



Ridley Park Borough Council  
Council Workshop Meeting  
September 5, 2023

**Welcome**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Executive Session after this meeting.**

**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**

Mayor reported on a scam he received and warned residents. The Victorian Fair is this Saturday. Mayor was around and on the first committee, for the first two fairs, they were right outside Borough Hall. Several years there were horse and carriage rides!  
Mayor also stated how great it is to see the AED's when walking into our Borough buildings.

**Council Business**

**President Collins**

Chief of Police retirement- 12/31/2023 is when his contract ends. The Chief is taking on a position at Ridley School District sometime within 2024. He is retiring at the end of 2023. We want to congratulate him on this new position. Council is now tasked with hiring a new chief of police. Thank you to Chief for 28 years with the Borough. He is going to assist with training and onboarding a new chief.

President Collins will name a committee whose responsibilities are to put out the job requirements as well as screen the first batch of candidates, after this round one of the interviews will take place with 3 council members and the mayor. The second round of interviews will take place the same way as well as allowing other council members to listen in the back. The committee is Dane Collins, Richard Guerra, Mayor Hank and Michelle Dalessio. 9/5 Announcement of open position, 2 weeks the job recs will be in hand. October first week, first round of interviews. Second round of interviews will be 2 weeks after.

All of council approved and agreed to this plan.

Michelle Mattus- Thanked Phil for contributing to the town clock by doing the give back event. Can we ask the Borough Manager to have a clock design ready to vote on for the next meeting. Manager Tutak stated he will have three proposals by the next meeting. President Collins wants to present the designs at the next business association meeting for their input as well.

Len Pinto-HARB

There are four action items that will be voted on.

Richard Guerra- 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks, 6/29 or 7/6 for the 2024 dates. Manager also stated the 6/29 date is the better date for the vendor. This past year we did everything within one day. Mattus stated that the 29<sup>th</sup> seems early but Tutak will speak with staff about which date works best. The census is to do fireworks on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July.

Safe Routes to Schools- We have really worked towards making our community safer and more accessible for everyone. In addition to the grant, we have painted the crosswalks with more viable paint. As an additional step we looked at the schools. The first location is Saint James. E. Rodgers coming off of Swarthmore is two ways. The idea would be one way from Rodgers to Tome in the morning and afternoon during school drop off and pick up. In front of you is a diagram of Saint James. We are looking to make this a smooth flow of traffic. Having it flow in one direction during those hours will help with visibility. This is a discussion. The next step would be an ordinance and notifying the surrounding neighbors. Tutak doesn't believe there needs to be a traffic study but will speak with the engineer. If everyone is ok, Tutak can work on bringing this to the next meeting for a vote.

L. Pinto- Jeff Moffo stepped down from Planning Commission and HARB. We are currently looking for new committee members. HARB needs to have a committee member from Planning on HARB.

K. Collins, The Victoria Fair is this Saturday. On Friday, weather permitting, there will be food trucks and drinks for all to enjoy.

- Trash Specifications have been updated and set to be sent out to bid after Council Approval.
- ParkMobile agreement has been sent to the Solicitor for final review. Once signed we will get the needed equipment in order start using the application. We have received the

equipment from McKay in order to update meter rates, but the system is not correct and will need to send us a new product. Highway has been inventorying the meters as we go thru this process. Guerra mentioned that some of the lens are foggy, the highway will be working on cleaning those and replacing those that need it.

- Billboard has been removed. Lamar has cancelled the lease which is allowed in the agreement. Agreement has been reviewed by the Solicitor and Code Enforcement. We have the contact of the company and will be working to hold the company accountable to restore the park and yards that have been damaged from the removal.
- Hetzel Park CDBG project is still underway and will be completed in the coming months.
- CRC has reached out to the Borough for a fall tree and shrub planting at East Lake Park. This would be at no cost to the Borough. Our responsibility would be to ensure we provide the trees an opportunity to grow.
- RPBA supported the Borough with a “Save the Clock Tower” event. Several businesses participated and will have more information at the Regular Meeting.

## **Public Comment**

### **Sandy Hess 317 Burke Ave-**

Congratulate the Chief on his new position.

Do we have a police officer who can be the temporary chief? President Collins stated that there are several qualified candidates within and out of the department, its in the best interest of the borough to seek outside candidates.

Why are we changing the dates of the fireworks? Collins stated that it is dictated by the contract. The reason we did it all in one day is for the sake of the employees. It is not an option for the vendor to do it on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Guerra stated that the cost is doubled if not tripled on the actual 4<sup>th</sup> of July no mater what vendor we use.

### **Mike Dougherty 319 Burke Ave**

There is graffiti by the bridge, is there something going on? Tutak stated that the utilities have come in to mark their lines.

### **Mike Gale 51 Collier Circle**

Congratulations to Chief Frazier, thank you for your service.

Thank Council for painting the crosswalks at Chester pike and Hetzel/Stewart Ave

Thank you for also posting the fee schedule.

Library bids were opened today, is there a vendor? Tutak stated that only one vendor applied and it was significantly more than we planned. Mike stated it would be nice to have it completed before the winter.

The Billboard, he felt it was important to send council photos. They did put plates down during the construction. The grass is dead underneath, is this a need for restoration?

Do you know the fee to remove the billboard? \$10,200. The permit fee is 10% of the total cost of removal. Mike suggested taking those funds to spruce Hetzel Park, for backboards and poles.

The Greenways Grant, what projects can we use? Is this just for the Lake. Collins said we've investigated dredging and continually get turned down.

Andy Furman 419 Pomeroy Street

The one bidder for the roof came in well over our cost, what was the original budgeted cost \$38,000. Tutak stated that the additional costs came from the inspection of the roof. The committee for Chief of Police, will the outside chief be paid? Collins stated he doesn't know at this time. Andy believes that having the current police chief sitting in on interviews is not prudent use of tax payors dollars.

Safe Routes to Schools, clarifying the information, the one-way proposal is for two hours in the morning and afternoon.

### **Action Items**

-Motion to approve Council Workshop meeting minutes for June 6, 2023

Maker of the Motion K. Collins

Second M. Dalessio

Passed 6/0

-Motion to approve Certificate of Appropriateness for Application 2023-29: 219 Penn Street Roof Replacement

Maker of the Motion L. Pinto

Second M. Mattus

Passed 6/0

-Motion to approve Certificate of Appropriateness for Application 2023-30: 210 Park Street Window Replacement

Maker of the Motion L. Pinto

Second Mattus

Passed 6/0

-Motion to approve Certificate of Appropriateness for Application 2023-31: 117 Poplar Walk Roof Replacement

Maker of the Motion L. Pinto

Second M. Mattus

Passed 6/0

Motion to approve Certificate of Appropriateness for Application 2023-32: 111 Russell Street: Window Replacement

Maker of the Motion L. Pinto

Second M. Mattus

Passed 6/0

-Motion to approve Borough Manager to publish Bid Specifications for Trash and Recycling Collection for January 1, 2024

Maker of the Motion R. Guerra

Second M. Dalessio

Passed 6/0

-Motion to approve Stephen Valentin to the Ridley Park Historic Architectural Review Board for a term to end December 31, 2026

Maker of the Motion L. Pinto

Second M. Mattus

Passed 6/0

-Motion to approve Landowner Agreement for Riparian Buffer Installation Agreement with Chester Ridley Crum Watershed Association for Ridley Park East Lake Park

Maker of the Motion R. Guerra

Second K. Collins

Passed 6/0

-Motion to approve Cyber Crunch agreement for March 16, 2024 for Annual E Waste Event

Maker of the Motion

Second

Passed

Motion to table

Marker M. Dalessio

Second M. Mattus

Passed 6/0

-Motion to approve 2024 Ridley Park Independence Day Fireworks display for July 6 2024

Maker of the Motion R. Guerra

Second M. Dalessio

Passed 6/0

**Adjourn**

**L. Pinto**

**M. Dalessio**

**6/0**