



Ridley Park Borough Council
Regular Council Meeting
March 19, 2024

Welcome

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Councilor Melissa Boyce	Present
Councilor Michelle Endriss Dalessio	Absent
Councilor Kim Collins	Absent
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- Annual letter from a resident down at the lake praising our highway department. See attached letter. Mayor congratulated Bill Christie, Matt Gessig, David Rowlyk and Richard Stewart.

The lake clean-up was a great event. Nick Furman and Charles Catania are the gentlemen spearheading this annual cleanup.

Mayor stated that this month is colon cancer awareness month. There is no better person than Mayor Hank, who beat cancer in 1981, 40 years ago. Colon cancer almost took his life. Getting colonoscopies yearly to prevent this cancer.

Mayor Hank also shared history 1896, October 20th, Mr. Harrison was presented with a gavel and mound. It's still the one we use today.

Junior Councilor Christopher Capozzoli

Committee Reports

Planning and Zoning (Councilor Len Pinto)

- Planning Commission
 - Did not meet

- Zoning Hearing Board
 - Did not meet
- Code Enforcement
 - See attached report.
- HARB

Maker of the Motion M. McGinley
 Second M. Boyce
 Passed 5/0

Communications (Councilor Melissa Boyce)

- Telecom Advisory Board
 - Proposal reviewed for microphones, hoping to pass it to the finance committee soon.
- Cable TV
 - Nothing new
- Historic Commission
 - Meets tomorrow night

Maker of the Motion L. Pinto
 Second M. McGinley
 Passed 5/0

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

- Highway Department
 -
- Trash and Recycling
 - Still learning the route. Reach out if there are any misses. We are approaching bi-weekly yard waste collection.
- Parks and Property
 - CRC Lake Clean-up this past weekend. It was a great turn out. McGinley thanked Manager Tutak for all he did to put this event together and run smoothly.
 - There is another clean-up this Saturday (weather pending). This is a Borough wide clean-up. Meet at the firehouse at 9am to clean up the downtown area, or even your own property.

Maker of the Motion L. Pinto
 Second M. Boyce
 Comment: Mayor Hank stated that someone who has done these events before, this was the largest group she has seen with this event.
 Passed 5/0

Community Affairs (Councilor Kim Collins) Absent

- School Board
- Rec Board

- Barnstormers
- Library – see attached Library report.

Finance and Personnel (Council President Dane Collins)

- Finance (Grants)- see attached finance report.
 - Finance subcommittee had their first meeting last Tuesday. The committee consists of Brian Masser, Erin Powley and JP Timlin. The goal for this group is to meet monthly to go over information and answer any questions.
- Personnel-meets next Tuesday they will meet to discuss the open position in Borough Hall.

Maker of the Motion L. Pinto
 Second M. McGinley
 Passed 5/0

Community Organization (Council Vice President Richard Guerra)

- Business Association
 - Meet last night, great attendance. They discussed the bridge and esthetics downtown. They also were all able to meet the new Chief of Police
- RPAC
 - Opening day is coming up in April
- Seniors
 - Nothing new
- Main Streets
 - Easter Egg Hunt at 1pm at Veterans Park. This is weather based, there is not a rain date.
- CDCA

Maker of the Motion M. McGinley
 Second M. Boyce
 Passed 5/0

Public Safety (Councilor Michele Endriss-Dalessio)- Absent

- Police-
 - See attached public safety report for February 2024.
- Fire
 - See attached report for February 2024.

Manager's Report

- The Sellers Avenue Bridge Project is moving forward and is still currently on schedule. Please be mindful there will be road closures on Hinckley Ave for installation of beams.
- Lakeview Elementary will be doing work over spring break. Equipment and utility work will be down at Ridley Park Lake on Constitution over the coming weeks and over the summer.
- There was an accident on Chester Pike on March 19, 2024. Police, Highway and PECO all responded to the matter.

- CRC Clean up occurred over the weekend. Was a huge success and appreciate all the support for this event. Ridley Lake Park looks great.
- The Fountain will be installed in the coming weeks, in time for Jr. and Sr. Prom.
- Borough staff have been in contact with the new Auditor and Finance Service provider and have them starting that work now.
- CPR and AED training is currently happening with all Borough staff, these were purchased with ARPA funds.

Solicitor's Report- No report

Engineer's Report

1. PY2023 CDBG Project – Rosemont Avenue Sanitary
 - \$200,000 County grant
 - Tentative bid opening – April 25
2. PADOT Sellers Ave Bridge
 - Projected work
 - **Catenary pole foundation work progressing**
 - Contractor Road-Con, Inc: Contract amount \$9,831,574.30
 - Completion date ~~July 9, 2026~~ **June 30, 2026** plus 1 year maintenance
 - Prepared documentation for cost-sharing for sanitary sewer replacement
 - Awaiting PADOT approval
3. DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program Grants
 - **Application period open until April 3 for parks and recreation grants**
 - **50% match**
4. Ridley Park Lake Fountain
 - **Contacted contractor to install by end of March**
5. Local Share Account Grant Application
 - Application submitted for Rosemont footbridge
 - **Expect award decision in September**
6. Jehovah Witness Kingdom Hall Redevelopment
 - Review grading and stormwater plans
7. Library Roof Repairs
 - One bid received – A to U Services \$87,352
8. E Rodgers St – one way traffic study
 - Preliminary analysis supports one-way from Swarthmore Ave to Tome St
9. 8 Morton Ave Lot Line Relocation

- Reviewed subdivision plan for lot line relocation for Taylor Hospital and medical office building – incorporating parking lot into office building.
10. Sanitary Sewer Flows
 - Proposal for Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Survey in high i/i area received
 - Manhole inspections, Smoke testing, Flow monitoring, GPS point collection
 11. PADOT Pedestrian Study - ADA Curb Cut Upgrades
 - Ridley Ave & Ward St
 - Ridley Ave & Cresswell
 12. Ridley Park Lake Dam
 - Need to update Emergency Action Plan
 13. 325 W Chester Pike – drainage issue
 - Sump pump discharge
 14. Ridley Park Lake Dredging
 - US Army Corps of Engineers Maintenance Permit renewal in progress
 15. 303 W Ridley Ave Sinkhole
 - Overall poor condition of metal storm sewer pipe
 - Add to list for future replacement
 16. 200 Block E Ridley Ave Sanitary Sewer
 - Add full relining to future budget - \$15,000
 17. Swarthmore Ave & Chester Pike Storm Drain Inlet
 - Resident complaint about casting
 - Old inlet does not appear to be functional

Council Business

L. Pinto- any traction on parking permits? Tutak stated that this is being brought up on Tuesday to the finance committee. There might be an issue with age discrimination.

R. Guerra- Chicken Coop on Burke Ave- Ordinance. Tutak asked Mr. Zizza to contact him after the last meeting, but he did not reach out. Tutak will contact him this week.

M. Boyce- looking to do a night with the code enforcer. Tutak stated that we have tentative date for May.

Public Comment

Mike Doughtry 315 Burke Ave

He wants to thank the fire and police, as well as the mailman.

Any update on the Clock? Tutak stated that we received the footing information. You should see within the next week or so with the old one being removed. The clock is still being fabricated.

Anything new with Taylor Hospital? D. Collins stated we are still waiting on more contact from them.

Mike Gale 51 Collier Circle

He is confused on this Prospect tax settlement. He attended the school board meeting, where they discussed a settlement. D. Collins, stated that you are aware that the school district is free to go into their own agreement, we are working through this with our attorneys. Mike believes that they are negotiating on behalf of Borough. L. Pinto stated Council has seen this, but we cannot comment as a Borough since this is in negotiations with attorneys. Mike read numbers about what the assessment would go down to. Mike stated that this was approved at the last school board meeting.

Mike is asking that Council look at this settlement. He believes it's a bad deal. In 2023 the hospital was sold for \$46.1 million dollars.

D. Collins stated that we are looking at this deal, which is why we haven't settled. There is communication between Council and the solicitors. The solicitor in this room, did not share those numbers with us. Our attorney's job is to provide the correct information. The numbers that Mike shared are not what was presented to us.

Andy Furman 419 Pomeroy Street

The settlement that the school board has already approved doesn't mean the Borough is going to approve it. He has never heard of a settlement being different for the school, municipality.

He has a copy of the solicitor's report from the school board meeting. Andy believes that the school district solicitors need to be working with the solicitors for Ridley Park. This is a bad deal. There was a sale last year for \$46 million, yet what they agreed to was \$21million, but then gets reduced to \$14 million. Andy believes that the baseline should be \$205, we shouldn't be reducing their tax assessment. Andy stated that this is 41-44% less than what they have paid in the past.

Marcus 410 Tome Street

Will they be submitting an independent report? D. Collins stated yes, this will be a public report. He also mentioned that he is in favor of the chicken coops. He stated that there are websites that can guide the legislation for chickens in municipalities.

Action Items

-Motion to approve Accounts payable for February 2024 in the amount of \$189,993.91

Maker of the Motion D. Collins

Second L. Pinto

Passed 5/0

-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 M. Boyce

Passed 5/0

-Motion to approve February 20, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes

Maker of the Motion R. Guerra

Second L. Pinto

Passed 5/0

There is a brief executive session.

Adjourn

Maker of the Motion L. Pinto

Second M. Boyce

Passed 5/0