



Ridley Park Borough Council
Regular Council Meeting
October 17, 2023

Welcome

Pledge of Allegiance

Executive Session

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

Mayor's Report

Mayor is going to be quick this meeting since the Phillies play at 8:06pm.

Main Street of Ridley Park- The Fall Festival was a great event that was well attended.

The biggest addition was the Sellers Ave footbridge, that was completed just in time.

The Car Show was the largest event yet.

The AC had their annual homecoming event, it was well attended. The Fire Department had their Annual Fire Department open house, which was a great event as well.

In November, Mayor will talk about what the Borough has done in the past for 9/11.

Committee Reports

Len wanted to make a comment that the Fall Festival was the most attended and highlights Ridley Park.

Planning and Zoning (Councilor Len Pinto)

- Planning Commission
 - o Reverse Subdivision, which is at Delaware County Planning.

- Zoning Hearing Board
 - o 8 Morton one parcel into two, this was denied.
- Code Enforcement
 - o See attached report.
- HARB
 - o No meeting

Marker of the Motion M. McGinley
 Second Dalessio
 Passed 7/0

Communications (Councilor Michelle Stock Mattus)

- Telecommunications Advisory Board
 - o No Report
- Cable TV
 - o No Report
 - o Library (Report delivered by Ridley Park Librarian, Katie Wolverton) Our fall and winter children’s programming begins this month. Spaces are still available for Junior Builders, STEAM, Lego Club, Teen Hangout, and Story Time. Anyone interested can contact the library for more information.
 - o The library is hosting a teen movie night on Friday, October 20 at 7 pm in the children’s library. We invite teenagers in grades 6-12 to partake in an interactive screening of the movie, "The Addams Family." Snacks and props will be provided.
 - o Ridley Park Reads takes place next Wednesday at 7 pm at The Brickhaus. Copies of this year’s title are still available to borrow from the library or through the Libby app. The author, Will Allison, is joining us via Zoom to answer questions about his work and provide additional insight into *Long Drive Home*.
 - o The county has contracted with Rethinking Libraries, LLC to evaluate the current status of library services for all member libraries. The evaluation includes onsite visits and interviews with each member library. Their goal is to assess the library and help us meet the standards for system member libraries. After their visit, they will provide a report with recommendations and a cost analysis to meet these objectives.
 - o The library would like to thank Rockwell Associates for donating their time to beautify the library grounds. Their crew pulled weeds, trimmed back vegetation, mulched, and planted flowers to prepare the library for the Fall Festival.
- Historic Commission
 - o No business

Maker of the Motion M. McGinley
 Seconded M. Dalessio
 Passed 7/0

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

- Highway Department
 - o November 6th is when leaf collection will begin. The schedule is on the website.
- Trash and Recycling
 - o Motion item for a new trash hauler for 2024, with an option for a second and third year. See attached financial figures.
- Parks and Properties
- Main Streets Comment, it was an amazing day. Everyone that took part in it, thank you. He is super proud to be a part of this Borough.

Maker of the Motion L. Pinto

Seconded K. Collins

Is yard waste to be collected tomorrow? Yes.

Passed 7/0

Community Affairs (Councilor Kim Collins)

- School Board
 - o School is in session; they stagger the schools so please be mindful of students walking home.
- Recreation Board
 - o Had a great summer with several events. The Victorian Fair was great. They do plan on hosting the RP Light Contest again this year. Keep an eye out to sign up.
- Barnstormers
 - o There are several shows if you haven't been I truly suggest you do. It's a gem of a theater that's right in our back yard.
- Main Streets of Ridley Park- Repeating the same as other council members, it was such a great event.
- The Fire prevention event was amazing, not only do they have an event on Saturday, but they also attend the schools to teach them about fire safety.
 - o They are also providing fire prevention to the trainees at Taylor Hospital.

Maker of the Motion M. Mattus

Seconded M. Dalessio

Passed 7/0

Community Organization (Council President Dane Collins)

- Seniors
 - o No Report
- RPAC
 - o Homecoming was a great event! Can't forget Flag Football on Friday night!
- Shade Tree
 - o No Report
- RPBA
 - o No Report, no member attended to give report.

Maker of the Motion M. Dalessio

Seconded L. Pinto

Passed 7/0

Finance and Personnel (Council Vice President Richard Guerra)

- Finance-
 - o See attached report.
- Grants
 - o He is working with Borough Manager Tutak about applying for local grants. One he is looking into is a grant to update our broadcasting equipment and council chambers.
- Personnel
 - o Executive Session after meeting.
- CDCA
 - o Met with Bob Berger, Council President Collins and Borough Manager Tutak about the sewer and costs overall. This is the largest vendor we pay, and the costs continue to rise.

Maker of the Motion M. Dalessio

Seconded M. Mcginley

Question, if approved today, how long before we receive the clock. Mr. Tutak said it all depends.

Passed 7/0

Public Safety (Councilor Michele Endriss-Dalessio)

- Police Department Report-
 - o See attached report.
- Fire Department Report

Below is the fire activity report for September 2023:

- 24 calls for the month:
 - o 4 building fires
 - o 1 assist EMS
 - o 1 natural gas leak
 - o 1 PECO wires
 - o 2 accident clean-ups
 - o 4 fire alarms
 - o 11 cancelled calls
- Total hours in service – 9 hours 20 minutes
- Total staff hours – 43.02
- Cumulative firefighters responding – 79.

Other Activities:

- Fall Festival – Chief Eckenrode stated-While not acknowledged, the Fire Company had 9 members provide approximately 8 hours of fire and medical coverage during the event. We also had a truck on display and had recruitment and fire prevention discussions with anyone who visited us. As previously discussed, we were forced to sell soda and water on the firehouse ramp and, despite the organizers' attempt to have the Health Inspector shut us down, we were still able to make a small profit. Fire Prevention
 - Hosted or visited 426 students from St. James, Lakeview and RP Presbyterian Nursery School during multiple sessions on different days throughout the week. This takes a tremendous amount of time and money to prepare or purchase the various supplies that are given to the children. It should be noted that several members take vacation time or rearrange their work schedules to provide this instruction.
 - Topics covered are good fires versus bad fires, stop, drop, and roll, crawling low through smoke, and get out, stay out. Because children in emergency situations are often scared of firefighters in full gear and SCBA to the point of running away and hiding, we have a firefighter put everything on in front of the children then go around to "fist bump"
 - Assisted Norwood and Prospect Park Fire Companies with their Fire Prevention open houses by providing fire extinguisher training and instructor for the Fire Prevention trailer.
 - Hosted our own Open House which, despite the rain, was attended by over 100 people. Thanks to Norwood and Prospect Park Fire Companies for returning the favor and assisting us.
 - Lastly, special thanks to Deputy Chief Brian Gilmore and Assistant Chief Karen Donkin for continuing to organize these events on behalf of the Fire Company.

Councilor Dalessio asked how many members attend each call, Chief said it all depends on but roughly 4.5.

- Board of Health
 - Did not meet.
- Emergency Management-
 - Did not meet.
- Civil Service

Maker of the Motion M. Mattus

Seconded L. Pinto

Passed 7/0

Manager's Report

- Trash Specifications have come back, and Opdanaker Trash and Recycling Services were the lowest bid. They have one year for an option for a second and third.

- Resolution 2023-18 is the approval of the Small Washington Clock from Electric Time for no more than \$30,000.
- **Sellers Avenue Pedestrian is now open.**
- All meter rates have been updated. I have been working with ParkMobile to get the signs, stickers and application in place for a couple weeks.
- Budget process is underway and the finance committee is working with each department in order to gather correct numbers and future needs for 2024.

Solicitor's Report- No Report

Engineer's Report- On file, nothing to add

Council Business

Recreation Board- David Valentin, Co-chair of Recreation Board gave a brief report.

Drinks at the Lake- pre-Victorian fair event, held the evening before, was well-attended.

The Victorian Fair had 80 vendors inquired but had to stop at 40 vendors due to space. The paddle boats were on the water the entire time. Special acknowledgement to Shawn Conran of the Rec. Board for saving a senior citizen who was at risk for falling into lake. Thank you to Borough Manager Tutak for repairing the boats and to Councilor Guerra for helping putting them in the lake.

Huge thanks to the Library for the 3 movies nights they were able to host.

M. Dalessio- Situation at the lake where a resident found graffiti on a memorial bench at the lake. The Borough was great about getting it cleaned up ASAP. If you see something happening around time, say something. These benches are memorials for family members.

Public Comment

Jason Flynn 40 Hetzel-

Has a problem with his neighbor next door, there is trash everywhere. He has gone to the Borough and the police department, and nothing is getting done. The neighbor is an issue and causing an issue with his children. Yesterday he called the Borough about him dumping waste outside. He said the Health Department was there but did not look. The Borough isn't doing anything about this property. Mr. Tutak, I spoke with you on the 25th of September, why haven't I heard from you? Why am I getting a fine for putting a fence in but he can have trash down the side of his driveway? L. Pinto asked to meet with him after the meeting. This neighbor dumps his trash in Hetzel Park. Tutak, can you give me an answer? President Collins said this individual has been cited and the case has not been heard yet. He received a citation for cutting a tree down in 2021 and hasn't been heard in court yet. He continues to be put off court.

President Collins said he has experience with this. We can cite and cite but we cannot force the courts to hear cases. The judge is not hearing other cases as quickly, including President Collins'. The current judge is near retirement, and we expect whoever is elected will move the cases.

Chief of Police said they are working with mental health resources to get him tested. The police department's hands are tied.

Borough Manager Tutak, this issue has caused legal issues in the past. We cannot go onto properties and take items.

When he met with Mr. Flynn, he brought the issue to the police chief and Council President. M. McGinley said you need to call 911 every time he makes you feel uncomfortable. Mr. Flynn said he has, and the cops don't help.

President Collins stated that we have done everything to move this through the court, but our hands are tied at the moment and can only do so much.

Action Items

-Motion to approve Accounts payable for September 2023 in the amount of \$118,293.40 87
Maker of the Motion R. Guerra
Seconded L. Pinto
Passed 7/0

-Motion to approve separate line item of Accounts Payable for Borough Cleaning Service in the amount of \$800
Maker of the Motion R. Guerra
Seconded L. Pinto
Abstained M. Dalessio
Passed 6/0 Abstained 1

-Motion to approve Regular Council Meeting Minutes September 19, 2023
Maker of the Motion K. Collins
Seconded M. Mattus
Passed 7/0

-Motion to approve Resolution 2023-18 the purchase order of Electric Time for Small Washington Clock utilizing ARPA Funds
Maker of the Motion R. Guerra
Seconded L. Pinto
Passed 7/0
Comments, everyone is very excited!!

-Motion to approve Opdenaker Trash & Recycling to serve as Trash and Recycling Contractor commencing January 1, 2024, until December 31, 2024 with an option for 2025 and 2026.
Maker of the Motion M. McGinley
Seconded R. Guerra
Comment: L. Pinto, this contract is \$600K less than the bid from current contractor we are using now.
Passed 7/0

-Block Party Permit for 10/28/2023 for Chrissy and Joe Smith for 213 Riverview Ave.
Maker of the Motion K. Collins
Seconded R. Guerra
Passed 7/0

Adjourn

Maker of the Motion L. Pinto

Seconded R. Guerra

Passed 7/0