



Ridley Park Borough Council
Regular Council Meeting
September 20, 2022 7:00PM

Welcome

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Councilor Michelle Stock Mattus- Present
Councilor Michelle Endriss Dalessio- Present
Councilor Kim Collins- Present
Councilor Michael McGinley-Absent, arrived late
Councilor Len Pinto- Present
Council Vice President-Richard Guerra- Present
Mayor Hank Eberle-Absent
Council President Dane Collins- Present

Mayor's Report-Absent

Committee Reports

Planning and Zoning (Councilor Len Pinto)

- Planning Commission
 - o Meets tomorrow
- Zoning Hearing Board
 - o No meeting
- Code Enforcement
 - o See attached report
- HARB

Accept Committee Report Maker: R. Guerra

Second by: K. Collins

Passed 6/0

Communications (Councilor Michelle Stock Mattus)

- Telecommunications Advisory Board
 - o Will have list of income from the last year.
- Cable TV

- New system has been installed. More will be reported within the Managers Report.
- Library
 - See Attached Report and Chart
- Historic Commission
 - No Report

Accept Committee Report Maker: M. Dalessio

Second by: L. Pinto

K. Collins mentioned that in two Fridays there will be a five-week series of a craft club for kids.
Passed 7/0 (M. McGinley Arrived)

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

- Highway Department
 - These guys did an amazing job getting the Borough ready for the Victorian Fair. Great Job! Leaf season is upon us. We do have dates (see attached report).
- Trash and Recycling
 - Did not meet
- Parks and Properties
 - No Report

Accept Committee Report Maker: R. Guerra

Second by: L. Pinto

Guerra, on October 1st will be the Borough wide Clean-up 9-12pm. Mike asked if it will be downtown, Guerra stated it is Borough Wide but will be focusing on the Downtown District for the Fall Festival.

M. Mattus, when leaves are blow to the curb, where do you want them? R. Tutak stated that the right of way on the sidewalk if not right in the street for collection.

Passed 7/0

Community Affairs (Councilor Kim Collins)

- School Board
 - Has not met since our last meeting. They meet on 10/3. All schools are back in session. Please have caution while around the schools. The district does have several openings if anyone is interested in a position.
- Recreation Board
 - Did a fabulous job at the Victorian Fair, beautiful day, well attended and this event makes Ridley Park so special. Barnstormers did several shows that were very impressive and fun.
 - Rec Board would like to announce that they will be hosting a movie night at the lake. Free for all. At 6:30 (or dusk) on 10/14
- Barnstormers
- Main Streets of Ridley Park

Accept Committee Report Maker: M. Dalessio

Second by:

D. Collins stated that flag football is finished around 7pm. Just as an FYI

M. Dalessio stated that the Barnstormers will also be performing at the Fall Festival.

M. Mattus, the Victorian Fair was amazing, everyone did an amazing job to make everything happen. Thank you.

Passed 7/0

Community Organization (Councilor Dane Collins)

- Seniors
 - o 3rd Thursday of the month is the 40th Gala with catering and usual activities.
- RPAC
 - o Full go for fall sports. Tackle teams, flag football and cheerleading.
- Shade Tree
 - o Reached out the J. Hosbach about getting a meeting on the books.
- Business Association
 - o They have met but have not formed an organization yet.

Accept Committee Report Maker: L. Pinto

Second by: R. Guerra

M. McGinley asked what the attendance was for the Business meeting, R. Tutak stated that it was 15 the first session and 10 the second sessions. K. Collins asked if there is a organization currently? D. Collings stated that it was disbanded several years ago.

Passed 7/0

Finance and Personnel (Council Vice President Richard Guerra)

- Finance
 - o See Report
- Grants
 - o Working on them currently
- Personnel
 - o Executive session after council meeting
- CDCA
 - o 3rd Quarter payment is in the Aps for this month.
- ARPA
 - o Will be discussed under new business.

Accept Committee Report Maker: M. McGinley

Second by: K. Collins

Passed 7/0

Public Safety (Councilor Michele Endriss-Dalessio)

- Police Department Report- Contacted Fire Police, Septa and Amtrack Police for the fall festival. Corp. Hanly will oversee the festival as in the past.

- R. Hinckley and F. Dambrosio responded to a resident on Poplar Walk who was in cardiac arrest, they did a great job, thank you.
 - o See Attached Report per Chief Frazier
- Fire Department Report
 - o See Attached Report per Chief Eckenrode
 - o K. Donkin spoke on Fire Prevention Week which is October 9-15th. She stated that the entire fire company is entirely volunteer. They visit all the schools in the area to teach and enforce fire safety. The annual Open House is October 15th 1-3pm. There are tons of activities and information on that day as well as prizes.
- Board of Health
 - o No meeting
- Emergency Management-
 - o Met a few weeks ago to discuss the Fall Festival as well as getting the group back together
- Civil Service
 - o Very busy, there is an action item for tonight.
- Fall Festival will be 10/9 from 1-6pm with two stages. The Main stage will be at 7/11 and a smaller stage will be on Creswell and Ward Street.

Accept Committee Report Maker: M. Mattus
 Second by: M. McGinley
 Passed 7/0

Manager's Report

The Ridley Park Website is updated. We are working to add each individual committee report that states that it is attached to the website for the public.

There is an amendment to the Non-Uniformed MMO. We are looking, for approval tonight, a savings of around 11,000 dollars. Borough Secretary and Actuary found the information.

Provided some updates on the Sellers Ave bridge. The new permit fence is up and asked PennDOT if it could be opened to pedestrians since it was holding heavy machinery and employees. Along with that provided information on the two agreements that still need to be signed. This will take four to six weeks but hopes to have information sooner.

We looked at purchasing the poles thru COSTARS but this did not work. We are still exploring other options.

M. McGinley asked if the pole were still on order, R. Tutak stated that Amtrack is not allowed to order them. PennDot can't purchase them until the bid goes out. We tried to buy them through Co-Stars but there is not an approved vendor.

Solicitor's Report

No Report

Engineer's Report

See attached report

New Council Business

R. Guerra- for about 6 weeks we have had an opening for the Junior Councilor. This is still open and available. We are going to reach out to all the schools to see if anyone is interested. D. Collins stated there was one person interested.

-ARPA Fund Projects- See attached Report.

ARPA (American Recovery Project Act) Money has been distributed to all municipalities. Originally the guidelines/ restrictions were harsh. Since then, they restrictions has relaxed. In the beginning funds can only be used for infrastructure, now it can be used for Clocks, tree work, etc. Council has the project list.

Started with number 4

1, RPF D Storm Water has already been taken care of. It cost \$30,000 and the project was completed and paid for. We could refund ourselves for this.

#2 Funds to help with the Sports complex, there is a lot going on with this. It would cost roughly \$50k. They are looking to add a new turf field. Funds are coming from all over for this project. This is on hold since its in discussion.

#3 Lost Revenue. The original intent for ARPA Funds. This would include parking meters, tickets, permits. Estimated at \$100k, we could refund ourselves for this.

#6 Rosemont Sanitary Sewer Project estimated at \$350,000. R. Guerra asked Engineer C. Catania to explain. He stated that the pipe is starting to fail. Complicating the issue is the pipe that runs down Rosemont is 600 ft. Our equipment is not large enough to maintain it. This project would replace the pipe and also adding manholes for maintenance. Guerra stated this is big money but an investment in the future.

#9 Rosemont Ave and W. Ridley Pedestrian Bridge over the tracks. Kids use this to travel to and from school. The two sets of steps are solid, the decking/ wood planking is falling apart. The cost of this project is roughly \$225K. We have been in contact with the school district about assisting with this project, like the Safe Route to Schools program. We are currently discussing this. M. Mattus stated that she walks this bridge daily. She doesn't see it as unsafe, but it is time to have this replaced. It would be nice to take care of this prior to having an issue.

#10 Repairs to Library Gutter System. M. Mattus stated that the gutters would be great since every time it rains the children's library floods. There are historical matters that need to be addressed as well.

#11 Fire Dept. retention funds. Len Pinto asked what the retention funds were for the Fire Department. Chief Eckenrode stated that we use to have 60 volunteers, now we only have 25 of which 15 volunteer. Chief stated offering a stipend for those who go to calls or possibly a tax break for those who live here. There are going to have discussions that incentivize those to volunteer. L. Pinto asked what the 30K is for. Is this one time or yearly? R. Tutak stated with ARPA you can pay over two years, with 15K a year. R. Guerra stated that this isn't just for retention but possibly a sign for the outside.

#13 Town Clock Replacement- Lots of people have talked about this and we have looked at fixing it for several years. To get the clock fixed, just the working parts would cost \$12-15K. To do a new clock would cost roughly \$40K

M. Mattus stated that the clock would be amazing. ARPA was to help the businesses; they were hit hard during COVID and it would be a great thing for them.

R. Guerra wants everyone to look over this and wants to discuss this at the workshop meeting.

The last one is very important. Bonuses for employees, roughly 54 employees at \$200 each which would roughly be \$10,000. Even though everyone wasn't physically here everyone kept everything running.

M. McGinley asked Chief about the police radios, Frazier stated it is roughly \$5-6K. There is a new system that is going into effect in 2025-2026. It is going to come up shortly. It would cost roughly the entire police department \$40,000. This is out of the ARPA window, but it should be something that we budget for. Tutak asked Chief if the county or state is going to help offset the costs. Chief stated they are, but it all depends on which station gets them.

R. Guerra stated that it makes more sense to budget the money than to buy them now until they are out of date. Chief Eckenrode stated that it makes sense to earmark the money.

D. Collins

4th of July Celebrations, we want to do Saturday 7/1. We'd like to do everything that day. The Parade, car show, games and fireworks. Everyone agrees that it is a lot of work but worth it. D. Collins stated we don't have to vote on it but just need to notify everyone. Both Chief Eckenrode and Chief Frazier agreed with the event.

K. Collins

Missed thanking the Fire Company at the Victorian Fair.

Opening on the Recreation Board, it is not published currently but will be. Please send letters of interest to Ridley Park Borough Manager.

Public Comment

Mike Eckenrode 115 Barker Street

Shout out to the police department. His trailer was stolen. Corsi came by and took a report. His daughter went and asked everyone with a ring camera for footage. Within 40 minutes it was posted online and returned.

Mike Dougherty 315 Burk

In reference to the clock, the plants at the bottom of the clock look amazing. D. Collins thanks M. Mattus. He stated that several other towns have clocks that do not work but at least look nice. Maybe we can do that instead.

The Fire Department needs a stipend for what they do.

Chief Frazier- is there a way we can find out what the criminal arrests are? Frazier use to post on the website, but we don't have a lot. Frazier stated that you could call. It could be on social media but Chief doesn't like it. Maybe we can start a police blotter.

Swarthmore Ave- will it be paved this year? Catania stated it is a Penn Dot contractor, we don't have much we can do.

Do we own the property at the Septa train station, where the meters are? Tutak stated no. It is Septas right away.

You have to spend money to make the town look good.

Mike Gale 51 Collier Circle

He wanted to ask about the billboard. Did we receive the funds? Secretary Staccone stated that we have received it and it was \$38,500.

Mike was looking for an update on the preemptive signs on Swarthmore Ave.

ARPA Funds- Is there a way to put this list out on the website so people can view it? Only 11 items were mentioned but there are 14 items on the list. D. Collins stated that no, a list will not be published until the projects are finalized. He would like to comment on some but D. Collins stated that this will be posted once a decision is made.

Andy Furman 419 Pomeroy Street

Andy asked if the meeting was televised, it is not due to an issue with RCN

With the ARPA funds there seems like some no brainer projects, why not vote on those tonight so that the work can get done right now. D. Collins stated that these are not on the agenda and can not be voted on.

Sellers Ave Bridge- Cat Poles, "has there been any consideration by the Borough by putting the bid out themselves? This would circle the project. He believes it would take closely 60 days to bid this out. There are going to be costs associated with this, but it will save some times. The borough could be reimbursed for these for Penn Dot." President Collins stated he has no comment on this and referred to the Borough Manager and Engineer. Tutak stated that he was told to not set a precedent about doing this out of turn. D. Collins stated that the contract isn't even signed yet. Stating that we assume all the responsibility if this falls through.

Action Items

-Motion to approve Accounts payable for August 2022 in the amount of \$565,795.21

Maker of the Motion: R. Guerra

Second by: M. McGinley

Passed 7/0 – abstaining for cleaning bill

-Motion to approve Regular Council Meeting Minutes August 16th, 2022

Maker of the Motion: R. Guerra

Second by: M. Mattus

Passed 7/0

-Motion to approve Council Workshop Minutes May 3rd, 2022
Maker of the Motion: M. Dalessio
Second by: K. Collins
Passed 7/0

-Motion to approve Ordinance 2022-4: Stormwater Management Ordinance
Maker of the Motion: L. Pinto
Second by: M. McGinley
Passed 7/0

- Motion to approve Block Party Permit for Hetzel Civic Association Movie Night for Saturday
October 1st, 2022.
Maker of the Motion: M. Dalessio
Second by: L. Pinto
Passed 7/0 – abstaining for cleaning bill

- Motion to approve approval certified list from Ridley Park Borough Civil Service Commission
as presented to Council
Maker of the Motion: M. Dalessio
Second by: M. Mattus
Passed 7/0

-Motion to amend Ridley Park Borough Non-Uniformed MMO for 2023 in the amount of
\$15,246 based on actuarially calculations
Maker of the Motion: R. Guerra
Second by: M. McGinley
Passed 7/0

Adjourn

Maker of the Motion: L. Pinto
Second by: M. Mattus
Passed 7/0