



Ridley Park Borough Council
Council Workshop Meeting
February 1, 2022

Welcome

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Councilor Michelle Stock Mattus- Present
Councilor Michelle Endriss Dalessio- Present
Councilor Kim Collins- Present
Councilor Michael McGinley- Present
Councilor Len Pinto- Present
Council Vice President Richard Guerra- Present
Mayor Hank Eberle- Present
Council President Dane Collins- Present
Junior Councilor Colin Walls- Present

Motion to approve Council Workshop for December 7, 2021 and Reorganization Minutes
January 3, 2022

Motion: Michelle Endriss Dalessio

Second: Len Pinto

Vote 7/0

Mayor's Report

Shared 2022 Calendar for Ridley Park Borough. Thanked the administrative staff for their hard work on putting together this great calendar for the Borough Residents. Calendars will be in mailboxes the week of February 1st. Shared a letter that he will read at the upcoming Council meeting commending the Highway Department for the work that they do.

Committee Reports

Planning and Zoning (Councilor Len Pinto)

- Planning Commission
- Zoning Hearing Board
- Code Enforcement-
- HARB

- There are two certificates of appropriateness on the agenda for approval.

Communications (Councilor Michelle Stock Mattus)

- Telecommunications Advisory Board-
 - If you are interested in joining, please reach out to the Borough Manager.
- Cable TV
- Library
 - Will have normal report and annual report from the Borough Librarian.
- Historic Commission
 - No current members if you are interested in joining, please contact the Borough Manager.

Parks and Properties/ Trash and Recycling (Councilor Michael McGinley)

- Highway Department
 - Thanked the Highway Dept. for their hard work over the recent snowstorm.
- Trash and Recycling
 - Will have normal report.
 - Thanked them for their work for the storm as well in continuing service.
- Parks and Properties

Community Affairs (Councilor Kim Collins)

- School Board
- Recreation Board
- Barnstormers
- Main Streets of Ridley Park

No update at this time and will have report at the regular meeting.

Community Organization (Council President Dane Collins)

- Seniors
- RPAC
- Shade Tree

No update at this time and will have report at the regular meeting

Finance and Personnel (Council Vice President Richard Guerra)

- Finance-
 - Will have the finance report.
 - Looking to have a second meeting with the ARPA funds.
- Grants
- Personnel

Public Safety (Councilor Michele Endriss-Dalessio)

- Police Department Report-
 - Will have normal report.
- Fire Department Report
- Board of Health
- Emergency Management-

- Civil Service
 - o Did meet and will recognize.

Junior Councilor Colin Walls

-Will have normal report. Spoke to the Borough Manager about more TV crews to come in and help provide more help when it comes to filming the Meetings.

Manager Report

-New microphones are in for the upcoming regular Council meeting. Will be working to make sure they work and can provide better sound to the residents at home.

-Provided an update from a recent meeting with other managers and Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon on direction on how to spend the ARPA funds. The guidance from the Congresswoman was “ The Fed would like you to spend the money” and use “ reasonable judgment” on projects. The manager expressed concern but shared that he will work with other managers on next steps.

-Finally, there was discussion from the Congresswoman on the Build Back Better Plan that would be related to infrastructure. Unfortunately, Sellers Avenue Bridge would not qualify since our funds are secured from PennDOT.

Council Business

-Len Pinto: Provided a fee schedule draft for the Borough. This came from a meeting with Code Enforcement and the Borough Manager. Was his belief that we should look to keep our fees in line with other municipalities and ensure fees cover the the costs of work that is being conducted.

- o Michelle Stock Mattus: Inquired about the current steps for the Borough to change the fees to bring in additional revenue. Borough Manager shared that there would need to be an ordinance drafted and approved to approve the new fee schedule.
- o Borough Manager will share the draft and the current fee schedule from 2011 to allow Council to review.

-Richard Guerra: Spoke on the Firework Ordinance from Ridley Township. This ordinance is drafted to help better define where fireworks can be displayed. Also, allow the Police Department to have more authority in order to monitor the fireworks in our town. Proposed adopting similar ordinance.

- o Michelle Stock Mattus: Was happy that we are talking about this now to allow us time to review and adopt before the summer. Spoke on the parks being closed at Dusk. Wants to make sure that we are enforcing the current Park Ordinance.
- o Michael McGinley: Made note any firework ordinance adopted should not interfere with Borough’s annual display at the lake
- o Conversation was had among Council on the process of handling our own event.

-Dane Collins: Shared a more formal policy from another municipality on how its meetings are conducted. He proposed adopting a policy to provide clearer guidance and direction on areas such as manner and timing of public comment and procedure for operating meetings if we were to go virtual again. Has no intention of touching the format of public comment.

- Michael McGinley: Concerned about strictly enforcing five- minute limit on residents sharing public comment. Noted some towns provide two public comment sections. Wants to make sure that we are not taking away time from the public that comes to the meeting.
- Dane Collins and Kim Collins will work to get a new draft resolution for meeting organization.

-Dane Collins: Spoke on the Catania Field Project. They are working to create a turf field and a practice field at the current location of Catania Park. This idea was first kickstarted with a grant from Delaware County for \$500,000 for this project. Asked Council if they would be supportive of drafting a letter, as a stakeholder, that we would be supportive of the project. There would be no commitment of funds, it would be more related to the idea of the project and its impact on our community.

- Michael McGinley: Asked if the park would be open to the public.
- Dane Collins: Expressed that under the current agreement there is ability to use the park for the public but there are already agreements with RPAC and RUSC that they have the fields for certain times of the year for their events.

Public Comment

-Bob McLaughlin 202 Creswell Street: Presented a letter to Council. Shared concern that the minutes from November and December are missing from the Borough Website. Wanted to see Council hold public meetings related to the ARPA funds and to be sure there is public input on how the funds should be spent. Concerned that the minutes from the first ARPA meeting are not public yet.

-Eileen Somers: 21 W Hinckley Ave: Asked if there are going to be a review related to the Sunshine Law on how to handle public comment. Asked for some flexibility to the matter. Asked Council to adopt the Sunshine Law related to how Council addresses their minutes when they are going to enter an Executive Session and that the public is entitled to more specificity regarding Executive Session topics under the current law.

-Mike Gale 51 Collier Circle: Echoed Mr. McLaughlin's concern about the minutes and sharing information with the public. Addressed concerns with 2022 Reorganization minutes, specifically with the nomination of the Pro Temp: minutes show a nomination and there is an abstention and not a clear record of how everyone voted. Can the public be able to comment related to agenda items along with the minutes before approval?

There was an appointment related to the Board of Health that had the wrong year on the term expiration.

Will they discuss if there is a new resolution or ordinance for the Fee Schedule?

Will this letter from the Borough on the Catania Project commit us to funds for the future of this project? Concerned that there is going to be loss in green space and it will bring in more people from out of town.

-Andy Furman 419 Pomeroy: Wanted to make sure Council took into consideration that fees should not discourage people from doing work on their home. Asked about the proposed rules of conduct related to how meetings will proceed. This being a resolution that there needs to be

public input similar to an ordinance. Would like the public to review before final adoption. Addressed when someone installs a fence, the “good” side is supposed to go out to their neighbors- asked if this practice is an ordinance. From a previous public comment wanted to know how a fence was installed with the “bad” side facing the neighbor. Do homeowners receive a copy of how the fence should be put up?

Action Items

-Motion to approve HARB Application 2022-1 Certificate of Appropriateness for 7 N Swarthmore Ave

Motion: Len Pinto

Second: Michael McGinley

Vote 7/0

- Motion to approve HARB Application 2022-2 Certificate of Appropriateness for 413 N Swarthmore Ave

Motion: Len Pinto

Second: Michelle Endriss Dalessio

With Correction that it is 413 North Swarthmore

Vote 7/0

Adjourn

Motion: Len Pinot

Second: Michelle Stock Mattus

8:06PM

Respectfully Submitted

Richard Tutak, Jr.

Borough Manager