

**BOROUGH OF ROSELLE  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 26, 2021**

Mayor Shaw called the Borough of Roselle, Union County, New Jersey, Mayor and Council Special meeting of the Borough of Roselle, Union County, New Jersey, held at Borough Hall, 210 Chestnut Street, Roselle, New Jersey to order on February 26, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. The flag salute was done, and the invocation was given by Councilwoman Cindy Thomas.

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

**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 emailing Notice to the Home News Tribune, and the Star Ledger Newspaper, by 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.

**ROLL CALL:**

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Arrived</b>
Richard Villeda	Councilman	P	
Brandon Bernier	Councilman	P	
Cynthia Johnson	Councilwoman	P	
Cindy Thomas	Councilwoman	P	
John Fortuna	Councilman	P	
Denise Wilkerson	Councilwoman	P	
Donald Shaw	Mayor	P	

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Everett Falt, Acting Borough Administrator; Mohamed Jalloh, Borough Attorney; Anders Hasseler, CFO; Lydia D. Massey, Acting Municipal Clerk

**RESOLUTIONS**

Motion by Councilman Bernier, seconded by Councilman Villeda to adopt Resolution Number 2021-115.

**Discussion:** Councilwoman Johnson asked if there will be any tax burdens to the residents. CFO Hassler said that it will be somewhere around a \$70 increase and that they could look at ways to cut it down in the budget.

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 2021-115**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION BOND ACT (LCBA) AWARD AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE THE LCBA GRANT AGREEMENT AND ANY AMENDMENTS OR DOCUMENTS RELATED THERETO**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Roselle on behalf of the Roselle Public Library has been awarded a New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act (LCBA) Grant in the amount of \$5,500,000 for renovations to the existing library building and the construction of a new library addition; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Roselle are desirous of accepting the LCBA Grant Award in the amount of \$5,500,000; and

**WHEREAS**, these funds may only be used to finance costs of the project; and

**WHEREAS**, an application for such funds may not be filed nor funds accepted and spent in a municipality without authorization by the Governing Body; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL OF ROSELLE, UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY:**

1. The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Roselle hereby accept the New Jersey LCBA Grant Award in the amount of \$5,500,000 for renovations to the existing library building and the construction of a new addition.
  2. The LCBA Grant funds shall only be used to finance the costs of the renovations to the existing library building and the construction of a new library addition pursuant to Section 1.5 of the LCBA Grant Agreement.
  3. The Mayor or Administrator of the Borough of Roselle is hereby authorized to execute the LCBA Grant Agreement, or any amendments or documents related thereto, between the New Jersey State Library as Grantor and the Borough of Roselle as Grantee.
  4. The Mayor or Administrator of the Borough of Roselle is hereby authorized to sign any additional supporting documents or certifications relative to effectuating the terms and requirements set forth in the LCBA Grant Agreement.
- Upon receipt of the fully executed LCBA Grant Agreement from the New Jersey State Library, the expenditure of funds is hereby authorized pursuant to the terms of the LCBA Grant Agreement.
5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Lydia 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 Special meeting held of said Council held February 26, 2021.

<b>Vote Record – To Adopt Resolution Number 2021-115</b>				
	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Villeda	x			
Councilman Bernier	x			
Councilwoman Johnson	x			
Councilwoman Thomas	x			
Councilman Fortuna	x			
Council President Wilkerson	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				

Motion by Councilman Fortuna, seconded by Councilwoman Thomas to adopt Resolution Number 2021-116.

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 2021-116**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF THE CALENDAR YEAR 2021  
EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATION**

**WHEREAS**, it will be necessary to award contracts, incur commitments and make payments during calendar year 2021 prior to the adoption of the municipal budget for calendar year 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the total amount of the temporary budget appropriations contained herein, amounting to **\$14,412,250** which includes appropriations of **\$625,000** for debt service and **\$13,787,250** for operating expenses.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Roselle, that the temporary budget totaling **\$14,412,250 including \$661,300** for debt service, which may be fully appropriated without regard to any limitation, are hereby appropriated to provide for said purposes in the temporary budget for the 2021 calendar year; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the amounts required by statute for the payment of the 2021 County and School taxes, which are not included as part of this temporary budget, shall be paid as and when due; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the dedicated revenues, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-39, for the period from the beginning of the 2021 calendar year until the date of budget adoption are hereby appropriated for the purposes to which said revenues are dedicated by the aforementioned statute, or other legal requirement.

I, Lydia Massey, Acting Borough 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 Special meeting of said Council held February 26, 2021.

<b>Vote Record – To Adopt Resolution Number 2021-116</b>				
	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Villeda	x			
Councilman Bernier	x			
Councilwoman Johnson	x			
Councilwoman Thomas	x			
Councilman Fortuna	x			
Council President Wilkerson	x			
Mayor Shaw to break Tie				
<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 Shaw then opened up the public comment portion of the meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Sylvia Turnage stated that she missed what the temporary appropriations were and asked the CFO to give a brief synopsis. She also said she was happy they are following protocol by doing a screen shot of the meeting. She then asked what was going on with the CFO situation concerning a derogatory email and wanted to know how things are being handled. She said the Councilwoman in question is his direct superior. Ms. Turnage also said that she in support of immediate termination and that there is no way that an elected official a black woman or a human being should be disrespected and berated, and that the women who are quiet about it are compliant.

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

Mayor Shaw asked Acting Borough Administrator Falt if he had any comments on Ms. Turnage’s question. Acting Borough Administrator Falt said they don’t discuss personnel matters in open session.

CFO Hassler gave a detailed explanation of the appropriation as it relates to the budget and said that the appropriation was for the library grant and it gets the grant appropriated.

Councilman Villeda departed the meeting after the adoption of resolutions due to his work schedule.

## **COUNCIL COMMENT**

Councilman Bernier thanked everyone for pulling things together for today to clean up any loose ends on the library project. He said it's been a tight timeline for the March 1, 2021 deadline, and everyone is in place now to move forward swiftly, and he said let's build a library.

Councilwoman Johnson said she had concerns and issues about a situation and said to Acting Administrator Falt that she was still waiting for what she asked for from him.

Attorney Jalloh interjected and advised everyone that discussions with regard to personnel should not be discussed in a public meeting could put the Borough in a potential lawsuit, and that matters should be handled through the Borough and the Borough Administrator.

Councilwoman Johnson then questioned if she could ask for a closed executive session and Attorney Jalloh responded absolutely she could request if from the Mayor. Mayor Shaw stated they could have a closed executive session at the next meeting. Councilwoman Johnson asked if it could be done via a Special meeting, and Mayor Shaw said he will discuss it with the Council and then reach out to the Acting Clerk. Councilwoman Johnson then said that her only concern about the library projects was how it would affect the homeowners.

Councilwoman Thomas said she was excited to see everyone who joined the meeting and was excited about the library project. She also said she will leave the rest of her comments for the next Council meeting and encouraged everyone to mask up.

Councilman Fortuna said he had no comments at this time.

Council President Wilkerson thanked Mayor Shaw and everyone for pulling things together to achieve the guidelines of the library grant in time. She said many people know that they are unable to have four members of the governing body discuss anything without having an open public meeting. She commented that the meeting was to tie up a couple of loose ends, and they held it midday to get all the work done before the deadline. She thanked the Mayor again for pulling the meeting together, thanked everyone for their time, and said she was excited about the library grant.

## **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

Mayor Shaw said he was excited about the Library Project as well and said it was long overdue. He also said that it is time to get some fixtures in town that have us looking in the same light as other town. He said he heard what Councilwoman Johnson was saying and can't wait to have an executive session to discuss what happened and to get some resolve. He wished everyone a wonderful weekend and echoed the sentiment of Councilwoman Thomas that everyone should continue to mask up, and social distance and be safe.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Councilwoman Thomas, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson to adjourn.

<b>Vote Record – To Adjourn</b>				
	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Villeda				x-left meeting
Councilman Bernier	x			
Councilwoman Johnson	x			
Councilwoman Thomas	x			
Councilman Fortuna	x			
Council President Wilkerson	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				

The Special meeting was duly adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

  
 Lydia D. Massey, Acting Municipal Clerk