



Ridley Park Borough Council
Regular Council Meeting
August 20, 2024

**Workshop Meeting Minutes 6:30pm
Council Business**

Dane Collins: wanted to discuss the changes to the zoning ordinance. Are there any final questions?
L. Pinto said he likes the updated version and we can send it to the solicitor. September workshop can read the ordinance then publish for the September Council Meeting.

Public Comment

Nicole

310 Morton Ave

Earned Income Tax, she pays in the town she works, will she pay it twice? D. Collins said no, it will only be paid to the hometown.

Adjourned 6:33pm

There will be an executive session after the meeting regarding Borough Manager, Rich Tutak's resignation and filling the position

Welcome

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Councilor Melissa 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

Ridley Park Recreation Presentation on 2024 Playground- Carol Dunn did a presentation on the Summer Playground Program. Originally, there was no playground scheduled this year due to the HVAC being replaced at Lakeview Elementary. With the help of Rich Tutak, they were able to have the program at Woodlyn Elementary School. Mrs. Dunn was grateful for the support of the Borough Manager and the ability to operate the program out of Woodlyn. Principal Signor was also supportive of the program at the school. One of the volunteers is an Art Teacher and came up with great indoor ideas. They presented Council with an art board prepared by the children who attended.

Mayor's Report-

Mayor Hank said he remembers the playground programs and commended the program. Mayor swore in 4 new part time police officers. Then Mayor shared some Ridley Park History -a letter from the justice of peace from the 1800's that said \$4/swearing in was due to the Mayor.

3rd Thursday has been a great success. They have decided to continue through the fall until November.

The Victorian Fair is coming up! The first one was 9/20/1986 at Borough Hall. The second year was May 30th at Borough Hall but was hot. The following year they decided to move it to the lake, and it was a huge success. This has been a great event for over 30 years. This year they are hosting a vintage recipe tasting contest. This is a great event for everyone!

School starts soon. Mayor wants to remind people that the speed limit in RP is 25 mph. This is very important. Stop signs are important as well, please remember this now and during the school year. The speed limit around the schools is 15mph.

This is Richard Tutak's last meeting. Mr. Tutak has been with the Borough for 6 years. This is not a normal 40-hour week, the job requires a lot of extras. He was 25 years old when he took this position and did a great job. We wish you the best of luck in your professional development.

Committee Reports

Planning and Zoning (Councilor Len Pinto)

- Planning Commission
 - Did not meet in July but meet next Wednesday 8/28/2024.
- Zoning Hearing Board
 - 2 applications
 - Signage for Philz Landscaping, applied for relief in size. After the hearing he reduced the size and then was approved by the board.
 - Remove and rebuild of a deck at 206 Park Street. The increase would be 4% and would increase the impervious coverage. This was approved with stipulations.
- Code Enforcement
 - See attached report
- HARB

- o They met and discussed three open applications.
- o They are looking into an updating map of the historical district, some of the area is unclear.

Maker of the Motion M. McGinley
 Second M. Dalessio
 Comment: Great Report
 Passed 7/0

Communications (Councilor Melissa Boyce)

- Telecom Advisory Board
 - o Did not meet
- Cable TV
 - o Did not meet
- Historic Commission
 - o Meets tomorrow.

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

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

- Highway Department
 - o No report
- Trash and Recycling
 - o Please call the Borough for bulk collection. The big items are mattress. These need to be bagged.
- Parks and Property
 - o There is a motion item about ABC Field, Tutak will touch on this during his report.

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

Community Affairs (Councilor Kim Collins)

- School Board
 - o Meet next week. Please be mindful of the increased pedestrian student traffic.
- Rec Board
 - o Victorian Fair- David Valentin, co-chair of Recreation Board spoke on the event: We are three weeks away. There are 70 artisan vendors, including woodwork, glass blowing, jewelry. There will be tons of activities for the kids. There will be a physic, crypto zoologist, there is a poet and ghost hunters will be there as well. The Historical society will be hosting a display of historical artifacts.
 - o All the proceeds go towards the Tot Lot renovations.

- Barnstormers
 - Hosting Rocky Horror, the youth program will be doing Beauty and the Beast.
- Library
 - Delaware County Libraries has added Kanopy to their collection of resources. This free service allows anyone with a library card to access on-demand streaming of movies, TV series, documentaries, children’s programming, and more.
 - Our summer programming session wrapped up at the end of July. We held 31 programs for children, 5 for teens, and 11 for adults/all ages with 259 children, 17 teens, and 173 adults in attendance.
 - Please see the second page for statistics from July. Library attendance saw a 26% increase in visits for July over the same period in 2023. Circulation is up by almost 13%, children’s program attendance is up by 129% and public computer usage is up by 55%. Adult and teen program attendance is down, but we plan to add new options to our calendar in the fall to draw more people into the library.

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

Finance and Personnel (Council President Dane Collins)

- Finance (Grants)
 - See finance report.
- Personnel
 - Council has opened up the hiring process for a new Borough Manager. This is Richard Tutak’s last meeting. An add was placed in the paper, social media, PSAB (PA State Association of Boroughs) website and posted in Borough Hall. Council plans to interview them next week.

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

Community Organization (Council Vice President Richard Guerra)

- Business Association
 - 3rd Thursday event also hosting a 5K this past event. This was a great event that brought traffic to town. The event was contributed to Head Strong. This was the 4th 3rd Thursday, and we have three more this year.
- RPAC
 - Football and cheerleading have started, you might see them in ABC Field
- Seniors
 - Marie Donnelly- they usually meet two Thursday’s a month. She believes she is being shoved out. They play bingo on Monday’s and the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. They are wondering what is going on. They gave the calendar to the Borough in January. They have talked to Lisa in Borough Hall and made sure she was given the calendar. They aren’t sure what is going on.

- L. Pinto and R. Guerra said they would fix this issue.
- Main Streets
 - 10/13/2024 is the Main Streets Fall Festival from 1-5pm. Jullian Brothers, Chico's Vibe. Everything is moving to the business district, especially with the bridge construction.
- CDCA
 - No news

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

Public Safety (Councilor Michele Endriss-Dalessio)

- Police
 - See attached report
- Fire
 - See attached report
 - Chief thanked Richard for all his help and wished him luck.
- Board of Health
 - Does not meet until September
- Emergency Management
 - Did not meet
- Civil Service
 - Will be meeting soon.

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

Congratulations to Chief Eckenrode on the grant they received from FEMA for an assistance to Fire Firefighters. \$181k was given to them for new air packs.

Manager's Report-

- BBD has contacted me as of 8/19/2024, we should have a final draft in the coming week..
- RFP for the Delaware County Greenway MiniPROS on the agenda for approval for JMT for ABC Field. This is a grant for a study of that park for future grants.
- 2025 MMO's for Non-Uniformed and Uniformed Pension Plans are on the agenda for approval, the total for the Non-Union is \$20,566 uniformed police pension is \$652,098.
- Sellers Avenue Bridge still have Utility Relocation work being done in the area of E Ridley Avenue. Please be mindful in this area with road closures.

Solicitor's Report- No Report

Engineer's Report- See attached report

Council Business

M. Dalessio- Congratulations to Rich, we will miss you.

L. Pinto- Ditto, he is sad Tutak is going but happy that he is advancing his career. Tutak has made his job easier in all aspects of his committees.

R. Guerra, Congratulations. We are happy you are furthering your career. Good Luck.

On October 12th, we are planning to do our annual town clean-up.

K. Collins, Ditto what colleagues stated.

M. McGinley- Ditto, thank you for everything.

M. Boyce- best of luck.

D. Collins- See attached presentation on Earned Income Tax

L. Pinto stated that this is important to know. Your taxes are a pass through to cover bills. RPB does not have a savings account to go to. The only way to keep up for this is to increase property taxes on a yearly basis.

M. Dalessio- this is the 11th year she is on Council; she was in the audience. The second time was when it was voted down. Seeing that things aren't in our favor; this is a step in the right direction for the borough. We have no other choice than to increase property taxes. We want to keep seniors here; this is going to help the seniors.

Public Comment

Louann Bullick

406 Cresswell Street-

This was obviously a difficult decision. So Taylor Hospital paid their sewer tax, but haven't paid their real estate, is there anything the state can do to have them pay? The AG would only go after them for a civil suit. Part of the taxes was the questions on assessed value. It looked like it was going in their favor, with this a settlement.

The trees that have been chopped down, what about the trees by the church.

Dane, the trees will be replaced once the bridge project is finished.

Linda Smith –

You mentioned we don't have a savings account; we use to have a rainy day fund.

Len mentioned that we do not that, we have used this for.

Liquid Fuels- that account was overdrawn? Tutak stated that too much money was taken from the accounts, and it needs to be put back into the LF account.

She received an email stating that this was overdrawn. Why are they sending this information?

D. Collins said it was a booking error and this is a scare tactic.

Nicole-310 Morton Ave

Concern about the RoadCon parking on E. ridley Ave. It is very dangerous, they need to stage somewhere else. Especially in the afternoon when the train comes into town.

Hiring JMT to do a study at ABC Field, what is the grant amount \$42k? She wouldn't suggest using them

Meg Convoy 7 Johnson Ave

Recycling- she was told that our recycling is going to the landfill. She called Chester and they said that they don't recycle.

Tutak said we cannot put our recycling in the landfill.

Meg- are we getting any money for recycling? Tutak said no, not anymore.

M. McGinley, we are required to provide recycling for the borough.
Dalessio said that times have changed, it becomes harder to dispose of certain items.
Meg- what do we do? Dalessio said we are looking into items, we don't have the choice to send it to another provider.
Meg- Residents take it seriously, she doesn't believe council does.
L. Pinto, the cost to dispose of this is more than what we receive back.

Sandy Hess- 317 Burke Ave

Did we get a grant for the sidewalk at borough hall?
Dane- we used ARPA funds for this project.
Sandy, you used 13,500 for concrete but not on microphones.
Dane said that we did this project with ARPA funds because this was a safety issue.

Burke and Bartlett pole and sign were taken out. Dane asked Chief to look into this.

Mike Dougherty 315 Burke Ave-

He suggests getting a microphone for Borough Hall.
In hearing the Taylor Hospital issue, are we still offering services even though they are not paying taxes. Mike- Why? Dane- we cannot pick and choose who receives services for a 911 call. What if it is a resident in that hospital that needs help? We cannot choose.
Dane- we have settled the taxes for 2023-2024. We have no say in who runs that hospital.
Mike- we are still supplying them with services but not receiving funds.
Dane- we are doing everything possible. They are appealing taxes and doing work that isn't even legal.

Microphones- are we getting any?

Ellie Hayes 107 Park Street-

On behalf of HARB and the Historical society, we are sorry to see you go. Thank you for everything you have done. There is an opening on HARB if you want to join.
EIT- she supports this. It's a way for people that don't pay into the borough that use our services to contribute.

Andy Furman 419 Pomeroy Street

He wants to add some clarity to the things mentioned tonight.
What was not mentioned was a transfer from real estate in 2023. They haven't paid property taxes but have paid the RE Transfer tax.
Taylor Hospital- Council approved a settlement but didn't mention that we owe Taylor hospital on what they paid a few years ago. He believes a refund is due to Taylor Hospital.
Dane- there are emails going around with misinformation. The RE Transfer tax, we had to go out and take a loan to cover the taxes for Taylor Hospital. The cost was much more than the transfer tax.
The Borough, the property assessment was done by the County. They assessed Taylor Hospital at 60 million. County Assessor's office wants nothing to do with Taylor. We had someone come in and say that Taylor was only worth 23, they settled at 21.5 million

Mike Eckenrode 115 Barker Street

He really appreciated the time that was taken to put into this. Had this been done years ago with others we would have been in a much better position. He would rather see it come to Ridley Park.

Karen 413 N. Swarthmore-

She understands that the EIT needs to be passed. She asked if Philadelphia and Chester, do we get it? No, it stays with the city.

Is there anything that can be done about investors or landlords about paying a different tax?

M. Dalessio- we can look into this.

Action Items

-Motion to approve Accounts payable for July 2024 in the amount of \$340,313.49

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 in the amount of \$800

Maker of the Motion D. Collins

Second M. Boyce

Passed 6/0

1 -Abstained Dalessio

-Motion to approve July 16, 2024, Council Meeting Minutes

Maker of the Motion K. Collins

Second M. Dalessio

Passed 7/0

-Motion to approve Eastern Salt Company for the 2024-2025 Salt Bid Contractor at a \$73.73 per ton.

Maker of the Motion Mc.Ginley

Second L. Pinto

Passed 7/0

-Motion to approve 2025 Minimum Municipal Obligations for the Uniformed Police Pension at \$652,098

Maker of the Motion D. Collins

Second L. Pinto

Passed 7/0

-Motion to approve 2025 Minimum Municipal Obligations for the Non-Uniformed Pension Plan at \$20,556

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

-Motion to approve Ordinance 2024-04: Ridley Park Borough Earned Income Tax Ordinance

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

-Motion to approve Danielle Staccone, Borough Secretary, as Ridley Park Borough Right to Know Officer Starting August 30, 2024

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

-Motion to approve Resolution 2024-13: Police Department ARPA Funding

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

-Motion to approve JMT for the MiniPROS Application for ABC Field Open Space Plan

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

-Motion to approve Madeline Moffo, PA, to the Ridley Park Board of Health for a term to end December 31, 2028

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

-Motion to approve the hiring of Marc Mattioli as a Part-Time Police Officer pending all background checks

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

-Motion to approve the hiring of Nicholas DiBerardo as a Part-Time Police Officer pending all background checks

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

-Motion to approve the hiring of Kevin Molineux as a Part-Time Police Officer pending all background checks

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

-Motion to approve the hiring of William Schailey as a Part-Time Police Officer pending all background checks

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

Adjourn

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