

**BOROUGH OF ROSELLE  
MAYOR & COUNCIL  
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2019**

Mayor Dansereau called the Workshop 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 September 11, 2019 at 6:30 P.M. The flag salute was done and the invocation was given by Councilman Bernier.

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, Section 5, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, by posting and maintaining the annual notice of regular and workshop meetings on the Borough Hall Bulletin Board, by emailing the Annual Notice of Regular and Workshop meetings for 2019 to the Union County Local Source and The Home News Tribune in 2019, by posting on the Borough of Roselle website, and by filing said notice in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

**ROLL CALL:**

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Arrived</b>
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	

Also present: Jack Layne, Borough Administrator; Karen Brown, Esq., Borough Attorney, Anders Hasseler, Chief Financial Officer and Lydia Massey, Acting Municipal Clerk

**DEPARTMENT AND OFFICIAL'S REPORTS**

1. Jeff Guy, Construction Official, reported that the Part Apartments is finalizing Phase II, with only 6 buildings left to be completed. He said that he anticipates phase II to be completed by spring. He added that they are working on the pumping station and that he expects a few pads to be laid before winter.

He then answered questions from the Governing Body.

2. Michael Schnurr, Tax Collector, stated that overall, collections are very good, with 88% of billed taxes being paid; and the numbers are steadily rising with each quarter. He announced the upcoming tax sale, to be held December 3, 2019, with roughly 104 accounts being advertised. He said that his goal is for there to be less than 100 on the list for tax sale. He was pleased to report that the Tax Collection Drop Box is set up in the Police Department, for 24/7 Tax Payments. He thanked Chief Brian Barnes and DPW Superintendent Luis Mollinedo for their assistance with the installation of the Drop Box.

He then entertained questions from the Mayor and Council.

### **NEW VOTING BUSINESS**

Motion by Councilman Bernier, seconded by Councilman Fortuna to adopt Resolution Number 2019-242.

#### **Discussion:**

Councilwoman Shaw stated that she did not vote for the original budget because she believed that some improvements could have been made; and while some changes had been made, it was her hope to have a flat budget. She said that because her suggestions were not implemented, she would not support the budget amendment.

Councilman Atkins voiced his agreement with Councilwoman Shaw, saying that he, too, hoped for a flat budget and better use of the surplus.

Councilman Bernier added that amendments could still be made to the budget, and encouraged his colleagues to do so if possible.

Discussion continued and Councilwoman Shaw offered an amendment to the amended resolution that was presented.

Motion by Councilwoman Shaw, seconded by Councilman Atkins to amend Resolution Number 2019-242 by changing the General Revenues Anticipated Surplus line item from \$2,350,000 to \$2,400,000 and Financial Administration Salary and Wage line item from \$310,000 to \$294,500.

#### **Discussion:**

Council President Wilkerson said that she doesn't think it's prudent to make such changes on the fly because there only certain changes that can be made without having to redo the entire budget process. She said that she thought that more caution should be exercised in making such a decision.

Councilman Atkins said that the proposed amendments are the same amendments that have been proposed from the very beginning and called the question.

Councilwoman Shaw then moved to amend her proposed amendment, changing the General

Revenues Anticipated Surplus line item to \$2,375,000. The motion was seconded by Councilman Atkins.

Chief Financial Officer, Anders Hasseler, interjected that Resolution Number 2019-242 had already been sent to the Department of Community Affairs and approved by the State of New Jersey, so in order to effect any of the amendments proposed by Councilwoman Shaw, the amendments would have to be sent in Resolution form to the DCA for certification prior to voting by the Governing Body.

Discussion ensued as to the process by which amendments to the budget are made and certified by the State of New Jersey.

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 2019-242**  
**RESOLUTION TO AMEND 2019 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

<b>Vote Record - Resolution Number 2019-242</b>				
	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Atkins				
Councilwoman Shaw				
Councilwoman Johnson				
Councilman Bernier				
Councilman Fortuna				
Councilwoman Wilkerson				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated <input type="checkbox"/> Tabled <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn				

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 2019-243**  
**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2019 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

<b>Vote Record - Resolution Number 2019-243</b>				
	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Atkins				
Councilwoman Shaw				
Councilwoman Johnson				
Councilman Bernier				
Councilman Fortuna				
Councilwoman Wilkerson				
<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated <input type="checkbox"/> Tabled <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn				

**COMMENTS AND REPORTS BY ADMINISTRATOR**

**SETTING THE AGENDA FOR THE SEPTEMBER 18, 2019 REGULAR MEETING**

**PROCLAMATIONS**

Turn the Towns Teal  
September 11, 2019 National Day of Service and Remembrance

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

Minutes of the Mayor and Council Special Meeting/Budget Hearing – July 18, 2019  
Minutes of the Mayor and Council Workshop Meeting –August 14, 2019  
Minutes of the Mayor and Council Regular Meeting – August 21, 2019  
Minutes of the Mayor and Council Closed Executive Session – August 14, 2019  
Minutes of the Mayor and Council Closed Executive Session – August 21, July 10, 2019

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**INTRODUCTION, CONSIDERATION AND PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES**

**ORDINANCE ON SECOND READING & FINAL PASSAGE** - Ordinance 2605-19

ORDINANCE GRANTING MUNICIPAL CONSENT TO CROSS RIVER FIBER, INC. AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A RIGHTS-OF-WAY USE AGREEMENT THEREWITH [Public Hearing September 18, 2019 Pending Approval]

**ORDINANCE ON INTRODUCTION & FIRST READING** - Ordinance 2607-19

AMENDING AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF CERTAIN OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSELLE, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY” [Public Hearing October 9, 2019 Pending Approval] – (To Be Provided)

**ORDINANCE ON INTRODUCTION & FIRST READING** - Ordinance 2608-19

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER \_\_\_, SECTION \_\_\_ OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSELLE ENTITLED "STAFFING LEVELS" [Public Hearing October 9, 2019 PENDING APPROVAL] – (To be Provided)

**PUBLIC COMMENTS (on Pending resolutions only)**

**CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION**

2019- Resolution for Closed (Executive) Session *[If necessary]*

Borough of Roselle  
Minutes of the September 11, 2019 Workshop Meeting

## **RESOLUTIONS**

<b><u>Mayor</u></b>	
1.	Mayor's Appointment of Members to the Board of Health With the Consent of Council [Names to be provided]
<b><u>Borough Administrator</u></b>	
2.	Public Entity Joint Insurance Fund Joint Trust Agreement and Resolution to Rejoin
3.	Resolution Appointing an Executive Assistant to the Borough Administrator
4.	Resolution Authorizing Work in Connection With the AWL Project and Establishment of an Escrow Account by PSE&G to Compensate Borough of Roselle For Costs
<b><u>Clerk's Office</u></b>	
5.	Resolution Amending Resolution 2019-003 Establishing 2019 Municipal Council Meeting Schedule
6.	Resolution Granting a Special Permit for a Social Affair and Authorizing the Borough Clerk to Certify Same Special Permit Application –Roselle Catholic High School – October 12, 2019
7.	Resolution Granting a Special Permit for a Social Affair and Authorizing the Borough Clerk to Certify Same Special Permit Application –Roselle Catholic High School – October 26, 2019
8.	Resolution Granting a Special Permit for a Social Affair and Authorizing the Borough Clerk to Certify Same Special Permit Application –Roselle Catholic High School – November 30, 2019
<b><u>Code Enforcement</u></b>	
9.	Resolution Hiring a Full-Time Keyboarding Clerk 1 in the Code Enforcement Office at the Salary of \$30,808.44
<b><u>Economic Development</u></b>	
10.	Resolution Appointing Victor Klymenko Provisionally to the Position of Economic Development Representative 4 at the Salary of \$70,000.00
<b><u>Municipal Court</u></b>	
11.	Appointment of Temporary Acting Court Administrator
12.	Appointing a Part Time Temporary POAA Funded Employee in the Municipal Court at the Rate of \$18.00 Per Hour [To be provided]
<b><u>Purchasing Agent</u></b>	
13.	Resolution Designating A Qualified Purchasing Agent
<b><u>Tax Collector</u></b>	
14.	Resolution Authorizing a Contract With RealAuction.com, LLC for the Purpose of Conducting an Electronic Municipal Tax Lien Sales for 2019
15.	Authorize Refund of Tax Overpayments

## **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

16.	A Bill List Dated September 18, 2019 [To be provided]
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### **(Workshop Meeting Continued)**

Councilman Bernier asked if the PEJIF Renewal was an automatic thing, or if we could shop around for better rates. He also asked about the deadline for a decision on renewal.

Borough Administrator Layne replied that he would inquire as to the deadline to inform the PEJIF of renewal and that he would definitely shop around for better rates.

Mayor Dansereau then declared the meeting open for Public Comment.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Sylvia Turnage, Roselle Resident, said that while she appreciated the move forward with the budget, the whole diatribe was unwarranted because the Council had an entire month to communicate and consider amendments. She spoke to standard operating procedures for Finance and said that for too long there were Finance people hired just because they were "yes" people. She said the Council has the power to vote and they have to take control.

Mayor Dansereau then closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

### **COUNCIL COMMENT**

Council President Wilkerson thanked everyone for their condolences and support of her family in the loss of her aunt.

Councilman Bernier, gave comments about September 11, 2001 and said that there is an entire generation that does not know what life was like before that date because they were so young when it occurred. He said that while everyone has their own memory of that day, his memory was of himself sitting in gym class wondering why other students were leaving so early and not knowing what happened. He encouraged everyone to look at different perspectives on what that day means.

Councilwoman Johnson said that she and Mr. Layne had discussed EMF (Electro-Magnetic Fields) and that she had information to share with the public, which she would share at the following week's meeting. She said that she was present for the 9/11 Ceremony and was touched by it because she, too, could remember vividly her experience on September 11, 2001. She gave an account of a friend who lost her life that day.

Councilwoman Shaw told the story of Asia Cotton, a young scholar who lost her life on September 11, 2001 because she was on the flight that crashed into the pentagon. She gave a shout out to Library Director, Jeanne Ryan for being her "Ice Partner" and giving free Italian Ice to the students of the Borough.

Councilman Fortuna gave an account of his experience and the impact on his life after September 11, 2001. He said that we have to remember 9/11 because it is an appreciation of life.

Councilman Atkins said that he dreads 9/11 because he hates to remember the day. He told the story of his employees that he lost in the attacks of that day. He also talked about two loved ones who were able to escape the Twin Towers. He reminded everyone of the frailty of life.

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

Mayor Dansereau said that she understood the sentiments held by others regarding September 11, 2001; and that she was so inspired by the unity the event fostered. She then asked for a motion to adopt Resolution Number 2019-244 and go into Executive Session.

On a motion by Councilman Fortuna, seconded by Councilman Bernier, with all in favor and none opposed, the Governing Body went into Closed Executive Session at 8:00pm.

### **CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION**

## **RESOLUTION NUMBER 2019-244**

### **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.

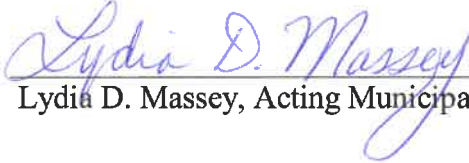
This resolution shall take effect immediately.

I, Lydia D. Massey, Acting Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Roselle, in the County of Union, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Roselle, County of Union, State of New Jersey at a Workshop meeting of said Council held September 11, 2019.

The Governing Body came out of Executive Session at 9:14pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Councilman Bernier, seconded by Council President Wilkerson, all were in favor, none opposed, and the meeting was duly adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

  
Lydia D. Massey, Acting Municipal Clerk