

**BOROUGH OF ROSELLE  
MAYOR & COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2020**

Mayor Atkins called the Borough of Roselle, Union County, New Jersey, Mayor and Council Workshop meeting of the Borough of Roselle, Union County, New Jersey, held at Borough Hall, 210 Chestnut Street, Roselle, New Jersey to order on September 9, 2020 at 6:31 p.m. The flag salute was done, and the invocation was given by Mayor Atkins.

Acting Municipal Clerk, Lydia Massey then read the below Statement of Compliance into Record:

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 2020 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>
Denise Wilkerson	Councilwoman	P	
Brandon Bernier	Councilman	P	
Cindy Thomas	Councilwoman	P	
Isabel Sousa	Councilwoman	P	
John Fortuna	Councilman	P	
Cynthia Johnson	Councilwoman	P	
Reginald Atkins	Mayor	P	

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Jack Layne, Borough Administrator; Everett Falt, Assistant Borough Administrator; Mohamed Jalloh, Borough Attorney; Lydia D. Massey, Acting Municipal Clerk

Mayor Atkins opened up the public comment portion of the meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Seth Melendez, Wheatsheaf Road, expressed that he never received a final report regarding the cyber-attack and if it will be reported and if can have access to it. He said he remembers hearing that it couldn't be discussed and asked for general information not anything in detail.

2. Agnes Brophy, Director of School Board Based Program at Abraham Clark High School, Teen Guide Zone, and said she is available in case anyone had questions about the defunding of the program.

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

Mayor Atkins spoke to the cyber-attack and asked Borough Administrator Layne if it was something he could address. Administrator Layne remarked that he will research it and provide more details once he speaks to IT. Mayor Atkins then told Mr. Melendez that he and Borough Administrator Layne will discuss it with him and obtain the requested information he is seeking.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

No Department Reports were given.

### **NEW VOTING BUSINESS**

Motion by Councilman Bernier, seconded by Councilman Fortuna to adopt Resolution Number 2020-252.

Mayor Atkins asked Councilman Bernier if he would like to have discussion on the resolution which he championed.

**Discussion:** Councilman Bernier expressed that he had little knowledge of the youth-based programs until he saw a post on Facebook from student Jessie Alexander, and reached out to Jessie to learn more about the program and why it was being defunded. Councilman Bernier spoke about how the Governor zeroed out the line for school-based programs in his budget, and said it was unconscionable. He then asked the Council to support the resolution opposing the defunding. Following this, he asked Mrs. Brophy to speak on the subject.

Mrs. Brophy gave her input on the subject and said a virtual rally took place where many legislators, students, and their families gave testimonies on why the youth programs are so important to have in school and how they were cut across the state.

Councilwoman Johnson asked what the program consisted of, how much money was allocated, and how much money was taken away from Roselle.

Mrs. Brophy remarked that the program consisted of mental health services, help for students who were interested in college, students who become homeless along with their families, employment, community services, community service hours, after school activities, and transition programs to get students academically ready for high school and the State funding was \$11 million statewide.

Councilwoman Johnson asked how many people benefited from the program, and Mrs. Brophy said a substantial amount of students benefitted from the program, and that she is a licensed social worker in the high school.

Councilwoman Sousa asked if the program will be reinstated in the future from the Governor, and Mrs. Brophy said she hopes so.

Mayor Atkins remarked that Jackie Mitchell who he knows is intimately involved in the program and that he was originally going to champion the resolution. He thanked Councilman Bernier for bringing it forward and that he supports the resolution 100%.

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 2020-252**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSELLE STRONGLY OPPOSING THE DEFUNDING OF THE SCHOOL BASED YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAMS**

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of the State of New Jersey has proposed in his budget to defund the School Based Youth Services Programs under the Department of Children and Families for fiscal year 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the School Based Youth Services Programs throughout the State of New Jersey provide critical mental health counseling, employment counseling, substance abuse education and prevention, health awareness, primary medical linkages, learning support, healthy youth development, recreation, and information and referral to local community resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the defunding of these critical programs throughout the State will impact hundreds of thousands of youth in need; and

**WHEREAS**, the impact on these youth will be even worse given COVID-19 and the mental health crises that are occurring for children at all ages as a result of the pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the schools, who are also struggling to deal with COVID-19, remote learning and safe in-classroom learning, will lose a critical resource for their students; and

**WHEREAS**, these funding cuts to the School Based Youth Services Programs throughout the State will disproportionately impact the minority populations in schools; and

**WHEREAS**, the Teen Guide Zone at Abraham Clark High School has been a vital resource for countless students since its inception in 2006, and the negative impact of losing the program on Roselle's youth would be immeasurable.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Borough Council of the Borough of Roselle strongly opposes the defunding of the School Based Youth Services Programs; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Borough Council calls for funding for the School Based Youth Services Programs to be restored immediately; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to immediately forward copies of this resolution to the Governor's office and the offices of all District 20 legislators.

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 9, 2020.

<b>Vote Record – Resolution Number 2020-252</b>				
	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Councilwoman Wilkerson	x			
Councilman Bernier	x			
Councilwoman Thomas	x			
Councilwoman Sousa	x			
Councilman Fortuna	x			
Councilman Johnson	x			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Adopted</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated <input type="checkbox"/> Tabled <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn				

Mayor Atkins stated that there will be two more proclamations coming out of the Mayor’s office. Council President Wilkerson commented that she would like to add a proclamation for Sickle Cell Month on the agenda.

Councilman Bernier asked to change the order of the meeting agenda to have the Closed Executive Session moved from the end of the meeting to allow Redevelopment Counsel Diane Dabulas to brief the Council before she had to leave for another meeting. Mayor Atkins said he was fine with it.

Motion by Councilman Bernier, seconded by Councilwoman Thomas to change the order of the meeting.

<b>Vote Record – To Change the Order of the Meeting</b>				
	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Councilwoman Wilkerson	x			
Councilman Bernier	x			
Councilwoman Thomas	x			
Councilwoman Sousa	x			
Councilman Fortuna	x			
Councilman Johnson	x			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Adopted</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated <input type="checkbox"/> Tabled <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn				

At 6:56 p.m., Councilman Bernier made a motion, seconded by Council President Wilkerson to go into Closed Executive Session.

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 2020-253**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CLOSED (EXECUTIVE SESSION)**

**WHEREAS**, Section 8 of the Open Public Meeting 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
- Contract Negotiations
- Litigation Matters
- Matters Falling Within Attorney Client Privilege

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 9, 2020.

<b>Vote Record – Resolution Number 2020-253</b>				
	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Councilwoman Wilkerson	x			
Councilman Bernier	x			
Councilwoman Thomas	x			
Councilwoman Sousa	x			
Councilman Fortuna	x			
Councilman Johnson	x			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Adopted</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated <input type="checkbox"/> Tabled <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn				

At 7:26 p.m., the Mayor and Council came out of the Closed Executive Session

Mayor Atkins opened up discussion with the Council to set the agenda for the Regular meeting.

Discussion ensued and the consensus of Council was to move Ordinance 2631-20 to the October Regular meeting.

Council President Wilkerson commented on the proposed ordinance regarding overnight parking permits for residents of Galvin Avenue, and said the time needed to be changed to match the time in a document that she previously provided.

Councilman Bernier commented on Resolution Item # 5 and asked what will be done with the items for disposition. Acting Clerk Massey remarked that the items were obsolete and all hard drives will be removed and destroyed and the computers will be taken to the DPW for disposal.

Councilman Bernier asked Borough Administrator Layne if there is a residency waiver required for Resolution Item # 6, and Mr. Layne said he would check. Discussion ensued and Councilwoman Johnson also asked about the waiver as well as motor vehicle checks on drivers. Borough Administrator Layne the waiver is required for the individual.

CFO Hasseler gave a detailed explanation of Resolution Item #s 14 & 15. Councilwoman Johnson asked for a meeting with the CFO and Mayor Atkins asked if he can be included in the meeting.

Jackie Dirmann, Maser Engineering spoke to Resolution Item #s 11, and gave a full summary of it. She then answered all questions posed to her from members of the governing body.

Councilwoman Johnson asked for an explanation of Resolution Item # 7. Victor Klymenko, Economic Development Coordinator said it was in reference to the Park View Apartments next to Warinaco Park and the plan is to see if the area is in need of redevelopment which authorizes the Planner to do a site visit of the property.

Mayor Atkins commented that based on the discussion there would be a consent agenda of all the proposed resolutions.

On a motion by Councilman Bernier, seconded by Council President Wilkerson to make a Consent Agenda of Resolution Item # 1 through 21, with the exception of the Bills List.

<b>Vote Record – To Make a Consent Agenda</b>				
	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Councilwoman Wilkerson	x			
Councilman Bernier	x			
Councilwoman Thomas	x			
Councilwoman Sousa	x			
Councilman Fortuna	x			
Councilman Johnson	x			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Adopted</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated <input type="checkbox"/> Tabled <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn				

On a motion by Councilman Bernier, seconded by Councilwoman Sousa to set the meeting agenda with the Consent Agenda Items and moving Ordinance 2631-20 to the next Council meeting.

<b>Vote Record – To Set the Make a Consent Agenda</b>				
	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Councilwoman Wilkerson	x			
Councilman Bernier	x			
Councilwoman Thomas	x			
Councilwoman Sousa	x			
Councilman Fortuna	x			
Councilman Johnson	x			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Adopted</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated <input type="checkbox"/> Tabled <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn				

**SETTING THE AGENDA FOR THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 REGULAR MEETING**

**PROCLAMATIONS**

September 11<sup>th</sup> 2020 - National Day of Service and Remembrance  
 Turn the Towns Teal

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

- Minutes of the Mayor and Council Special Meeting – July 30, 2020
- Minutes of the Mayor and Council Closed Executive Session – July 30, 2020
- Minutes of the Mayor and Council Workshop Meeting – August 12, 2020
- Minutes of the Mayor and Council Closed Executive Session – August 12, 2020
- Minutes of the Mayor and Council Regular Meeting – August 19, 2020
- Minutes of the Mayor and Council Closed Executive Session – August 19, 2020

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**INTRODUCTION, CONSIDERATION AND PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES**

**ORDINANCE ON SECOND READING & FINAL PASSAGE** – Ordinance 2629-20

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 126 “ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES” OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSELLE BY INCREASING LIQUOR LICENSE FEES [Public Hearing September 16, 2020]

**ORDINANCE ON SECOND READING & FINAL PASSAGE** – Ordinance 2630-20

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 100, SECTION 3, PARAGRAPH H, SUBPARAGRAPH 12 OF THE BOROUGH CODE REGARDING STAFFING LEVELS FOR SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS (PART TIME) [Public Hearing – September 16, 2020]

**ORDINANCE ON SECOND READING & FINAL PASSAGE** – Ordinance 2631-20

ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSELLE, COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY APPROVING APPLICATION FOR, AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A FINANCIAL AGREEMENT [Public Hearing – September 16, 2020]

**ORDINANCE ON INTRODUCTION & FIRST READING** – Ordinance XXXX-XX

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSELLE, COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, PERMITTING THE BOROUGH OF ROSELLE TO REMOVE ORBSTRUCTIONS TO PUBLIC ROAD ACCESS CAUSED BY EMERGENCY WEATHER EVENTS [Proposed Public Hearing – October 21, 2020 Pending Approval]

**ORDINANCE ON INTRODUCTION & FIRST READING** – Ordinance XXXX-XX

ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSELLE, COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, CREATING A RESIDENTIAL OVERNIGHT PARKING PERMIT FOR RESIDENTS OF GALVIN AVENUE IN THE BOROUGH OF ROSELLE [Proposed Public Hearing – October 21, 2020 Pending Approval]

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

**RESOLUTIONS**

<b>Borough Administrator</b>	
1.	Resolution Granting Leave of Absence From Position of Deputy Municipal Clerk
2.	Resolution Re-Appointing Acting Municipal Clerk
3.	Amending Resolution Number 2020-155 Awarding a Contract to Accurate Amendment Solutions, LLC to Evaluate the FEMA Public Assistance Project
4.	Resolution Halting the Extra Duties Denoted for Eric Walker for Work Performed in the Department Of Administration
<b>Clerk’s Office</b>	
5.	A Resolution to Authorize the Disposition of Electronic Media
<b>Department of Public Works</b>	
6.	Resolution Appointing Full-Time Laborer in the Department of Public Works
<b>Economic Development</b>	
7.	Resolution Authorizing the Planning Board of the Borough of Roselle to Conduct An Preliminary Investigation and Report to the Borough Council, Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-6, to Determine Whether the Real Property Located at 792-808 East 3 <sup>RD</sup> Avenue, in the Borough of Roselle, County of Union, State of New Jersey,



	Constitutes An Area in Need Redevelopment and Approving Professional Planning Services In Connection Therewith
<b>Engineering</b>	
8.	Resolution Authorizing Final Payment Based on As-Built Quantities and Release of Retainage for the CDBG YR 45 Roadway Improvements – Harrison Avenue (E. 7 <sup>TH</sup> Avenue to Georges Place) Project Funded by the Union County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the Municipality Within the Borough of Roselle, Union County, New Jersey
9.	Resolution Authorizing Professional Services and Directing the Borough Planning Board to Determine Whether Certain Property in the Borough of Roselle, Union County, New Jersey Constitutes An Area in Need of Redevelopment And Approving Professional Planning Services in Connection Therewith
10.	Resolution Authorizing Professional Engineering Design Services in Connection With the 2020 Park Improvements Program Funded by the Municipality Within the Borough of Roselle, Union County, New Jersey
11.	Resolution Authorizing Professional Engineering Services for the Community Rating System Recertification and Tier A Permitting as Funded by the Municipality Within the Borough of Roselle, Union County, New Jersey
<b>Finance Department</b>	
12.	Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Cleaning Deposit at Community Center
13.	Resolution Authorizing Refund of Street Opening Escrow Fees
14.	A Resolution to Cancel Checks
15.	Resolution Combining Bonds Aggregating the Principal Sum of \$9,320,000 Authorized by Seven Bond Ordinances Heretofore Adopted to Finance Part of the Cost of Various General Improvements in the Borough of Roselle, County of Union, New Jersey Into One Consolidated Issue of Bonds and Providing for the Form, Maturities and Other Details of Said Consolidated Issue
<b>Grant Writer</b>	
16.	Resolution Authorizing The Filing of an Application With the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety Under Its FY 2020 Safe and Secure Communities Grant Program
<b>Police Department</b>	
17.	Acceptance of the Resignation of School Crossing Guard Delcia Hoffman
18.	Resolution Appointing Additional School Crossing Guards
<b>Tax Collector</b>	
19.	Authorize Tax Title Lien Redemptions
20.	Authorize Refund of Tax Overpayments
21.	Resolution Authorizing a Contract With Realauction.com, LLC for the Purpose of Conducting an Electronic Municipal Tax Lien Sales for 2020

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

22.	A Bill List Dated September 16, 2020 [To be provided]
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## **COUNCIL COMMENT**

Councilwoman Sousa said that she will save her comments for the Regular Meeting next week and encouraged everyone to complete the census.

Councilman Bernier echoed Councilwoman Sousa on the need to Census, and he wished the children good luck in starting back the school year and continues to stay safe.

Councilwoman Johnson said that she will save her comments for the Regular meeting next week.

Councilwoman Thomas said that she will save her comments for the Regular meeting next week and wished everyone to be safe.

Councilman Fortuna echoed the sentiment of his Council colleagues and reiterated how important it is to complete the consensus; he also announced that leaf bags are available at the DPW starting September 12<sup>th</sup>. He also gave an update on the paving of Wood Avenue and said with the pandemic it will take place in the Spring and will revisit it in 2021.

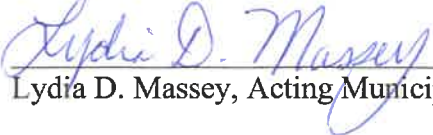
Council President Wilkerson spoke to the 2020 Census and thanked all the teachers and administrators for all their heard work getting all the kids ready for school.

## **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

Mayor Atkins asked for everyone to write down September 11<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., as there will be a 911 Memorial celebration outside of Borough Hall. He invited the Council to participate in the ceremony. He thanked the public for joining in on the meeting and said it was very productive. He also announced that on September 19<sup>th</sup>, there will be a bookbag giveaway and looks forward to the event and having Councilwoman Thomas and Councilwoman Johnson assisting in the endeavor. He thanked the donors and said there will be free food given out on the same day of the event. Following this, Mayor Atkins asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Councilwoman Bernier, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson, all were in favor, none were opposed and the Workshop meeting was duly adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

  
Lydia D. Massey, Acting Municipal Clerk