



Ridley Park Borough Council  
Regular Council Meeting  
February 20, 2024

**Welcome**  
**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Council President announced that an executive session will be held after the meeting tonight.**

**Roll Call**

Councilor Melissa 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

Mayor's Annual Address- See attached Address

Junior Councilor Christopher Capozzoli

**Committee Reports**

**Planning and Zoning (Councilor Len Pinto)**

- Planning Commission
  - Met and reorganized. Bob Berger is now the chair, Frank Rosetti is second chair.
- Zoning Hearing Board
  - Did not meet.
- Code Enforcement
  - See Attached report.
- HARB
  - Met and reorganized. Kevin Gallagher is chair and Steve Valentin is the second chair.

Maker of the Motion M. Boyce

Seconded M. McGinley

Comment: The work that HARB does is outstanding within our Borough. These members are really committed. We should be very thankful- L. Pinto

Passed 7/0

### **Communications (Councilor Melissa Ann Boyce)**

- Telecom Advisory Board
  - We did receive a proposal for mics for the AV system.
- Cable TV
- Historic Commission
  - First meeting of the year is tomorrow night. They do have the room downstairs in Borough Hall to store items.

Maker of the Motion L. Pinto

Seconded M. Dalessio

Passed 7/0

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

- Highway Department
  - They are doing a great job. They pretreated the roads last storm, and the streets were cleared. McGinley is super proud of these guys for taking care of our streets.
  - Potholes have been taken care of.
- Trash and Recycling
  - This hasn't gone as well as planned. The company is struggling with two areas. We have been in communication with the company. If you are not picked up by 2pm, please call Borough Hall. This is still early but they are still learning the routes.
  - Bulk Collection, you must contact Borough Hall to dispose of a bulk item. It will be your second collection day, and possibly only once/twice a month. There is no additional cost, we just want to have this scheduled.
  - We are going to give this contract a few more weeks before looking into other options. We are going to work with them and communicate these concerns.
- Parks and Property
  - March 16<sup>th</sup> is the CRC Lake Clean-up and March 23<sup>rd</sup> we are trying to host a Borough Wide Clean-up. We invite you all to join us. This is also a great opportunity for kids to get community service hours that might be needed for school or church.

Maker of the Motion L. Pinto

Seconded K. Collins

Passed 7/0

### **Community Affairs (Councilor Kim Collins)**

- School Board
  - Met on 2/5 and approved the 2024-25 academic calendar. They also approved application to apply for events.
  - If you go to the office in Ridley High School, seniors can request a Gold Pass, which provides free access to events
- Rec Board
  - Met, there is upcoming event, they are hosting twith the Historical Society and the Library, on March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm this will be at the Brickhaus, the event is free for all just need to reserve a spot. It is a discussion with author of The Strange Case of Dr. Doyle, Daniel Friedman.
  - Joanne Shaw, local Ridley Park artist, Love Blooms at Ridley Park Lake. Rec Board Chair David Valentin is donating this painting to the Borough.
- Barnstormers
  - Descendants, production by Barnstormers Youth Theater is sold out, they had to add another show. They just held auditions for Annie, Jr..
  - Ridley Performing Arts Program is running the Wizard of Oz currently.
- Library- See attached report.
  - AARP is a free tax aid program available on Wednesdays, open to everyone regardless of age and income. Appointments required.

Maker of the Motion M. Dalessio

Seconded M. McGinley

Comment: The Library Board meets tomorrow at 7pm.

Passed 7/0

### **Finance and Personnel (Council President Dane Collins)**

- Finance (Grants)- See attached Finance Report
- Finance Sub-Committee
  - See attached letter of interest. Please contact Manager Richard Tutak if you are interested.
  - This is in response to the recent budget concerns; we want 3-5 residents to take a look at our budget information from 2015 on. We want input from residents with recommendations on long-term finances.
- Personnel
  - Met last week to discuss open positions we have within the Borough.

Maker of the Motion L. Pinto

Seconded K. Collins

Passed 7/0

### **Community Organization (Council Vice President Richard Guerra)**

- Business Association
  - Met last night 2/19, with a small discussion about events they have to have downtown.

- RPAC
  - Opening Day- April 13<sup>th</sup> at 10am. We will start with a parade and end with an opening pitch thrown by Mayor Hank Eberle.
  - Softball and Baseball registration is still ongoing for the next 2 weeks.
- Seniors
  - Met with the new executive board, it was a great meeting.
- Main Streets
  - Easter Egg Hunt on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1pm in Veterans Park. In addition to this Hope Church will hold an event after for the kids.
  - Pints in the Park is also scheduled for this coming Spring.
- CDCA
  - Met with the Borough Manager and CDCA to discuss funding and where the Borough stands.

Maker of the Motion M. McGinley

Seconded M. Dalessio

M. Dalessio, stated that the RPAC Cheer team placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the state and 13<sup>th</sup> in the nation for nationals, they competed in Florida.

Passed 7/0

**Public Safety (Councilor Michele Endriss-Dalessio)**

- Police- see attached report
- Fire

Below is the fire activity report for the January 2024:

33 calls for the year:

- 5 building fires
  - 2 CO alarms
  - 5 gas leaks
  - 13 cancelled calls
  - 3 false alarms
  - 1 accident clean-ups
  - 2 investigations
  - 1 elevator rescue
  - 1 PECO wires
    - Total hours in service – 14 hours 21 minutes
    - Total staff hours – 41.12
    - Cumulative firefighters responding – 107
- Board of Health
    - Meet next Wednesday.
    - There was a resident that received a citation for housing animals and fowl.
  - Emergency Management
    - Has not met.

- Civil Service
  - Has not met

Maker of the Motion L. Pinto

Seconded M. Boyce

Comments: D. Collins stated once it gets warmer, he will walk Chief Thomas around to meet business owners.

Passed 7/0

**Manager's Report-** See attached report.

There will be overnight construction on the bridge from 10pm-3am. It will be loud but unfortunately, it needs to be done.

**Solicitor's Report-** No report

**Engineer's Report-** See attached Report

**Council Business-** No new business

### **Public Comment**

#### **Ellie Hayes- Architect for HARB and President of Ridley Park Historical Society**

They wanted to thank Borough Hall for allowing them to have a space in Borough Hall.

She is also here to speak about her dismay about Paul Coleman not being reappointed to serve on the board.

Ellie read a letter that was submitted to all of Borough Council. Since this Michelle Mattus has decided to step down. They currently have 2 open seats on the HARB board.

Ellie mentioned that she understands Council has a lot on their plate but wants them to reconsider.

D. Collins stated he is more than happy to speak with Ellie after the meeting.

Dave Zizzi 324 Burke Ave- Chickens on Burke Ave

He understands that this isn't in our code. He wants to know if he can start a petition and how many signatures he would need to change this ordinance. He is using this as a responsibility for their kids. He doesn't think its right to get rid or kill them.

M. Dalessio suggested coming to the Board of Health meeting to speak with the board.

M. Boyce asked if he has received any complaints, he stated no, his neighbors enjoy it.

M. McGinley stated that you can get all the signatures but it's the snowball effect of people not taking care of them. Yes, you are responsible for them, but the next person wouldn't do the same.

Mike Dougherty 315 Burke Ave

Chickens- he walks the neighborhood a lot. The kids like chickens. He thinks its more of an issue for dogs barking and stool is worse than chickens.

Microphones- what are we looking at? 35,000 is the quote they received. Melissa stated its not just the microphones, it's the upkeep and install for these new items.

Mike asked why you need 10? Mike stated we can pass along the microphones. We could possibly cut it to 3-4. This is ridiculous.

Tutak stated he has been working on this for 3 years. We can go completely wireless, but it is much more expensive. The quote is for wired microphones. We are working through the amount.

Tutak stated these microphones are not for the room, its for the TV system and recording. Mike believes portable mics are the way to go.

Mike said he'd join the telecommunication committee with Councilor Boyce.

**Sandy Hess 317 Burke Ave**

She lives across the street from Dave Zizza, she has never heard of or seen these chickens. She doesn't understand why we can't have it.

M. Boyce said it's an ordinance and that's what we are following. This was placed for a reason in 2014 and we have to abide by it.

**Mike Gale 51 Collier Circle**

At a previous meeting there was a motion to appoint Mike Garvin and Brian Gilmore, what is the status of this? R. Tutak stated that he is looking into the code.

Mike said are you cutting cost? Tutak said it was postponed looking into the codification of Fire Marshall.

Mike wanted to note that there are several individuals that were not reappointed in the past years. He asks that Council look into this.

Library- Bids were out for the roof, and the costs came over more than expected. Are you still planning on doing this project?

R. Tutak stated that he and K. Collins met with the county about additional funding. This is a very expensive project.

### **Jim 33 Chester Pike-Postal Office**

He is asking the parking permits/parking meters be re-evaluated. He was told he has to get a parking permit for \$180. He said that where he was parked is not covered by the parking permit. He doesn't understand why it's no good.

D. Collins apologized for this confusion but stated that the point of these parking permits was not to park downtown, that would mean people that work in the city would park down there. Collins did state that his fee was refunded. The point was for parking at the hospital or parking on Ridley to travel to the city.

L. Pinto said maybe we should discuss a parking permit for seniors to be able to park downtown.

### **Action Items**

-Motion to approve Accounts payable for January 2024 in the amount of \$334,018.79

Maker of the Motion D. Collins

Seconded 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

Seconded K. Collins

Passed 6/0

Abstained 1

-Motion to approve January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Council Meeting Minutes.

Maker of the Motion K. Collins

Seconded M. Dalessio

Passed 7/0

-Motion to approve Block Party Permit for Ridley Park Athletic Club Opening Day Parade for  
April 13, 2024.

Maker of the Motion R. Guerra

Seconded M. McGinley

Passed 7/0

-Motion to approve Ridley Park Borough Rosemont Ave Sewer Project utilizing Community  
Development Block Grant Funds

Maker of the Motion D. Collins

Seconded K. Collins

Passed 7/0

### **Adjourn**

Maker of the Motion L. Pinto

Seconded M. Dalessio

Passed 7/0