



Ridley Park Borough Council
Council Workshop Meeting
September 6, 2022, 7:00PM

Welcome

Pledge of Allegiance

Announcement made at the start of the meeting that Council would hold a brief executive session at the conclusion of the meeting to discuss a personnel matter.

Roll Call

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

Mayor's Report

Police Chief shared information on a shooting on the 100 Block of Swarthmore Avenue. The officers on duty did a great job in gathering evidence to help apprehend the suspect within twelve hours. There was no external threat to the community and very thankful for all of the hard work from the department.

Mayor shared some information on the meeting that was held with PennDOT, AMTRAK, Representative Dellosso, Senator Kearny, Congresswoman Scanlon, Delaware County Council. There was an article in the Daily Times about this meeting. The Borough Manager will provide more information in his report but at this time it is still going to be 18 months from the start of construction. Bids are set to be opened in January 2023. Mayor noted that the business district is feeling the impact of the closure.

Committee Reports

Planning and Zoning (Councilor Len Pinto)

- Planning Commission
 - o Did not meet
- Zoning Hearing Board

- Did not meet
- Code Enforcement-
 - Will have a report at regular meeting
- HARB
 - 100 N Swarthmore Ave was approved for a certificate of appropriateness and on the agenda for approval.

Communications (Councilor Michelle Stock Mattus)

- Telecommunications Advisory Board
 - Eileen Sommers reached out to the Councilor Mattus about streaming the meetings on the website.
- Cable TV
 - No update
- Library
 - Will have normal update at regular meeting
- Historic Commission
 - No update

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

- Highway Department
 - No report
 - Yard Waste Collection will be the first Wednesday of the month.
- Trash and Recycling
 - No report
- Parks and Properties

Community Affairs (Councilor Kim Collins)

- School Board
 - Met on Aug 29th. Affiliation agreements were announced including between Temple University and Ridley SD, and Pennsylvania College of Osteopathic Medicine and RSD.
 - There is a vacancy on the Delaware County Community College Board of Trustees.
 - The Board discussed a bullying prevention initiative
 - On October 29th there will be the Annual Fun Run. More information is available on the website, registering before Oct. 1 for lowest cost.
 - District is still seeking long-term substitute for reading.
 - Boeing Helicopter Credit Union volunteered and spruced up Eddystone playground.
 - Christ Church also donated school supplies to Eddystone Elementary.
- Recreation Board
 - Victorian Fair will Saturday September 10th down at the lake. Please come out for a great event.
- Barnstormers
 - The group will be performing at the Victorian Town Fair.

- If anyone would like to participate or volunteer with the Barnstormers please visit their website.
- Main Streets of Ridley Park
 - Oct. 9 will be the festival and car show.

Community Organization (Councilor Dane Collins)

- Seniors
 - No report
- RPAC
 - They are practicing and games have started for the season.
- Shade Tree
 - Working to get a meeting on the books for next month.

Finance and Personnel (Council Vice President Richard Guerra)

- Finance-
 - Will have normal report
 - Will have update on ARPA
- Grants
- Personnel
 - Three will be a brief executive session at the conclusion of the meeting.
- CDCA

Public Safety (Councilor Michele Endriss-Dalessio)

- Police Department Report-
 - Thanked all the departments for those who responded and apprehended the suspect.
- Fire Department Report
 - Will have normal report
- Board of Health
 - Will be meeting later this month
- Emergency Management
 - Action response team will be meeting again to get some information together.
- Civil Service
 - There will be a vote on this evening for a new appointment to civil service commission.

Manager's Report

Elaborated on the Mayor's report regarding the Sellers Avenue Bridge Meeting. In the meeting, there were discussions about Amtrak and PennDOT not communicating on who is going to be purchasing the poles for the electrical lines. During this conversation it was made clear that these poles are needed for the pre-work before the bridge can be taken down. Borough Manager provided some options to see if we can use COSTARS, which is a collective partnership to purchase items through a Commonwealth contract, to prevent either agency from having to put out bids for these poles. Borough Manager will be reviewing more options to help expedite this process.

In the meeting, the Borough also advocated for the bridge to be open for pedestrian traffic. Issues were raised that if the bridge is closed to pedestrian traffic how can they operate trains underneath the bridge. During this meeting, we also made sure that we are going to be getting more updates from all the agencies to provide information to the general public.

Council Business

Councilor Pinto: Shared information from the Historic Architectural Review Board about putting together a packet for everyone who lives in the historic district. This packet would share information on how to apply for a certificate of appropriateness and what they would need to do to meet those standards. Will be working with the Borough Manager to help send to every door in the historic district directly.

Mayor Eberle: There used to be a beautification in the downtown and other areas in the Borough. Swarthmore put some outdoor planting. Would like to do something in our business district and look at adding more trees in that part of town.

Councilor Guerra: Provided an update on the ARPA funds and the next steps that Council is taking. At the next meeting will be asking for more final numbers to provide Council for further direction. ARPA guidance has become more open for interpretation. Additional options for use of the funds were volunteer firefighter retention, replacing the clock in the business district, bonus to all Borough employees that worked during COVID19.

Spoke to Chief Eckenrode on some programs for fire retention for the FD.

Michelle Stock Mattus: Thanked Councilor Guerra on reaching out to of the members of Council.

Public Comment

Public Comment: Mike Dougherty 315 Burke Ave: Would like to see the Borough take down the dead trees in town. Burke and Johnson Avenue has a property that is a disgrace and need to be taken care of by the Borough.

Where are we with the TV equipment and why are we looking at streaming options? This would hinder the older populations from watching the Council Meetings.

Sandi Hess 317 Burke Ave: Unsatisfied with how the meetings have been run over the last five months. Expressed her disappointment in Council President Collins on his interaction with Mr. Furman at the last meeting. Would like to ask Council to do better moving forward.

Mike Gale 51 Collier Circle.: Has Prospect LLC sent any information regarding going back to non-profit status and the impact this would have on the tax base? Shared concerns on overgrowth on the Rosemont and Trainor pedestrian bridge. Asked if the Borough is going to be taking care of this in the future, like they have in the past. Thanked a nameless resident that cleaned up the overgrowth on the walkway. Raised some concerns about line painting throughout the Borough and would like to see some of these intersections painted. Raised concerns about the two vacancies that are on the agenda for planning commission. Asked if there are a standard process of appointing vacancies to boards and commissions.

Andy Furman 419 Pomeroy: Raised some concerns from the May minutes stating that there are some discrepancies in his comments. Would like to see these updated to reflect his comments correctly. There was discussion between Councilor K. Collins and Mr. Furman about the comments. Will reference her notes and can make changes if warranted. Asked questions about the Catenary Poles. Are we looking to get the specifications on the catenary poles. Are there any other meeting with this group happening. Raised some questions on who will be installing the TV equipment and when this will happen.

Action Items

- Motion to approve Resolution 2022-4: PennDOT Agreement for Roadway Improvement Reimbursement

Motion Michelle Endriss Dalessio

Second: Richard Guerra

Vote 6/0

-Motion to table Council Workshop Minutes May 3, 2022

Motion: Michelle Stock Mattus

Second: Richard Guerra

Vote 6/0

- Motion to fill vacancy to Civil Service Commission with term set to expire December 31st, 2023 Don Caber

Motion: Michelle Endriss Dalessio

Second: Michelle Stock Mattus

Vote 5/1/0 Councilor Kim Collins voted in the negative.

Kim Collins: Raised concerns on how this was shared and posted on the agenda; vote was not based on merits of candidates.

Dane Collins: Shared that it was put on the agenda this way because a determination on who would be nominated had not occurred and the agenda needed to be shared with the public to satisfy sunshine requirements of public posting.

Len Pinto: Commented that both candidates were qualified, but the one choses had law enforcement experience.

-Motion to approve Steve Warren to the Ridley Park Planning Commission for a 3-year term

Motion: Len Pinto

Second: Michelle Endriss Dalessio

Vote 6/0

Motion to approve Melissa A Boyce to the Ridley Park Planning Commission for a 2-year term

Motion: Len Pinto

Second: Michelle Endriss Dalessio

Vote 6/0

Motion to approve certificate of appropriateness for 100 N Swarthmore Ave as recommended by HARB

Motion: Len Pinto

Second: Michelle Endriss Dalessio

Vote 6/0

Adjourn

Motion: Len Pinto

Second: Michelle Endriss Dalessio

Vote 6/0

7:54PM

Respectfully Submitted

Richard Tutak, Jr.

Borough Manager