

**BOROUGH OF ROSELLE
MAYOR & COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 30, 2019 at 6:00 PM**

Mayor Dansereau called the Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Roselle, Union County, New Jersey, held at Borough Hall, 210 Chestnut Street, Roselle, New Jersey to order on January 30, 2019 at 6:04 P.M. The flag salute was done and the invocation was given by Councilman Atkins.

ROLL CALL:

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Reginald Atkins	Councilman	P	.
Kim Shaw	Councilwoman	P	
Cynthia Johnson	Councilwoman	P	
Brandon Bernier	Councilman	P	
John Fortuna	Councilman	P	
Denise Wilkerson	Councilwoman	P	
Christine Dansereau	Mayor	P	

The Acting Municipal Clerk, Ms. Massey, read the “Open Public Meetings Act” compliance statement.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

This is to state for the record that this meeting is being held according to the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, Section 5, by sending the Notice to the Union County Local Source, the Home News Tribune, and the Star Ledger Newspaper, posting on the Borough Hall Bulletin Board and the Borough of Roselle website and by filing said Notice in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

Mayor Dansereau opened up the public comment portion on the pending resolutions only. Seeing

PUBLIC COMMENT (on pending resolutions only)

1. Sylvia Turnage commented on the governing body having a two special meetings in January 2019 and she spoke about transparency; she asked if there were any other options besides appointing Mr. Barr; she said he is not ready and that it’s doing a disservice to the Borough to appoint him; she said the Borough Administrator position is the most important one in the Borough and that Mr. Russell was supposed to give 45 to 60 days’ notice before leaving. She objects to the decision and hopes everyone will consider the decision.

Seeing no one else come forward, Mayor Dansereau closed the public comment on pending resolutions only.

CLOSED (EXECUTIVE) SESSION

At 6:07 p.m., Mayor Dansereau asked for a motion to go into Closed Executive Session. Motion by Council President Wilkerson, seconded by Councilman Fortuna to adopt Resolution Number 2019-077 to discuss personnel matters.

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 2019-077
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CLOSED (EXECUTIVE) SESSION**

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances, and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough of Roselle Council, County of Union, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussions of and action hereinafter specified as:
 - Personnel Matters
2. It is anticipated at this time the above stated subject matters will be made public when it is determined that the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Vote Record - Resolution 2019-077				
	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Atkins	x			
Councilwoman Shaw	x			
Councilwoman Johnson	x			
Councilman Bernier	x			
Councilman Fortuna	x			
Councilwoman Wilkerson	x			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated <input type="checkbox"/> Tabled <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn				

The governing body came out of Closed Executive Session at 7:25 p.m.

On a motion by Councilman Bernier, seconded by Councilman Fortuna to adopt Resolution 2019-078.

Discussion: Councilman Atkins commented on the advice and consent of Council as it relates to the resolution; he said that he didn't have an opportunity to discuss the appointment up until today and it was thrown at them at the last meeting; other colleagues had the information prior to the meeting; he said he is concerned about the responsibilities that are entailed for a Borough Administrator along with the flux of transition that is going on; he spoke to the amount employees that need to be managed in the Borough, and feels the public is not going to be happy with a decision that doesn't make any sense. Attorney Brown cautioned Council not to discuss Mr. Barr's qualifications. Councilman Atkins said it's important to make sure people are put in place to be successful. He then suggested that they look at shared services and experience.

Councilwoman Shaw commented that the resolution was sent to Council the day before the meeting at 4:14 p.m., and that other individuals on the dais had the information days in advance; and said that it is unacceptable to make sound decisions with 26 hours' notice and without having an opportunity to vet it; she said what's happening is that once the mayor has the required support, she doesn't bother to contact the rest of the Council and that three people are being boxed out of the decision making in the Borough.

Councilwoman Johnson commented that she knew nothing in advance about the person being appointed and didn't receive any notice about it. She also received an email at 4:14 p.m., the day before the meeting and cannot make a decision in 24 hours when there was no discussion; she said everyone should have been privy to the information and not shut out; she said she takes issue with something being thrown out to her at the last minute and it is not fair.

Mayor Dansereau commented that the CFO had to take leave and that there was a change some time ago that no longer allowed for a Borough Administrator to have a contract which stated that the Borough Administrator had to give 60-90 days' notice in advance of leaving the position, and is the reason they only had 2 to 3 weeks' notice; she also said the Tax Collector position had to be filled along with the Superintendent of Public Works within a few months; and that it seemed there was not enough time to get everything done; she said communication is a two way street and she could have done it by letter, but was transparent to her colleagues in the appointment of several individuals; she said consensus of Council is very important and she has the tie-breaking vote and her predecessor's had the tie-breaking vote as well even though she would like it if everyone were in agreement; in some instances it will happen, and in some, it won't but it is not because she wants to leave anyone out; she said she took this appointment very seriously and called for the Special meeting to be transparent and to have all Council members involved; she said it important that they use intelligent people and put them in place and not annihilate them and support them because the end goal is to help Roselle be the best they can be and sometimes one has to act effectively as a leader in a crisis situation. She said she hopes for everyone's support as opposed to fighting about it.

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 2019-078
MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR WITH
ADVICE AND CONSENT OF COUNCIL**

WHEREAS, the current Borough Administrator has resigned, effective February 1, 2019 at the close of business; and

WHEREAS, effective February 1, 2019, as a result of the current Borough Administrator’s resignation, a vacancy will exist in the office of Borough Administrator; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:60-5, the Mayor shall nominate and, with the advice and consent of council, appoint all subordinate officers of the borough and shall make such nomination within 30 days of the office becoming vacant; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor has nominated Isiah Barr as Interim Borough Administrator.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that:

1. The advice and consent of the Borough Council is granted to the appointment of Isiah Barr as Interim Borough Administrator.
2. Isiah Barr shall serve in this position without any additional compensation until the appointment of a permanent Borough Administrator.
3. A waiver of the Borough’s residency requirement is granted.
4. This Resolution shall take effect at the close of business on February 1, 2019.

Vote Record - Resolution 2019-078				
	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Atkins		x		
Councilwoman Shaw		x		
Councilwoman Johnson		x		
Councilman Bernier	x			
Councilman Fortuna	x			
Councilwoman Wilkerson	x			
Mayor Dansereau (Broke Tie)	x			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated <input type="checkbox"/> Tabled <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn				

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Sylvia Turnage commented that she has no problem with Isiah Barr and she is proud of him; but has a problem with the process and people can’t sit on both sides of the table; she feels there’s been 13 years of failed leadership; there’s a lot of patronage and friends hired; and hires get their certifications at the taxpayer expense and then leave the Borough. She spoke to the Mayor breaking the tie, and said the other side did it when they had the vote; she expects better and remarked that she even knew that Bryan Russell was leaving; she is confident that Mr. Barr will do the best that he can, but feels he is being set up for failure. Ms. Turnage ran out of time for public comment and asked to extend her time for two more minutes.

Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to extend the time by two minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Fortuna, and the roll call was taken. Councilman Atkins voted no;

Councilwoman Shaw voted no; Councilwoman Johnson voted yes; Councilman Bernier voted yes; Councilman Fortuna voted yes; and Council President Wilkerson voted yes, and the motion carried.

Ms. Turnage stated that the Council has to get it right even if they have the votes; and they should bring everyone in on the vetting process. She said resident don't need to sit outside for an hour during an executive session if there is communication prior to the meeting, and they take the vote and be done with it; she said she will come to the dais with the people's agenda and wants to see the Borough moving forward; she said she knows there are things that Mr. Barr can't handle, and when it happens she knows who to come to.

2. Jeanne Ryan invited the members of the governing body, the Clerk and Borough Attorney to be guest readers an event at the Roselle Public Library called "Read Across America. It is sponsored by the Roselle Library, the Concrete Rose Project, and the Department of Recreation and will begin at 12:00 Noon until 1:30 p.m.

Seeing no one else come forward, Mayor Dansereau closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

COUNCIL COMMENT

Council President Wilkerson thanked and applauded everyone for coming out to the meeting; she said whatever she does, she wants it to work for the Borough and to hold her accountable if it doesn't work; she said they are not setting anyone up for failure; it's interim until they get to a place to hire a permanent person and thanked everyone for giving her the opportunity to serve.

Councilman Bernier said that he had no further comments at this time.

Councilwoman Johnson said she had no further comments at this time.

Councilwoman Shaw said that she would save her comments for the public and for the television.

Councilman Fortuna said he had no further comments at this time.

Councilman At-Large Atkins said he had no further comments at this time.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Dansereau said she had no further comments at this time and asked for a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilman Atkins, seconded by Councilman Fortuna to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor; none were opposed, and the meeting was duly adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Borough of Roselle

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Minutes of the January 30, 2019 Special Meeting

ATTEST:

Lydia D. Massey, Acting Municipal Clerk