



Ridley Park Borough Council  
Regular Council Meeting  
December 15<sup>th</sup> , 2020

**Welcome**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call**

Councilor Michelle Stock Mattus  
Councilor Dane Collins  
Councilor Richard Guerra  
Councilor William Kaelin  
Councilor Michael McGinley  
Council Vice-President Susan Brochet  
Mayor Hank Eberle  
Council President Michele Endriss-Dalessio

Approve Meeting Minutes for November 17<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting Minutes

Motion: Michelle Stock Mattus

Second: Sue Brochet

Vote 7/0

**Mayor's Report**

The Mayor wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday season. Made sure that residents remained safe during the COVID-19 time. Also provided his annual tradition of reading *T'was the Night Before Christmas*

Motion: Sue Brochet

Second Michelle Stock Mattus

Vote 7/0

**Committee Reports**

**Planning and Zoning (Councilor Susan Brochet)**

- Planning Commission-
  - o Did not meet
- Zoning Hearing Board
  - o Did not meet
- Code Enforcement
  - o Report attached

- Main Streets of Ridley Park
  - o No report

Motion: Michael McGinley

Second: Michelle Stock Mattus

Vote 7/0

Michelle Stock Mattus: Thanked Code for the hard work from a local business owner. That they are very helpful and safety of the property owners.

**Communications (Councilor Dane Collins)**

- Telecommunications Advisory Board
  - o Did not meet this month.
  - o Provided some updates on the Verizon agreement and bring updates to the committee on finalizing the agreement.
- Cable TV
  - o Final budget there is money set aside for new TV equipment. The Estimate is around 12,000. We will visit it later in the year on when we want to get that installed. Looking for a spring timeline.
- Barnstormers
  - o Not meeting
- Seniors Groups
  - o Not meeting

Motion: Sue Brochet

Second: Michael McGinley

Vote: 7/0

**Community Affairs (Councilor Michael McGinley)**

- Trash and Recycling
  - o Provided an update on the 2021 Trash and recycling contract. We were concerned about the increased cost on the services. Touched on all points of the contract. Worked with the Borough manager and safeguards in place for our Borough.
  - o Will be developing more safeguards to find way to best service our residents.
  - o Notify the borough about concerns of missed collections or other issues.
- School Board
  - o Hybrid Schedule for a few of the schools at this time
  - o They are moving to try and make it safe for students. All the kids are enjoying being back at school.
- CDCA
  - o Caught up on all payments and we are at the estimated in the 2021 Project

Motion: Michelle Stock Mattus

Second: Richard Guerra

Vote 7/0

Sue Brochet: Addressed concerns about missed collections and the use of the CodeRED system.

Michelle Endriss Dalessio: Thanked Michael McGinley for all of his hard work of the 2020 year.

**Public Relations (Councilor Michelle Stock Mattus)**

- Library Board
  - o Report attached

- Historical Commission
  - o No Update.
- H.A.R.B. Committee
  - o No HARB Application

Motion: Michael McGinley

Second: Sue Brochet

Vote 7/0

**Finance & Personnel (Councilor Bill Kaelin)**

- Finance
  - o Presented the 2021 Budget
  - o Accounts Payable for November were high due to the 2020 Road Program payment.
  - o November Budget for actual: 54,000 loss in the general fund. There were from programs that we are not seeing additional revenue. Except that loss will be
  - o Update the milage rate/ had to create a net neutral budget and information has been published as required by law.
  - o No tax increase form the Borough in 2021. There will be a change in resident in tax bill will be in the change of their assessment,
  - o Sewer Fee is \$402 and trash fee cost will increase \$345.
  - o To balance the final budget, there is 100,000 included in the fund balance. This will not create a tax increase.
- Grants
- Personnel

Motion: Richard Guerra

Second: Sue Brochet

MSM: Will the trash fee be going up for the next two year? What is the Budget going to be done moving into 2021 and 2022. What the cost sharing going to be from CDCA and the Borough. is the increased trash fee in the budget enough to pay the trash and recycling costs in the new contract?

WK: Does not believe we will not need to cover the cost for CDCA.

MSM: I clarified asking to confirm we are raising the fee but not enough to actually be enough to pay the estimated cost.

WK confirmed

MED: The Borough is working to provide the best fees to the Borough and the ability to find what we can service for our residents.

MSM: So we have some buffer int eh CDCA budget, and what the fee cost is going to be in the future of 2021.

Why were there a decreased cost lost in the Borough?

MSM:

When was the last finance meeting MSM

**Parks & Properties (Council Richard Guerra)**

- Highway Department
  - o Leaf collection is just wrapping up. Trucks are going to be getting ready for snow.
- Shade Tree Committee

- Did not meet
- Recreation Board
  - Rec Board Did not meet this year.

Motion: Michelle Stock Mattus

Second: Sue Brochet

Vote: 7/0

**Public Safety (Councilor Michele Endriss-Dalessio)**

- Police Department Report
  - Report Attached.
  - Court Fees are not coming in for 2020
  - Snow is coming please park off the street Please make sure you lock your cars and vehicles. We are offering an amnesty for the parking meter in the business district.
- Fire Department Report
  - Report attached
- Board of Health
  - Did attempt to meet on, will be meeting on Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> but had issues with the Zoom link and will be setting up a new one.
- Emergency Management
  - Been receiving updates from EMD and DEMD have been responses.
- Civil Service
  - No update

Motion: Michael McGinley

Second: Sue Brochet

Vote 7/0

**Manager Report**

Office is still closed to visitors, but if you need assistance please call the office.

Updated that all information for 2021 Budget and meetings have been published for public notice.

**Engineer Report**

Report Attached

**Solicitor Report**

Will be meeting with Councilor Collins in reagrress to the Verizon agreement.

**Public Comment**

1. Mr Kaelin, Are there any changes in the Final Budget from the Prelim Budget? If so, what line items have the largest changes and how much was the respective increase or decrease?
2. To all Council Members, After the Workshop Mtg, 2 weeks ago , I sent an email stating that the Prelim Budget was showing a \$162,000 increase in tax revenue and that creates a tax increase for the Budget. In fact, it is a 5.4% increase. Is there any comment from any Councilperson in terms of this tax increase?

Mike Gale 08:28 PM

Mike Gale

51 Collier Circle

I believe that one of the reasons to schedule a CDBG public hearing is to solicit comments from the public.

Why was there no opportunity for public comment at the CDBG hearing prior to the meeting tonight? I agree that the foot bridge project should get priority.

Thank you for posting the preliminary budget on the Borough website. I ask that you consider posting the final 2021 budget as well.

I hope Council will consider allowing residents to voice their public comments/questions at zoom meetings as opposed to having to post written comments/questions online.

Anthony Wolverton 08:28 PM  
Anthony Wolverton - 411 N. Swarthmore

Anthony Wolverton 08:29 PM  
Question for Richard, what is the progress on the alley situation on the 400 block Swarthmore Ave

Danny Caldwell 08:29 PM  
Hi my name is Danny Caldwell ( 407 E Rodgers St ). I was just curious if my email was received in regards to my concerns about Fire/EMS services in Ridley Park ? I did not receive any response that my email acknowledged. What I am asking is definitely something that will require serious discussions and planning for the future.

guest 08:31 PM  
No question. Rather, a note of thank you and appreciation for everything you all are doing for the borough and residence. Have a very merry Christmas

### **Action Items**

-Motion to approve Accounts Payable for November in the amount of \$ 220,397.55

Motion: William Kaelin

Second: Dane Collins

Vote: 7/0

-Motion to approve Final Ridley Park Borough Budget for 2021

Motion: William Kaelin

Second: Richard Guerra

Michelle Stock Mattus: Will residents be paying higher taxes? Would like to have reviewed and approve the budget and had more time for questions.

WK there was some edits to the budget make the assessed value lower. Homes were taxed at 60% of the value and they are now fair market value. Some people will pay less but cannot confirm that some homeowners may pay more.

Vote: Yay 6 Nay 1( Michelle Stock Mattus)

- Motion to approve Ordinance 2020-6 – Fixing the tax rate at 4.93 mills per dwelling for 2021 with .095 mills for the Volunteer Fire Company and .098 mills for debt service.

Motion: William Kaelin

Second: Michael McGinley

Vote: 7/0

-Motion to approve Ordinance 2020-8- Fixing trash and rubbish fee at \$345per dwelling for 2021

Motion: William Kaelin

Second: Richard Guerra

Vote 7/0

-Motion to approve Ordinance 2020-7- Fixing the sewer fee at \$402 per dwelling for 2021

Motion: William Kaelin

Second: Dane Collins

Vote: 7/0

-Motion to approve J.P. Mascaro for Waste and Recycling Collection Service for 2021-2022 with option for 2023

Motion: Michael McGinley

Second: Sue Brochet

Vote: 7/0

- Motion to approve Resolution 2020-9- FY 2020 Community Development Block Grant Projects. Option A Foot Bridge Option B Trail Connectivity

Michelle Endriss Dalessio

Second: Michael McGinley

Vote: 7/0

-Motion to approve payment with liquid fuel fund to Allan Myers Inc. for 2020 Road Program

Motion: Richard Guerra

Second: Sue Brochet

Vote 7/0

Michelle Endriss Dalessio: Money is still held back on the punch list to ensure the project is completed.

### **Old Business**

Stop Sign Ordinance 2020-10

Motion: Michelle Endriss Dalessio

Second: Sue Brochet

Vote 7/0

### **New Business**

No New Business

### **Adjourn**

Motion: Michelle Stock Mattus

Second: Sue Brochet

Vote 7/0

Respecttly Submitted

Richard Tutak, Jr. MPA  
Borough Manager