



Ridley Park Borough Council
Council Workshop Meeting
March 5, 2024

Welcome

Pledge of Allegiance

There was an executive session last Tuesday to discuss the latest with Prospect Medical.

Roll Call

Councilor Melissa Boyce	Absent
Councilor Michelle Endriss Dalessio	Present
Councilor Kim Collins	Late 7:08pm
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- The Mayor plans to read a letter from a resident about the great work the highway department does. Mayor will start reading the history of Ridley Park again.
10/20/1892- a gavel was donated to our council; it is still the one we use today.

Manager's Report- See attached report.

Council Business-

L. Pinto- Parking Permits for seniors. Len wants to look into a parking permit for seniors allowing them to park an hour or so downtown. We are charging more for parking, raised taxes etc., to be able to offer this service would be a benefit for our seniors.

M. Dalessio stated that we just must look out for the ones that share this with their kids etc.

L. Pinto, he is specifically looking for something down in the business district.

R. Guerra- He thinks this is good if it is going to keep spaces moving.

McGinley- he agrees but thinks it is going to be an issue to police these.

Tutak stated that he reached out to other Boroughs about parking permits. Tincum charges \$1 a car and Media is \$120 a year but with limitations on where people can park.

D. Collins-When we investigated this, we did not want people parking all day and just adding money by the app. He thinks that if we see someone abusing it, we will take it away.

L. Pinto- We have raised taxes, we've raised parking rates, and he believes we need to do this for seniors.

Guerra asked if it is possible to put license plates in our reader to tell us if that car is a senior.

M. McGinley- Lake clean up is on March 16th and a Borough Wide Clean-up will take place on March 23rd. We encourage all those to participate even if its on your street or property. Later that day, the Easter Bunny will be coming to town.

D. Collins- We advertised a subcommittee about reviewing financials revenue and expenditure. Only three people applied, with one being disqualified for working with the Borough. Dane is very disappointed; we had a rough few months and our meetings were packed with residents. We want this to be bipartisan, both that applied are from the same party. Dane is going to reach out to those who he believes would be a great fit from the other side. If we cannot get a third named for that position, we will disband this committee since no residents applied.

K. Collins- the library is looking for a grant to stabilize the building. They plan to bring it to the council soon.

Public Comment

Mike Dougherty 315 Burke Ave-

Trash- They are doing an excellent job; Mike did walk down Burke Ave. and move the cans out of the road. As far as the telecommunications, he looked over the quote he believes it is fair, he wants to know if we've gotten any other quotes. Tutak stated we have received quotes in the past.

Visual Sound- out of Brookhaven is great company, but he doesn't want to step on any toes. Either way, Finance Committee- Mike believes the requirements are too high for this committee. Dane said if he knew someone who works a million-dollar budget but can't operate excel, he would take them.

L. Pinto- said the idea is to invite the community into the process but not teach the community. Someone who already understands the basics.

Sandy Hess 317 Burke Ave-

She has one thing to say, it's about microphones. Last meeting, she did not understand what they were saying. She felt so sorry for the mayor but we couldn't hear the mayor.

M. Dalessio said that the microphones are not for the room, its for the TV's. Sandy wants to know how she can hear.

The council said they would work on their projection. It was also suggested that she sit in the empty seats up front.

Sandy doesn't understand what 3-5 people would do for our budget. Dane stated that this isn't to teach this is for residents to help us investigate other options to save money and trim the fat.

Kim stated that several of the projects we were looking into alternative funding.

Dave Zizza-324 Burke Ave

He is asking the Council to amend the Fowl Ordinance to allow him to keep his hens. Media, Swarthmore, Tincum, Clifton heights all allow hens. They allow 4 chickens with a permanent structure with weather resistance. Areas must be kept clean, and food kept in a sealed container. He takes care of his chickens and it's a learning activity for his kids. He suggests a minimum space, being inspected, permitting it to be inspected. He also read a letter from one of his neighbors at 521 Bartol Ave who is to the back of his property.

McGinley asked who inspects them? Tutak stated the health officer does.

Tutak said he would speak with Media and Tinicum about more specifics on their regulations. He will also reach out to the solicitor about what would need to be done to amend it. McGinley asked if this can be on hold? Tutak stated that we technically can't since it's a current ordinance on the books. We aren't beating his door down. D. Collins said we'd look into it and get some more information.

Mike Gale 51 Collier Circle

New auditor- is the current plan to have the new auditor do the audit? D. Collins said that the current auditor will finish the audit they started. Dane stated that we are getting horrible service which is why we are switching companies.

Brinker Simpson- are they replacing a current service? D. Collins stated we brought it in house but now are sending out of house for \$7,000-\$9,000 versus the accountant.

The open positions are you looking to fill or get rid of that. D. Collins said its being discussed but w E-Waste- will we have this event? D. Collins stated that yes, it's in the budget.

Gale went to a school board meeting last night and they made a settlement with Prospect, and they have settled for a wash, nothing to be paid. Gale, can you shed any light on this?

D. Collins, we had an executive session to discuss this matter. We had an understanding that this was coming down the pike from the school district. Right now, we are waiting to see numbers from the school district before we decide if we are going to accept or fight it.

Andy Furman 419 Pomeroy Street

How can the school board vote on a settlement and the municipality agrees to it before any vote was taken. D. Collins the school board took the lead on this, our solicitor has been in constant contact with their solicitor. Dane stated that there isn't anything that states we can't fight this or renegotiate.

Council hasn't voting on anything. Andy doesn't understand why the school board would approve this without council.

So the auditor is working on the 2022 audit that was \$25k? Tutak stated that 18k has already been paid.

Andy, how can those funds be paid? Tutak stated that this was for field work and engagement letters from the auditor. No other funds have been paid; we are holding this up until we receive the final audit.

Financial Services-what is the fee? D. Collins \$7,000 base not to exceed \$9,000.

Action Items

-Motion to approve HARB Application 2024-3: 513 N Swarthmore Ave Fence Installation

Maker of the Motion L. Pinto

Second M. McGinley

Passed 6/0

-Motion to approve 611 N Swarthmore Ave Land Development Project per Delaware County and Ridley Park Planning Commission requirements.

Maker of the Motion L. Pinto

Second M. Dalessio

Question: Did we get Delaware County approval? Yes, and RP Planning? Tutak stated yes.

Passed 6/0

-Motion to approve BBD, LLP as Ridley Park Borough's Independent Auditor pending solicitor review

Maker of the Motion D. Collins

Second K. Collins

Passed 6/0

-Motion to approve Brinker Simpson, CPA to provide Financial Services to the Borough of Ridley Park pending solicitor review

Maker of the Motion D. Collins

Second K. Collins

Passed 6/0

-Motion to approve February 6, 2024, Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

Maker of the Motion K. Collins

Second M. Dalessio

Passed 6/0

Adjourn

Maker of the Motion L. Pinto

Second M. Dalessio

Passed 6/0