Council Meeting Minutes November 26, 2019

BOROUGH OF ROSELAND
COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

NOVEMBER 26, 2019
PUBLIC MEETING ROOM
19 HARRISON AVENUE
6:30 PM EXECUTIVE SESSION
7:30 PM OPEN SESSION

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The November 26, 2019 meeting of the Roseland Mayor and Council was called to order at 5:30 PM by Mayor Spango. Adequate notice of the meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act in that the date 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. The change to an earlier start time was noticed to the Star Ledger and The Progress and posted on the public bulletin boards in the municipal building.

IN ATTENDANCE: 
James R. Spango, Mayor
Christopher Bardi, Council President
Roger Freda, Councilman
Jean Perrotti, Councilwoman
Michele Tolli, Councilwoman

ABSENT: 
Eileen Fishman, Councilwoman
David Jacobs, Councilman

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: 
Maureen Chumacas, Borough Administrator
Jock H. Watkins, Borough Clerk
Joni McDonnell, Borough Attorney

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Freda made a motion to approve Resolution No. 297-2019 Approval to Close to Executive Session to discuss the following:

1. Personnel

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tolli and approved by a 4-0 voice vote (Fishman, Jacobs absent). Council adjourned executive session at 7:04 PM. Mayor Spango read the Sunshine Statement again at 7:30 PM and called the public meeting to order. Upon roll call by the Borough Clerk, it was noted that Councilwoman Fishman and Councilman Jacobs were absent.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Mayor Spango led the salute to the flag.
PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Spango introduced the family of Barrie Werfel and asked that they join him at the podium. Mayor Spango read Resolution No. 299-2019 acknowledging the many years of volunteer service provided to the Borough. Celeste Werfel spoke remembering her husband’s service to the community and thanked the Mayor and Council of this remembrance.

Mayor Spango called Roseland Auxiliary Police Captain Russ Sampson to the podium, thanking him for his twenty-five years of volunteer service as an Auxiliary Police Officer. OEM Coordinator John Mathies read and presented a proclamation to Captain Sampson.

Roseland Auxiliary Police Sergeant Gary Ruggerio was not in attendance to receive his proclamation.

Mayor Spango introduced former Mayor Michael Pacio, Jr. and announced that Mayor Pacio would be organizing a Mayor’s Ball. Mr. Spango thanked Mayor Pacio for his service to the Borough and expressed his hope that the Mayor’s Ball would have the same success as those during Mayor Pacio’s tenure.

Mayor Pacio announced that plans are underway for a Mayor’s Ball to be held at the Hanover Manor on September 19, 2020. Mr. Pacio asked Councilman Bardi to chair the ticket committee, Councilman Elect Trillo to chair the music and entertainment committee, Councilwoman Perrotti to chair the decorations and flowers committee, Councilwoman Fishman to chair the ad journal committee, Councilwoman Tolli to chair the gift basket and raffle committee, and Councilman Freda to chair the advertising committee. Mr. Pacio asked Administrator Chumacas if she would set up an e-mail account for the Mayor’s Ball.

Mayor Spango announced that the proceeds of the 2020 Mayor’s Ball will be split between the Roseland Public Library and the Roseland Volunteer First Aid Squad. Mr. Spango added that it was fitting to make the donation to the First Aid Squad as they will be celebrating their 40th Anniversary in 2020.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Essex County liaison Daniel Salvante announced the Essex County Holiday event schedule. Details are available on the Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs website.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 33-2019 by title only for the first time: "An ordinance amending and supplementing Chapter XX of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Roseland entitled “Soil and Soil Moving” to modify the application procedure, to establish fees, and to delineate enforcement and inspection responsibilities”. Councilman Bardi made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 33-2019. The motion was seconded by Councilman Freda and approved by a 4-0 voice vote (Fishman, Jacobs absent). The public hearing will be held at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 19 Harrison Avenue, Roseland, NJ.
Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 34-2019 by title only for the first time: “An ordinance amending and supplementing Chapter XVII of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Roseland entitled “Water and Sewer” to modify connection fees and water rates.” Councilman Freda made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 34-2019. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Perrotti and approved by a 4-0 voice vote (Fishman, Jacobs absent). The public hearing will be held at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 19 Harrison Avenue, Roseland, NJ.

PUBLIC HEARING/ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 28-2019 by title only for the second time: “An ordinance amending and supplementing Chapter XXX entitled “Land Development Ordinance” to enact a new section regulating and establishing certain requirements for short-term rentals in the Borough of Roseland”. Councilwoman Tolli made a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 28-2019. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bardi and approved by a 4-0 voice vote (Fishman, Jacobs absent).

Public Comment

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 4-0 voice vote (Fishman, Jacobs absent). Borough Attorney McDonnell reported that the ordinance was forwarded to the Planning Board for review, and the Planning Board has reported that the ordinance is in accordance with the Borough’s Master Plan.

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 28-2019 for the third and final time: “An ordinance amending and supplementing Chapter XXX entitled “Land Development Ordinance” to enact a new section regulating and establishing certain requirements for short-term rentals in the Borough of Roseland”. Councilman Bardi made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 28-2019. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Perrotti and approved by a 4-0 roll call vote (Fishman, Jacobs absent).

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 31-2019 by title only for the second time: “An ordinance authorizing a Special Emergency Appropriation of $124,970.00 for the preparation and execution of a complete program of revaluation of all real property, including approved tax map updates”. Councilwoman Tolli made a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 31-2019. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bardi and approved by a 4-0 voice vote (Fishman, Jacobs absent).

Public Comment

There being no one wishing to be heard, Councilman Freda made a motion to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Perrotti and approved by a 4-0 voice vote (Fishman, Jacobs absent).

Clerk Watkins read Ordinance No. 31-2019 for the third and final time: “An ordinance authorizing a Special Emergency Appropriation of $124,970.00 for the preparation and execution of a complete program of revaluation of all real property, including approved tax map updates”.
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Councilman Bardi made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 31-2019. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tolli and approved by a 4-0 roll call vote (Fishman, Jacobs absent).

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Councilwoman Perrotti made a motion to approve Resolution No. 298-2019 approving the November 22, 2019 Bill List in the amount of $1,768,137.02. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tolli and approved by a 3-0 voice vote, with Councilman Freda abstaining from the vote (Fishman, Jacobs absent).

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

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

Resolution No. 299-2019 in Memoriam - Barrie Werfel

Resolution No. 300-2019 ratification of salaries - October 2019

Resolution No. 301-2019 approving the hiring of gym supervisors and time-score keepers for the recreation basketball program

Resolution No. 302-2019 renewing the contract with Delta Dental for one year through December 31, 2020

Resolution No. 303-2019 approving the cancellation of water sewer billing-balances

Resolution No. 304-2019 requesting permission from the Director of the DLGS for the Dedication by Rider for donations to the Roseland Recreation Youth Uniform Trust Fund

Resolution No. 305-2019 authorizing the rejection of the bids for the Pressure Regulator Improvement Project and authorizing rebid of the project

Resolution No. 306-2019 approving the cancellation of water sewer account budget appropriations balance

Resolution No. 307-2019 amending Resolution No. 52-2019 “Appoint Inglesino, Webster, Wyciskala & Taylor, LLC as Redevelopment Attorney for 2019” decreasing the not to exceed amount by $1,000.00

Resolution No. 308-2019 approving release of Payment No. 2 to Jo-Med Contracting Corp. for 2019 Utility Improvements in the amount of $194,440.62

Resolution No. 309-2019 approving cancellation of capital ordinance funding

Resolution No. 310-2019 amending Resolution No. 268-2019 “Approving Proposal from Remington & Vernick Engineers for Consulting Engineer Services for 2019 Utility Improvements” accepting the revised proposal and increase the amount not to exceed to $136,400.00
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Resolution No. 311-2019 authorizing the disposal of surplus property that did not sell at auction

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

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

Resolution No. 312-2019 tax appeal settlement – 3 ADP Boulevard

Resolution No. 313-2019 tax appeal settlement – 65 Livingston Avenue

Resolution No. 314-2019 tax appeal settlement – 4 Becker Farm Road

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tolli and approved by a 3-0 voice vote, with Councilwoman Perrotti abstaining from the vote (Fishman, Jacobs absent).

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

Resolution No. 315-2019 authorizing the Mayor to sign the public health services interlocal agreement with East Hanover

Resolution No. 316-2019 authorizing the extension of contract with Verizon Wireless under State Contract 82583 through February 29, 2020

Resolution No. 317-2019 authorizing waiver of refund of late fees for Ski-Snowboard program

Resolution No. 318-2019 approving the budget transfers

Resolution No. 319-2019 authorizing the Mayor to sign the agreement with Stonegate Condominium Association for Roseland to provide repairs to catch basins in roadways

Resolution No. 320-2019 approving the purchase of three (3) license plate readers at a cost of $52,378.00 for the Police Department through Bergen County Co-Op 19-34

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilwoman Perrotti made a motion to appoint Michael Pacio to the Planning Board to fill the unexpired term of Donna Schiavone with a term expiration of December 31, 2020. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tolli and approved by a 4-0 voice vote (Fishman, Jacobs absent).

Councilwoman Perrotti made a motion to approve the November Treasurer’s Report. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bardi and approved by a 4-0 voice vote (Fishman, Jacobs absent).
APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilwoman Tolli made a motion to approve the November 7, 2019 caucus meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Freda and approved by a 4-0 voice vote (Fishman, Jacobs absent).

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Spango read the following letter and asked that it be made part of the record:

“Dear Mayor Spango & Chief McDonough,

I would like to recognize & thank the police officers who responded to an emergency call at my house (18 Third Ave) early on November 8. I believe they are officers Aue & McDavitt. It was an emotional time where my wife was struggling to breath. The more senior officer who I believe was Officer Aue was extremely professional. My wife needed oxygen badly and, as you may imagine when you are having trouble breathing, she was somewhat panicking and didn't easily use the mask. His approach was a calm and reassuring way as he was encouraging my wife to use the oxygen. He also listed all the medications that my wife had and asked about allergies & such so when the EMTs arrived, they wouldn't need to spend the time to get this information. He did this so the EMTs could get her to the hospital in the fastest time possible.

I want to express my gratitude and appreciation at the time that Karen and I needed it the most. You should be honored to have them on the Roseland police force.

Regards,
Brian Flynn
18 Third Ave.”

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Spango thanked the Recreation Department for their efforts to bring back Holiday Story Time, the Department of Public Works (DPW) for building an amazing set, and Neil Grabowski for producing the event. The Holiday Story time will be airing on the Borough’s public access TV stations in about a week. Mr. Spango noted that Santa’s arrival has been revamped and will be held at a different location. Mayor Spango wished everyone a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL

Councilman Bardi reported that he Committee had their first meeting with the revaluation firm. The last revaluation was done in 2009 and went into effect in 2010. The contractor will perform inspections from approximately March through July. Informational meetings will be scheduled in early 2020 with changes being implemented in 2021. Budget meetings have been scheduled for 9:00 am on Saturday, December 7th and Saturday, December 14th at 140 Eagle Rock
Avenue. A lot of progress has been made on new TV system, new website, new Facebook page, and new event calendar. All of these improvements are scheduled to go into service next month.

**SHARED SERVICES**

Councilwoman Perrotti reminded seniors that the shared services Christmas Party will be held on December 13th at Greenbrook Country Club. Any seniors interested in attending can register at the Recreation Department.

The Roseland Board of Education replaced their Smart boards with Promethean boards, and donated the Smart boards to the Linwood and Ocean Gate Boards of Education. The Board has also implemented an enrichment program for grades 3-6 that will begin December 2nd. The Board has begun the budgeting process for the 2021 school year, and installed panic buttons and strobe lights in compliance with Alyssa’s law.

The West Essex Board of Education has begun preparing their 2021 budget. The Board is hosting a senior citizen breakfast on December 4th and the orchestra winter concert on December 5th. On December 6th, the Board will be holding a security symposium featuring the four sending district police chiefs, representatives of the State Police, the Essex County Sherriff, sending district superintendents and the Department of Education.

Mayor Spango added that he has information for the Board and the Borough to consider regarding the In Force911 real time threat alert and notification system software.

**REDEVELOPMENT AND LEGAL**

No report

**PUBLIC WORKS**

DPW Superintendent Schall reported that curbside leaf collection will end on Friday, December 6th. Pick up of leaf bags on County roads will continue on Wednesdays through the last Wednesday in December. The sewer system CCTV inspection program and smoke testing has been completed. Results have been sent to the Borough’s water/sewer engineer for review. The reconstruction of Roosevelt Street has begun and it is hoped that paving can be completed before year end. The Crestview Court water main has been installed. The regulator chamber is on order and will be installed when received. Councilman Freda asked that the hydrants that are out of service be bagged so the fire department can identify which hydrants are in service.

Councilman Freda reported that he attended the Caldwell Sewer meeting, noting that Roseland is ahead of the recommendations that were made by Caldwell’s sewer engineer. The auxiliary police conducted sixty-two (62) hours of patrol since the last Council meeting, assisting with church services, mischief night, Halloween, Nooecker School events, and funeral services at Shook-Farmer Funeral Home. Mr. Freda congratulated Russ Sampson on his 25th anniversary of service as an auxiliary police officer, and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

No report
RECREATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Councilwoman Tolli made a motion to authorize the Recreation Department to run a bus trip on March 29, 2019 to the Prudential Center in Newark for a New Jersey Devils vs. Carolina Hurricanes hockey game, to purchase forty (40) tickets at a cost $90.00 per ticket including bus transportation, and to guarantee payment for eighty percent (80%) of the tickets if unsold. The motion was seconded by Councilman Freda and approved by a 4-0 voice vote (Fishman, Jacobs absent).

Mrs. Tolli thanked the high school students who put together food baskets for the Caldwell food pantry. The students assembled thirty-six (36) baskets and fifteen (15) boxes of food that will be given to needy, West Essex families. Mrs. Tolli also thanked members of the DPW who delivered the food baskets. The Camp Wyanokie Commission held their last meeting of the year last night and scheduled Camp Wyanokie Day for June 20, 2020, with a rain date of June 27th. The cost to attend will be $5.00. The Roseland town picnic has been scheduled for June 6, 2020.

Santa’s arrival is scheduled for 6:00 pm on Friday, December 6th. The festivities have been relocated across the street to 140 eagle Rock Avenue. There will be a stage for dancers, carolers in Victorian era costumes, entertainment by boy scouts and girl scouts, and refreshments. Santa and the elves will be in Santa’s village on the second floor of the municipal building, and a photographer will be available. Letter to Santa can be dropped off in the mailbox at the municipal building at 140 Eagle Rock Avenue beginning December 2nd through December 16th. Be sure to include a name and return address for Santa’s reply.

The seventeenth annual hoop shoot is scheduled for Monday, December 9th at 6:30 pm at Noecker School. The deadline to register on Community Pass is December 6th. The ski trips to Shawnee are scheduled for January 5th, 12th, and 26th, and February 2nd and 9th. Deadline to register is November 29th. The library is selling cloth bags for fifty cents.

Mayor Spango asked for patience during the improvements being made to the Harrison Avenue building. Mr. Spango reported positive feedback from the new, combined, community calendar for November. The December edition will likely be out tomorrow. The winners of the Halloween house decorating contest were: 3rd place to 16 Condit Court, 2nd place to 19 Ridge Road, and 1st place to 74 Roosevelt Street. The winners will receive gift cards donated by local businesses. The holiday house decorating contest will begin in early December.

In response to a request from Walgreen’s, Councilman Bardi made a motion to allow retail businesses in town to extend their hours and remain open until midnight beginning December 13th through December 31st. The motion was seconded by Councilman Freda and approved by a 4-0 voice vote (Fishman, Jacobs absent).

PUBLIC COMMENT

OEM Coordinator Mathies reported that Harrison Avenue will be closed to two-way traffic at 6:30 PM on December 6th for the arrival of Santa Claus. Access to the parking lots on Harrison Avenue will be inaccessible after 6:30 PM.
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Councilwoman Perrotti announced that the December 3rd Caucus meeting has been moved across the street to 19 Harrison Avenue because the caucus meeting room is setup for Santa's visit. The start time for executive session has also been changed to 6:00 PM, with public session beginning at 7:30 PM as previously scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Freda made a motion to close the meeting at 8:31 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bardi and approved by a 4-0 voice vote (Fishman, Jacobs absent).

Mayor James R. Spango

Approved: December 3, 2019

JOCK H. WATKINS, BOROUGH CLERK

VOICE VOTE
Aye: Bardi, Perrotti, Tolli
Nay: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Fishman, Freda, Jacobs