



Ridley Park Borough Council
Regular Council Meeting
November 21, 2023

Welcome

Pledge of Allegiance

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 Eberle spoke on the origin of Thanksgiving. Sarah Joseph Hail campaigned for Thanksgiving to be a recognized holiday. She was the author of "Mary had a Little Lamb" nursery rhyme. She was also an editor of a magazine during the 1800's. In 1837, she was offered the editorship of Godey's Lady Book, where she would remain for more than 40 years, shepherding the magazine to a circulation of more than 150,000 by the eve of the Civil War and turning it into one of the most influential periodicals in the country.

The outbreak of war in April 1861 did little to stop Sarah Josepha Hale's efforts to create such a holiday, however. She continued to write editorials on the subject, urging Americans to "put aside sectional feelings and local incidents" and rally around the unifying cause of Thanksgiving. And the holiday continued, despite hostilities, in both the Union and the Confederacy.

In 1861 and 1862, Confederate President Jefferson Davis issued Thanksgiving Day proclamations following Southern victories. Abraham Lincoln himself called for a day of thanks in April 1862, following Union victories at Fort Donelson, Fort Henry and at Shiloh, and again in the summer of 1863 after the Battle of Gettysburg.

Mayor Hank said he is thankful for his country. What are you thankful for this year?

Santa Claus will come to town soon, M. Dalessio will share more about this during her report.

Committee Reports

Planning and Zoning (Councilor Len Pinto)

- Planning Commission
 - o Did not meet.
- Zoning Hearing Board
 - o Did not meet.
- Code Enforcement
 - o See attached report from Code Enforcement, Linn Architects
- HARB

Maker of the motion M. Dalessio

Second M. Mattus

Passed 6/0

Communications (Councilor Michelle Stock Mattus)

- Telecommunications Advisory Board
- Cable TV
- Library
 - o See attached Library report given by Library Director Katie Wolverton.
- Historic Commission

Marker of the Motion M. Dalessio

Second K. Collins

Passed

Questions, if you are a member of the Ridley Park Library, can you check out museum passes?
Katie said all Libraries have different passes but if you search in the catalogue, you will see what is offered.

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

- Highway Department
- Trash and Recycling
- Parks and Properties

Community Affairs (Councilor Kim Collins)

- School Board
 - o There are several positions available.
- Recreation Board
 - o David Valentin reported on the Christmas Light contest, the entries are due 12/8. The Recreation Board will go around and judge, offering recommendations to Council for the regular meeting.
- Barnstormers
 - o Concluded the Wedding Singer, it was an excellent show. They are a very active theater and there is always something going on. The Youth program is working on a show as well. The Wizard of Oz will be put on by the Ridley Performing Arts.
- Main Streets of Ridley Park

- Councilor K. Collins wished everyone a happy thanksgiving.

Marker of the Motion L. Pinto
Second M. Dalessio
Passed 6/0

Community Organization (Council President Dane Collins)

President Collins gave a community update-Chief Frazier will be resigning January 2024. The committee interviewed and tested those that qualified. There is a motion to approve William Thomas as chief of police come January 2024. He worked 31 years in Swarthmore Borough. He has worked with Ridley Park in the past. He is tough but fair, we are looking forward to him taking over the reins.

Finance and Personnel (Council Vice President Richard Guerra)

- Finance – See attached report
- Grants
 - o There is a resolution tonight for a PECO Green Region Grant to acquire a property on Sellers Ave.
 - o There is also a motion for Local Share Account to offset the costs of the Rosemont Bridge
- Personnel
- CDCA

Marker of the Motion M. Dalessio
Second M. Mattus
Passed 6/0

Public Safety (Councilor Michele Endriss-Dalessio)

- Police Department Report-Chief Frazier welcomed the new Chief William Thomas. The allocation money is set aside in 2024 for the new reporting system CSI. This is going to save the Borough close to \$100K.
- It is the holiday season, please take in all packages that get delivered.
 - o See attached report.
- Fire Department Report-presented by Fire Chief

Below is the fire activity report for October 2023:

22 calls for the month:

- o 4 building fires
- o 2 assist EMS
- o 1 assist police
- o 3 accident clean-ups
- o 1 fire alarms
- o 9 cancelled calls

- 2 investigations

Total hours in service – 8 hours 48 minutes

Total staff hours – 40.2

Cumulative firefighters responding – 83

- Board of Health
 - Met but there were not enough for a quorum, their next meeting is 11/28
- Emergency Management
 - Did not meet
- Civil Service
 - Did not meet

M. Dalessio stated that on 12/3 at 3:30pm Santa will be arriving by train. We are still working on where he will arrive. The bridge changes the direction of things.

Marker of the Motion M. Mattus

Second K. Collins

Passed 6/0

M. Mattus, stated that the new parking system is great! Thank you for all the help.

Manager's Report- See attached Report.

Solicitor's Report- No Report.

Engineer's Report- See attached Report.

Council Business

L. Pinto wanted to make sure that Santa would be coming around on the Firetruck on Christmas Eve, Chief Eckenrode stated yes, he planned to speak about it at the December meeting.

Public Comment

Mary Grimaldi 406 Tome Street

Her dog, jack Russell terrier, was attacked by another dog that was behind a fence. This attack was brutal and unfortunately, they had to put the dog down. The owner of the attack dog doesn't seem to care about his animals. After speaking with neighbors, several other dogs have been attacked as well. The fence is not adequate for keeping the dog from biting. A police report has been filed but he never responded to law enforcement. She urges the Borough take action on this. She quoted code 88-20- which speaks to pet owners' obligations and safety.

Mike Gale 51 Collier Circle

Did Council budget for an E-waste event next year? Manger Tutak stated yes.

What is the Sellers Ave Park Acquisition? Tutak explained it is a piece of land that is not buildable.

ARPA Fund allocation, there was 32k for the library for rook repairs, I know it came back much higher than what was budgeted. Councilor Guerra stated that this was due to the specs of preserving the building. Councilor Guerra stated that we will rebid it next year.

Mr. Gale mentioned that he is concerned about the Borough Finances, in 2021 we had the largest deficit yet. We haven't seen the audit for 2022, so we don't know where we are. I know at the last meeting we transferred funds from the Capital Reserve. While looking at the budget, it's the largest tax increase in 18 years. I know Taylor hasn't paid.

D. Collins stated that they technically they are not delinquent until January 1st we can send them over for collections. We are not the only municipality that is not getting paid.

The front of Borough Hall, on the balcony looks to be in poor shape, can it be looked at?

Andy Furman 419 Pomeroy Street

The preliminary budget was approved at the last meeting, with a tax increase of 1 mil, which turns out to be an 18% increase. What does that number look like for a taxpayer? D. Collins stated that he doesn't have the answer for that.

How about the trash and sewer? Any increase? Mr. Tutak stated that in the preliminary budget we are proposing an increase to \$395 for Trash and \$491 for sewer. Andy stated that this sewer fee is 10% more than last year. Is there anything being discussed to reduce that percentage? D. Collins stated that the finance committee has met to work on this.

The façade of the building, Andy is really surprised at the structure and painting. With ARPA funds, we have heard no mention of restoration work that needs to be done. It would behoove Council to take a look at the peeling paint.

R. Guerra stated that this has been looked at but unfortunately, the roof on Borough Hall needed to be replaced first.

Scott Miller 410 Tome Street

He is asking Council to put proper fire line signage between on the alley at Tome and Swarthmore. Code 102-1D. President Collins stated he can look into this and touch base with Mr. Miller by the end of next week.

Amy 323 Holland Street

She looked at the minutes about the approval of the new trash contract. Will this change the collections days? Mr. Tutak stated that days will still be the same, the only thing that will change will be the bulk collection. Once those are locked in, the hauler will mail out a postcard with the information as well as it being posted online.

Action Items

-Motion to approve Accounts payable for October 2023 in the amount of \$206,864.08

Marker of the Motion R. Guerra
Second L. Pinto
Passed 6/0

-Motion to approve separate line item of Accounts Payable for Borough Cleaning Service
Accounts Payable in the amount of \$800

Marker of the Motion R. Guerra
Second L. Pinto
Passed 5/0 Abstained-1

-Motion to approve Regular Council Meeting Minutes October 17, 2023

Marker of the Motion K. Collins
Second M. Mattus
Passed 6/0

-Motion to approve Resolution 2023-21- PECO Green Region Grant for Sellers Avenue Park
Acquisition.

Marker of the Motion R. Guerra
Second M. Dalessio
Passed 6/0

-Motion to approve Resolution 2023-22- Local Share Account Funding for Rosemont Ave.
Bridge Repairs

Marker of the Motion R. Guerra
Second M. Mattus
Passed 6/0

-Motion to approve the hiring of William Thomas as a part time police officer, effective
immediately and the Ridley Park Borough Police Chief effective January 1st, 2024, pending
background investigation.

Marker of the Motion M. Dalessio
Second R. Guerra
Passed 6/0

Adjourn

Marker of the Motion L. Pinto

Second M. Dalessio
Passed 6/0
7:59pm