



**Borough of Ridley Park
Biennial Organization Meeting
January 2, 2024 7:00pm**

Call to Order (Mayor Henry Eberle)

Welcome

Pledge of Allegiance

**Oath of Office Administered to Newly Elected Officials by Magisterial District
Judge Mary McFall Hopper**

Richard Guerra (Council)
Michael McGinley (Council)
Melissa Boyce (Council)

Business Meeting

Roll Call

Mayor Hank Eberle	Present
Councilor Dane Collins	Present
Councilor Michele Endriss-Dalessio	Present
Councilor Richard Guerra	Present
Councilor Kim Collins	Present
Councilor Michael McGinley	Present
Councilor Melissa Boyce	Present
Councilor Len Pinto	Present

Nomination for Council President

Richard Guerra nominated Dane Collins

7/0 Passed

Nomination for Council Vice-President

Michele Dalessio nominated Richard Guerra

7/0 passed

Nomination for Pro Tempore for Council
Richard Guerra nominated Michele Dalessio
7/0 Passed

Borough Appointments:

Borough Solicitor – Raffaele & Puppio, LLP
Maker of the Motion D. Collins
Second M. McGinley
Passed 7/0

Labor Relations Solicitor – McNichol, Byrne & Matalawski, PC
Maker of the Motion D. Collins
Second M. Dalessio
Passed 7/0

Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor - Law Office of J. Michael Sheridan
Maker of the Motion D. Collins
Second L. Pinto
Passed 7/0

Civil Service Commission Solicitor – William T. Neill, III Esquire
Maker of the Motion D. Collins
Second M. Dalessio
Passed 7/0

Engineer – Catania Engineering Associates, Inc.
Maker of the Motion D. Collins
Second R. Guerra
Passed 7/0

Code Enforcement – Linn Architects
Maker of the Motion D. Collins
Second L. Pinto
Passed 7/0

Swearing in of William Thomas, Ridley Park Borough Police Chief

New Business

- Council Committee Assignments

President Collins stated there will be an executive session after this meeting to discuss the ongoing tax issue with Prospect Holdings.

Dane Collins (President) – assignment is Finance and Personnel Committee (Len and Kim)

- Finance (Grants)
- Personnel

Richard Guerra (Vice President) – Community Organizations (Shellie and Kim)

- Business Association
- RPAC
- Seniors
- Main Streets
- CDCA

Shellie Dalessio (Pro Tempore) – Public Safety (Rich and Mike)

- Police
- Fire
- Board of Health
- Emergency Management
- Civil Service

Len Pinto - Planning and Zoning (Melissa and Kim)

- Planning Commission
- Zoning Hearing Board
- Code Enforcement
- HARB

Kim Collins – Community Affairs (Melissa and Shellie)

- School Board
- Rec Board
- Barnstormers
- Library

Mike McGinley – Parks, Property, Trash and Recycling (Rich and Melissa)

- Highway Department
- Trash and Recycling
- Parks and Property

Melissa Boyce - Communications (Kim and Rich)

- Telecom Advisory Board
- Cable TV
- Historic Commission

Public Comment

Mike Gale 51 Collier Circle

In the last meeting, Mike stated that everything is critical at Taylor Hospital. Commented his previous remarks about employees was taken the wrong way.

There are outstanding appeals with Prospect. He is concerned that these are still outstanding.

He is also concerned that the 2022 Audit is outstanding causing the 2023 audit to be outstanding as well.

He saw the news that stated that Prospect takes up 10% of the budget. The 2024 final budget was posted online and was very hard to read. It was hard to see what was revenue and what was an expenditure. It was impossible to tell if a balanced budget was passed. The Borough doesn't seem to do anything about Prospect. Have they filed for exempt? The solicitor stated that they have not.

Mike Dougherty 315 Burke Ave

When looking over the budget, there have been items that have been cut, he wants to know the total of money that has been cut out.

Are we cutting the fireworks? Council President stated no. We are going to have vendors step up to help cover the cost for fireworks. Mike thinks there is more money that can be saved by not having fireworks (i.e OT etc).

D. Collins stated that we have looked at reducing the costs for the highway department.

Mike said that the fireworks that fall into the lake are very harmful to the fish, red belly turtles and baby geese. D. Collins stated he is not qualified to discuss the impact fireworks have on the lake,

Can we get a total of what is saved from the budget? R. Tutak asked for Mike to email him.

Sandy Hess 317 Burke Ave

She wants to know about the audio on Comcast. R. Tutak stated that RCN and Verizon work fine. All the information we have in the office confirms it is communicating with Comcast, it has something to do with Comcast's end of the communication.

R. Tutak stated he has been in constant contact with Verizon and RCN.

Sandy stated that she is paying Comcast but not hearing the cable access channel. She asked if she should switch just to see the meetings.

Are we still getting the clock? D. Collins stated yes, it has already been ordered.

Sandy said we don't need the clock now, we need the funds. D. Collins stated that Mike has been up meeting after meeting asking for a clock. We used ARPA funds to purchase the clock.

Are we doing a calendar this year? D. Collins stated, no, we are not doing calendars this year.

Andy Furman 419 Pomeroy Street

Property tax millage, there seems to be a disagreement between 17% increase and a 31% increase. If the mills were 5.45 last year and going up to 7.45 mills this year, this is a simple calculation of 31% increase. We tax payers don't like it.

At the December meeting, Council handed out a presentation about millage, prior to Prospect paying the sewer fee. At the December 28th meeting a vote was passed to pass the 7.51 mills.

The police pension cost is going up close to 400k in two years. This was the same time when the DROP program was started. The actuary report should have a suggested payment and market value. Andy wants a copy of this information.

The tax increase should bring in an extra 900k in tax revenue, why does the Borough need all the money? What components are making up this amount? Were you double dipping in the tax income for the past two years?

We had a shortfall this year and had to take a loan.

Andy stated he sent a plan to R. Tutak two weeks ago about how we could reduce taxes and spread it over two years. Please vote by February to reduce this 31% tax increase.

D. Collins

What was given out on 12/19 was the bottom-line effect of the taxes and fees using the members of the finance committee to illustrate. D.Collins paid 1811.68 for real estate, sewer, trash in 2023; in 2024 the overall payment of taxes and fees for his home will be 2144.77, which is a 17.83% increase which translates to \$26 a month.

Police Pension- D. Collins stated he spoke with the actuary about the numbers. He told Andy he can stop by his house anytime to discuss. Andy is misinformed about the police pension.

Questions were stopped due to Andy Furman continually speaking over President Collins.

Action Items

- No action items scheduled.

Adjourn

Maker L. Pinto

R. Guerra

7/0