



Ridley Park Borough Council
Regular Council Meeting
January 16, 2024

Welcome

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Councilor Melessia Ann Boyce	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
Junior Councilor Christopher Capozzoli	Present

Mayor's Report- Mayor decided to give his annual address at the February meeting. Mayor mentioned that the Ridley Park Cheerleaders are going to the finals in Florida.

Committee Reports

Planning and Zoning (Councilor Len Pinto)

- Planning Commission
 - Did not meet but meets on January 25th for reorganization.
- Zoning Hearing Board
 - Did not meet.
- Code Enforcement
 - See attached report.
- HARB
 - Did not meet but had a few properties for approval.

Maker of the Motion M. Dalessio

Second R. Guerra

Passed 7/0

Communications (Councilor Melessia Ann Boyce)

- Telecom Advisory Board

- Tutak met with the new AV company about new mics, streaming and other services.
- Cable TV
 - All three vendors are working well RCN, Comcast, Verizon
- Historic Commission
 - Have not met.

Maker of the Motion L. Pinto
 Second M. Dalessio
 Passed 7/0

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

- Highway Department
 - Did a great job preparing for the storm. They have been out all day working. Take your time on the streets, there are icy spots.
- Trash and Recycling
 - We took on a new company this year. When we had JP Mascaro, it took them several months to get used to our streets. This is not an easy task. In the beginning there were streets that were completely missed. Tutak and McGinley met with the new hauler to go over the route.
 - We did not have trash collection today due to the weather, but it will be pick up on Friday. Recycling will be picked up tomorrow.
 - This is a great company, and we need to be patient with them.
 - Everything is the same as it was, the difference is with bulk collection. You need to contact the Borough to dispose of this.
 - Tutak mentioned that this company is more strict on recycling as well. You might receive a notice from the hauler if recycling is contaminated.
- Parks and Property
 - Not much is going on right now.

Maker of the Motion M. Dalessio
 Second M. Boyce
 Passed 7/0

Community Affairs (Councilor Kim Collins)

- School Board
 - School was closed today due to the weather.
- Rec Board
 - Meets this Thursday, working on dates for 2024.
- Barnstormers
 - Currently running Descendants.
- Library
 - See attached copy.

Maker of the Motion L. Pinto
Second M. McGinley
Passed 7/0

Finance and Personnel (Council President Dane Collins)

- Finance (Grants)
 - Finance report attached.
 - We took out a tan at the end of the year of \$296,000. We paid this off at the end of the year and took an \$800k tan for 2024. January 3rd the 4th quarter payment to CDCA was made. This will be booked as a 2023 payment.
 - We are voting to re-open the budget after vote tonight. There will be a special meeting prior to the workshop meeting. It has to be passed by 2/14/2024. Collins has worked with the finance committee about reducing numbers and spending for the 2024 budget. Once we have the final budget together, a sub-committee of residents will be put together to review the budget, see where we can bring fund in and where we can cut spending.
- Personnel
 - Megan Sweeny resigned from her position as permit clerk on 1/12/2024. The borough is actively reviewing this position and how it will function going forward.

Maker of the Motion L. Pinto
Second K. Collins
Passed 7/0

Community Organization (Council Vice President Richard Guerra)

- Business Association
- RPAC
 - Banquet on the 12th for football and cheerleading. There were over 500 people in attendance. Registration is open for baseball and softball for the spring.
- Seniors
- Main Streets
- CDCA

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

Comment- M. Dalessio stated that the senior squad won a bid for the nationals in Florida, as well as Ridley High School. Several of these girls are from Ridley Park and started with the Parkers.

Public Safety (Councilor Michele Endriss-Dalessio)

- Police
 - See attached report.

- Fire

Below is the fire activity report for December 2023:

- 20 calls for the month:
 - 2 building fires
 - 1 gas leak
 - 2 accident clean-ups
 - 11 cancelled calls
 - 1 PECO wires
 - 1 investigation
 - 2 fuel spills
- Total hours in service – 7 hours 4 minutes
- Total staff hours – 32.4
- Cumulative firefighters responding – 85

Notable items:

- Jason Wilhelm was qualified as driver/operator of the ladder truck.
- 12 members escorted Santa around town on Christmas Eve

Below is the fire activity report for the year 2023:

- 245 calls for the year:
 - 28 building fires
 - 1 vehicle fire
 - 13 CO alarms
 - 16 gas leaks
 - 3 electrical fires
 - 1 assist the public.
 - 3 assist the police.
 - 5 assist EMS
 - 1 assist Medical Examiner
 - 111 cancelled calls
 - 5 false alarms
 - 14 accident clean-ups
 - 5 brush fires
 - 4 fuel spills
 - 12 investigations
 - 1 elevator rescue
 - 12 fire alarms
 - 7 PECO wires
 - 2 dumpster fires
 - 1 accident with entrapment
- Total hours in service – 103 hours 44 minutes
- Total staff hours – 469.04
- Cumulative firefighters responding – 1,016

Top Responders for 2023:

- 1st Place
 - Brian Gilmore
 - Josh Taylor
- Mike Eckenrode
- Ned Donkin
- Karen Donkin
- Jason Wilhelm
- Madison Murray
- Joe Carver
- Jim Eckenrode
- Pete Chartier

-L. Pinto stated that he has lived in RP for 33 years and he has never missed Santa coming around on Christmas Eve. He wants to thank him and everyone in the fire company for continuing these traditions. Mike said he's been doing this for 45 years and he has seen generations of families through these years.

- Board of Health
 - Meets next Wednesday
- Emergency Management
 - Has not met
- Civil Service
 - Have met and reorganized last week.

Maker of the Motion L. Pinto

Second M. Boyce

Passed 7/0

Manager's Report

- Working with Opdenaker on the new trash collection contract. We are having some issues, but we are working through them with the new hauler.
- CDBG Application has been submitted by the Borough Engineer.
- On the agenda for approval is the 2024 County Liquid Fuel Aid. This is the Borough's share of the County allocation.
- There is a motion on the agenda for an RFP for a Borough Auditor. Would like to seek proposals as soon as possible.
- Highway Department has been out salting and plowing in the most recent storm. If there are issues or concerns please contact Borough Hall.
- The Fire Alarm System is being installed in the Library this week. This project is nearly complete.
- A tree was removed from the lower silt basin from the recent rainstorm. Please be mindful when in this area.

Solicitor's Report – ongoing negotiations with prospect. There is a short executive session after the meeting to discuss this matter.

Engineer's Report- See attached report.

Jr. Councilor Freshmen and sophomore dance is coming up on 2/24. There is also an event called THRON where they collect funds for childhood cancer.
4/12 is Prom.

Council Business- No Council Business.

Public Comment

Sandy Hess 317 Burke Ave

Are we going to be able to see a copy of the budget?

D. Collins, it will be published once the preliminary budget is passed. The old budget was not published online since the plan was to reopen it at tonight's meeting. It will be posted prior to that meeting.

Bulk trash, we have to call the borough, not the hauler? Tutak stated you can call the borough to be added to the list.

Mike Gale 51 Collier Circle

Can you explain the 300k tan loan? You paid that off? D. Collins, yes, we paid that at the end of last year. Then rolled it into 2024.

Normally we have a 500k tan loan, but this year was 800k, will this be paid by June? D. Collins, yes.

Gale, what about the funds that were borrowed from the capital reserve? D. Collins, the plan in the budget is to move these funds back and more.

Andy Furman 419 Pomeroy Street

Two weeks ago, at the council meeting Andy raised several issues. Andy stated it seems to be a 31% increase not a 17% increase that was proposed. The sewer fee and trash fees should be set based on the contract. Andy believes that the milage is a 31% increase. He is concerned that residents don't understand this.

The 7.15 milage that was voted on in December, is equal to a tax increase of \$900k for 2024. Why does the borough need so much money at one time. Andy wants to know the components that make up this increase. There was no answer two weeks ago. Not just in general, but the residents deserve to know the amounts of those lines times that are increased.

D. Collins- stated that what is unique about municipalities is we can charge different fees, like sewer, trash, per capita and real estate. When he provided numbers two weeks ago the numbers were from 17% - 24% increase for most of the finance committees. Dane stated that these numbers are going to come down.

The borough was in a tough spot with Taylor Hospital. Nonetheless, there was going to be a tax increase. Between the preliminary and final budget Council was notified that Taylor Hospital would not be paying 2 years of taxes.

Thereas Abruzzo's 9 N. Swarthmore

When the budget is proposed in November, feedback is given, does anything ever change?

Tutak stated that the proposed budget was out and viewable for 10 days, then council looks over it and decides if anything additional is needed. The budget is posted online and in the newspaper. The trash and sewer numbers always change between November and December.

D. Collins stated that we also say it's high, the goal is to lower it down to less. This year is just out of the norm.

She stated that she thinks residents didn't have much say in it. She is very excited about the citizen subcommittee that's going to work with the finance committee.

D. Collins stated that this is a unique year, we want residents to have a say in the budget process.

Action Items

-Motion to approve Accounts payable for December 2024 in the amount of \$83,280.74

Maker of the Motion D. Collins

Second L. Pinto

Passed 7/0

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

Maker of the Motion D. Collins

Second K. Collins

Passed 6/0

1 abstention

-Motion to approve reopening of the Ridley Park Borough 2024 Budget for reconsideration

Maker of the Motion D. Collins

Second K. Collins

Passed 7/0

-Motion to approve Borough Manager to publish RFP for Borough Independent Auditor

Maker of the Motion D. Collins

Second M. Dalessio

Passed 7/0

-Motion to approve Resolution 2024-1- Ridley Park Borough County Aid Liquid Fuel
Application

Maker of the Motion D. Collins

Second M. McGinley

Passed 7/0

-Motion to approve December 19th, 2023, Council Meeting Minutes

Maker of the Motion K. Collins

Second M. Dalessio

Passed 7/0

-Motion to approve the reappointment of Mike Cruice to the Ridley Park Health Department for a 5 year term set to expire on 12/31/2028

Maker of the Motion M. Dalessio

Second M. McGinley

Passed 7/0

-Motion to approve the appoint Catherine Hoffner, RN to the Ridley Park Health Department for a 5 year term set to expire on 12/31/2028

Maker of the Motion M. Dalessio

Second L. Pinto

Passed 7/0

-Motion to approve the reappointment of Matt Verdi to the Ridley Park Health Department for a 5 year term set to expire on 12/31/2028

Maker of the Motion M. Dalessio

Second K. Collins

Passed 7/0

-Motion to approve the reappointment of Donald Caber to the Ridley Park Civil Service Commission for a 6 year term set to expire on 12/31/2029

Maker of the Motion M. Dalessio

Second M. Boyce

Passed 7/0

-Motion to approve the appointment Steve Nasella to the Historic Architectural Review Board for a 4 year term set to expire on 12/31/2027

Maker of the Motion L. Pinto

Second M. Boyce

Passed 7/0

-Motion to approve the reappointment Ellie Hays to the Historic Architectural Review Board for a 4 year term set to expire on 12/31/2027

Maker of the Motion L. Pinto

Second M. Dalessio

Passed 7/0

-Motion to approve the reappointment Kevin Gallagher to the Historic Architectural Review Board for a 4 year term set to expire on 12/31/2027

Maker of the Motion L. Pinto
Second M. McGinley
Passed 7/0

-Motion to approve the reappointment of Keith Eckert to the Ridley Park Library Board for a 3 year term set to expire 12/31/2026
Maker of the Motion K. Collins
Second M. Dalessio
Passed 7/0

-Motion to approve the reappointment of Mary Clarke to the Ridley Park Library Board for a 3 year term set to expire 12/31/2026
Maker of the Motion K. Collins
Second M. Dalessio
Passed 7/0

-Motion to approve the reappointment of Janette Fox to the Ridley Park Library Board for a 3 year term set to expire 12/31/2026
Maker of the Motion K. Collins
Second M. Dalessio
Passed 7/0

-Motion to approve the reappointment of Carol Raup to the Ridley Park Library Board for a 3 year term set to expire 12/31/2026
Maker of the Motion K. Collins
Second M. Dalessio
Passed 7/0

- Motion to approve the reappointment of Bob Berger to the Ridley Park Planning Commission for a 4 year term set to expire 12/31/2027
Maker of the Motion L. Pinto
Second M. Dalessio
Passed 7/0

- Motion to approve the appointment of Dan Holtzinger to the Ridley Park Planning Commission for a 4 year term set to expire 12/31/2027
Maker of the Motion L. Pinto
Second M. McGinley
Passed 7/0

-Motion to approve the appointment of James P. Timlin to the Ridley Park Planning Commission for a 4 year term set to expire 12/31/2027
Maker of the Motion L. Pinto
Second M. Dalessio
Passed 7/0

-Motion to approve the appointment of Barb Timlin to the Ridley Park Recreation Board for a 4 year term set to expire 12/31/2027

Maker of the Motion K. Collins

Second M. Dalessio

Passed 7/0

-Motion to approve the appoint Amanda Patterson to the Ridley Park Recreation Board for a 4 year term set to expire 12/31/2027

Maker of the Motion K. Collins

Second M. Dalessio

Comment, there has been a lot of interest in the Rec Board, Kim is excited to strat new traditions.

Passed 7/0

-Motion to approve the appointment of Trish Holtzinger to the Ridley Park Historic Commission for a 4 year term set to expire 12/31/2027

Maker of the Motion M. Boyce

Second M. Dalessio

Passed 7/0

Comment, Trish has been working with the Historic Board and is very interested in RP history.

- Motion to approve the appointment of Betsey Christophor to the Ridley Park Historic Commission for a 4 year term set to expire 12/31/2027

Maker of the Motion M. Boyce

Second M. Dalessio

Passed 7/0

- Motion to approve the reappointment of Dan Dalessio to the Ridley Park Shade Tree Commission for a 5 year term set to expire 12/31/2028

Maker of the Motion R. Guerra

Second M. Boyce

Passed 6/0

1 Abstention Dalessio

- Motion to approve the reappointment of Krista Cesarine to the Ridley Park Shade Tree Commission for a 5 year term set to expire 12/31/2028

Maker of the Motion R. Guerra

Second M. Dalessio

Passed 7/0

- Motion to approve the reappointment of Steven Valerio to the Ridley Park Vacancy Board for a 3 year term set to expire 12/31/2025

Maker of the Motion D. Collins

Second M. Dalessio

Passed 7/0

-Motion to approve the appointment of Cliff Kellet as a full member of the Ridley Park Zoning Hearing board for a term of 5 years set to expire 12/31/2028.

Maker of the Motion L. Pinto

Second M. McGinley

Passed 7/0

- Motion to approve the appointment of Christine Valerio as the alternate member of to the Ridley Zoning Hearing Board for a 2 year term set to expire 12/31/2025

Maker of the Motion L. Pinto

Second M. Dalessio

Passed 7/0

-Motion to approve Mike Garvin as the Ridley Park Fire Marshal for 2-year commission set to expire 12/31/2025

Motion to postpone Maker D. Collins

Seconded by M. Dalessio

Passed 7/0

-Motion to approve Brian Gilmore as the Ridley Park Deputy Fire Marshal for 2-year commission set to expire 12/31/2025

Motion to postpone Maker D. Collins

Seconded by M. Dalessio

Passed 7/0

Comment- is it possible to have the chief explain what the Fire Marshall does? D. Collins stated at his next report they can explain.

Adjourn

Marker of the Motion L. Pinto

Seconded by M. Dalessio

Passed 7/0