo absent). Council adjourned executive session at 6:48 PM. Mayor Spango read the Sunshine Statement again at 7:00 PM and called the meeting to order. Clerk Watkins called the roll noting that Councilman Trillo was in attendance. Councilman Freda was absent.

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Mayor Spango led the salute to the flag.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Mayor Spango and Administrator Chumacas presented retirement gifts to former finance office manager Rosemary Sayers, acknowledging her many years of dedicated, professional service.

Mayor Spango presented a retirement gift to former public works employee Tom Reed, noting that Mr. Reed's institutional knowledge will be missed.

Mayor Spango presented commendations to construction code department employees Tom Jacobsen, Heidi Levine, Gail Ferriola and Renee Reynolds. Mayor Spango read an email that was received recently, which praised the members of the department for their thoughtful, professional, and compassionate service.

Mayor Spango presented a commendation to Grace McGovern upon her being named a January 2023 student of the month at West Essex Middle School.

## **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 08-2023: "Ordinance appropriating \$248,300 for improvements to Cooper Avenue in and by the Borough of Roseland, in the County of Essex, New Jersey". The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Perrotti and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda absent). The public hearing will be held on March 21, 2023.

Councilman Bardi made a motion to re-introduce Ordinance No. 04-2023 with amendments: "An ordinance of the Borough of Roseland establishing salaries for the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Roseland". The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Fishman and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda absent). The public hearing will be held on March 21, 2023.

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

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 01-2023 by title only for the second time: "An ordinance of the Borough of Roseland amending and supplementing Chapter 4 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Roseland entitled "Licensing and Business Regulations" adding new Section 4-13 Entitled "Business Insurance Registration"". Councilwoman Perrotti made a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 01-2023. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda 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 Bardi and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda absent).

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 01-2023 for the third and final time: "An ordinance of the Borough of Roseland amending and supplementing Chapter 4 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Roseland entitled "Licensing and Business Regulations" adding new Section 4-13 Entitled "Business Insurance Registration"". Councilwoman Perrotti made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 01-2023. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 5-0 roll call vote (Freda absent).

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 02-2023 by title only for the second time: "An ordinance creating a new Chapter 12 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Roseland entitled "Children's Fund", authorizing the creation of a Children's Fund and establishing administrative and procedural guidelines for the operation and management of said fund". Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 02-2023. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tolti and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda absent).

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

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

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 02-2023 for the third and final time: "An ordinance creating a new Chapter 12 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Roseland entitled "Children's Fund", authorizing the creation of a Children's Fund and establishing administrative and procedural guidelines for the operation and management of said fund". Councilman Trillo made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 02-2023. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Fishman and approved by a 5-0 roll call vote (Freda absent).

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 03-2023 by title only for the second time: "An ordinance amending Chapter 2 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Roseland entitled "Department of Administration", Section 2-11 entitled "Borough Public Defender" to enable the appointment of an Assistant Public Defender and an Alternate Public Defender". Councilwoman Perrotti made a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 03-2023. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda 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 Trillo and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda absent).

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 03-2023 for the third and final time: "An ordinance amending Chapter 2 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Roseland entitled "Department of Administration", Section 2-11 entitled "Borough Public Defender" to enable the appointment of an Assistant Public Defender and an Alternate Public Defender". Councilman Bardi made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 03-2023. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Perrotti and approved by a 5-0 roll call vote (Freda absent).

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 05-2023 by title only for the second time: "An ordinance of the Borough of Roseland to repeal Ordinance No. 07-2022 as amended which provided for salaries and compensation to be paid to non-union employees of the Borough of Roseland and substitute therefore salaries and compensation for the year 2023". Councilman Trillo made a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 05-2023. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tolli and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda 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 Councilwoman Perrotti and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda absent).

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 05-2023 for the third and final time: "An ordinance of the Borough of Roseland to repeal Ordinance No. 07-2022 as amended which provided for salaries and compensation to be paid to non-union employees of the Borough of Roseland and substitute therefore salaries and compensation for the year 2023". Councilman Bardi made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 05-2023. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 5-0 roll call vote (Freda absent).

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 06-2023 by title only for the second time: "Bond ordinance providing for various improvements to the water/sewer utility in and by the Borough of Roseland, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, appropriating \$3,100,000 therefore and authorizing the issuance of \$3,000,000 bonds or notes of the Borough to finance the cost thereof.". Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 06-2023. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Perrotti and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda absent).

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

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

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 06-2023 for the third and final time: "Bond ordinance providing for various improvements to the water/sewer utility in and by the Borough of Roseland, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, appropriating \$3,100,000 therefore and authorizing the issuance of \$3,000,000 bonds or notes of the Borough to finance the cost thereof.". Councilwoman Perrotti made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 06-2023. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 5-0 roll call vote (Freda absent).

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 07-2023 by title only for the second time: "Bond ordinance providing for various capital improvements in and by the Borough of Roseland, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, appropriating \$2,059,000 therefore and authorizing the issuance of \$1,866,750 bonds or notes of the Borough to finance part of the cost thereof.". Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 07-2023. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda absent).

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

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

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 07-2023 for the third and final time: "Bond ordinance providing for various capital improvements in and by the Borough of Roseland, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, appropriating \$2,059,000 therefore and authorizing the issuance of \$1,866,750 bonds or notes of the Borough to finance part of the cost thereof.". Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 07-2023. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bardi and approved by a 5-0 roll call vote (Freda absent). Councilwoman Fishman excused herself from the meeting following the vote.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Councilwoman Perrotti made a motion to approve Resolution No. 74-2023 approving the February 21, 2023 bill list in the amount of \$775,990.20. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 4-0 voice vote (Fishman, Freda absent).

**ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

Councilwoman Perrotti made a motion to approve the eleven resolutions on the agenda:

Resolution No. 75-2023 cancelling water sewer billing balances

Resolution No. 76-2023 approving budget transfers

Resolution No. 77-2023 ratification of salaries – January 2023

Resolution No. 78-2023 approving the hiring of Liz Benne as a season youth track program director for the Recreation Department

Resolution No. 79-2023 appointing Andrew Novak as a Patrol Officer to the Roseland Police Department

Resolution No. 80-2023 appointing Carlos Gonzalez Jr. as a Patrol Officer to the Roseland Police Department

Resolution No. 81-2023 appointing Sam Hopkins as a Patrol Officer to the Roseland Police Department

Resolution No. 82-2023 appointing William Russell as a Patrol Officer to the Roseland Police Department

Resolution No. 83-2023 authorizing the mayor to sign the 2021 CDBG contract extension for ADA improvements at Tedesco Park

Resolution No. 84-2023 approving the promotions of Sergeants Raymond Boulard, Michael Luongo, and Eddie Fernandez to the rank of Lieutenant, and Patrol Officers Joseph LaPosta, Jason Hiter, Tracy Nicholson, Frederick Hesselbirg, and Michael Bellantoni to the rank of Sergeant

Resolution No. 85-2023 authorizing the Tax Collector to correct posting of tax lien subsequent posting

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilwoman Perrotti made a motion to approve the twelve items on the Consent Agenda:

Council Meeting Minutes February 21, 2023

Approval for Officer Aue to attend the "Field Officer Training" seminar at the Passaic County Police Academy from August 7-9, 2023 at a cost of \$325.00

Approval for Lieutenant Loungo and Sergeant LaPosta to attend policies and procedure training on May 16, 2023 at the Morris County Public Safety Academy at a cost of \$190.00 each

Approval for Officer Aue to attend Suicide by Cop officer training on Thursday, June 1, 2023 at the Morris County Public Safety Training Academy at a cost of \$45.00

Approval for Sergeant Hesselbirg to attend motorcycle crash investigation training on August 7, 2023 at the Burlington County Emergency Services Training Center at no cost

Approval for Sergeant Hesselbirg to attend Applied Physics for the Traffic Crash Investigator training on September 11-15, 2023 at the Somerset County Emergency Services Training Center at no cost

Approval for Officer Gutierrez to attend Basic Financial Crimes Training at the Morris County Police Academy on Thursday, October 26, 2023 at a cost of \$45.00

Approval for Officer Gutierrez to attend Basic Computer Crimes Investigation at the Morris County Police Academy on Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at a cost of \$25.00

Approval for Officer McDavitt, Officer Lupo, Officer Gibbons, Sergeant Hesselbirg, Officer Williams, Officer Hughes, and Officer Miller to attend "Annual Gang Investigation" seminar on March 13, 2023 at the Hanover Township Police Department at no cost

Approval for Officer McDavitt to attend "Resiliency Police Officer Program" on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 at the Morris County Police Academy at no cost

Correcting the Board of Adjustment term of office for Almir Kureshepi who was appointed on January 10<sup>th</sup> to fill the unexpired term of John Matheis on the Board of Adjustment. The unexpired term runs through December 31, 2023, not December 31, 2026 as listed on the January 10<sup>th</sup> agenda.

Approving the waiving of the permit fee for Running 4 Answers for their annual 5K event on Saturday, April 29, 2023

Approving the advertisement for SCRAM Summer Playground 2023 job positions

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

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Spango congratulated Ashley Kennedy on passing the Qualified Purchasing Agent state certification exam. Mr. Spango announced that the Borough has received a \$1,000.00 safety award from the New Jersey Intergovernmental Insurance Fund, the Borough's joint insurance fund, for 2020/2021. Mayor Spango read a letter from Roseland resident Donna Brunnuell, saying thank you and to "shine a light on the Roseland Police Department" and to say "thank you to all Roseland Police Department officers as you all carry out your duties each and every day with fidelity and honor, know that you are respected and appreciated."

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

Councilman Bardi announced that the 2023 municipal budget will be introduced at the March 21<sup>st</sup> Council meeting. Mr. Bardi congratulated Lieutenants Boulard, Luongo, Fernandez, and Sergeants LaPosta, Hiter, Nicholson, Hesselbirg, and Bellantoni on their promotions this evening. Mr. Bardi also welcomed the new police officers who were appointed this evening.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

No report

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Councilwoman Perrotti thanked Director Mathies, Captain Mildon, Lieutenant Boulard, Sergeant Hiter, and Officer Williams for their time and expertise to bring forward the four candidates for police officer who were appointed this evening. Mrs. Perrotti congratulated Mr. Novak, Mr. Gonzalez, Mr. Hopkins, and Mr. Russell on their appointment. Mrs. Perrotti also congratulated Lieutenants Boulard, Luongo, Fernandez, and Sergeants LaPosta, Hiter, Nicholson, Hesselbirg, and Bellantoni on their promotions and for the service that they bring to Roseland.

### **RECREATION**

Councilman Trillo congratulated all of the newly appointed police officers and the newly promoted police officers. Mr. Trillo reported that basketball season is wrapping up, and that baseball coaches meetings have been scheduled for the second week in March. Registration for baseball and softball is still open and will close around the first week in March.

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND SHARED SERVICES**

Councilwoman Tolli congratulated the newly appointed and promoted police officers. Mrs. Tolli commented that she is happy to see all of the training that police officers are taking



advantage of. Caldwell is concluding their review of the proposed senior citizen bus agreement and will be forwarding the same to Roseland for Council's consideration.

#### REDEVELOPMENT AND LEGAL

No report

Mayor Spango added that just one week after requesting donations to support the Borough's summer concerts, the Borough has already received \$14,000.00 in donations. Mr. Spango thanked Tom O'Beirne for his generous \$10,00.00 donation. Mayor Spango congratulated promotes and new hires on the police department, noting that this is a lot of promotions for a department this size. Most of the promotions are attributed to retirements.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Bardi made a motion to approve the February 4, 2023 budget meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 3-0 voice vote, with Councilwoman Tolli recusing herself from the vote, and Councilwoman Fishman and Councilman Freda absent.

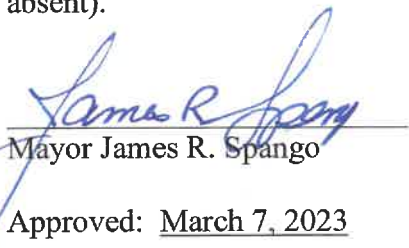
Councilwoman Perrotti made a motion to approve the February 7, 2023 caucus meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 3-0 voice vote, with Councilman Bardi recusing himself from the vote, and Councilwoman Fishman and Councilman Freda absent.

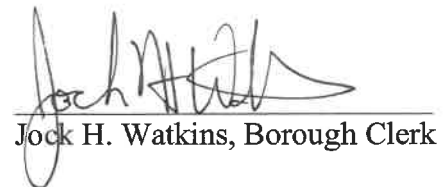
#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Janet Treamont                      38 Leonard Terrace

#### ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Bardi made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Perrotti and approved by a 4-0 voice vote (Fishman, Freda absent).

  
Mayor James R. Spango  
Approved: March 7, 2023

  
Jock H. Watkins, Borough Clerk

#### VOICE VOTE

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

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