

September 23, 2020

The regular meeting of the Borough of Riverdale Mayor and Council opened via Video Conference on the above date at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Carelli presiding.

ROLL CALL: Present: Desai, Kheyfets, Oswald, Purcell, Revis, Pellegrini
Absent: None

The Municipal Clerk announced that proper notice of this meeting was made as to time, date, place and agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

September 9, 2020

Councilman Revis set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Kheyfets, to approve the above listed minutes as read.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Desai, Kheyfets, Oswald, Purcell, Revis
Nays: None
Abstain: Pellegrini
(5 ayes – 0 nays – 1 abstain - motion carried)

DISCUSSION – BOROUGH OF RIVERDALE REOPENING PLAN:

- Frank Covelli - Borough of Riverdale Risk Manager
 Senior Vice President / Managing Director, Professional Insurance Associates

Mayor Carelli introduced Borough Risk Manager, Frank Covelli, who gave an overview of risks and concerns and what some of the other towns in the JIF are doing as far as reopening. He stated that many are still closed. He provided documents developed by the JIF relating to Coronavirus which are consent forms for a third party to use for participating in a program or to use our facilities. Mayor Carelli provided information about the Riverdale buildings and properties and their uses prior to the virus. He asked for guidance on how, when or whether to reopen the buildings, particularly the Community Center and the Glenburn Estate. Mr. Covelli discussed liability and whether our action or inaction is considered reasonable meaning what we have done in our efforts to protect the public. He stated that part of risk management is risk avoidance.

Councilman Desai stated that he wanted to clarify that there are differences between private events, borough sponsored events and club meetings. He explained what he believed the differences to be and felt that in mitigating the risk with private clubs we could turn some of that responsibility back on the club and allow them to use the building.

Mayor Carelli stated that his concern is safety and our job is to ensure the safety of our residents. He felt we should wait a little longer before opening. He said we can't chose to open a building for certain groups and would have to open for all groups.

Borough Attorney Oostdyk stated that if we are going to open our public facilities for use of organizations we have to do it with planned objective criteria in place. We can pick and choose which borough sponsored events we want to hold. Council continued to discuss the matter but no consensus was reached. Mr. Oostdyk stated that he could work to come up with objective criteria and work through the legal issues but he needs direction from the Council as to what we want to do.

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DISCUSSION – BOROUGH OF RIVERDALE REOPENING PLAN (continued):

Mayor Carelli asked the Public Works Committee to get pricing from a COVID certified cleaning service to clean the building after each use and to check with DPW Superintendent as to our resources.

Mr. Covelli stated that the JIF will defend the municipality in a suit if something were brought forward but you always have an overriding responsibility to public safety. Everyone is wrestling with this issue because reasonable people can make points and come to different conclusions.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS ON RESOLUTIONS:

Mayor Carelli opened the meeting to the public for comments.

There being no comments, Mayor Carelli closed the public session.

ALL IN FAVOR

RESOLUTIONS – CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilman Desai set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Purcell, to approve the following resolutions:

- 142-2020:** AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD THROUGH September 25, 2020 FOR 2019/2020 BILLS IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$969,899.38
- 143-2020:** APPROVING THE RENEWAL OF VARIOUS LICENSES FOR THE 2020/2021 LICENSE YEAR IN THE BOROUGH OF RIVERDALE
- 144-2020:** RESOLUTION APPROVING AN APPLICATION FOR A SEWER CONNECTION Kevin Glaser, 90 Loy Avenue, Riverdale, NJ Block 14.01, Lot 44
- 145-2020:** RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A NEW PETTY CASH FUND
- 146-2020:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF HEATHER DAVENPORT TO THE PART-TIME POSITION OF POLICE DISPATCHER FOR THE BOROUGH OF RIVERDALE AT A RATE OF \$15.00 PER HOUR EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 23, 2020
- 147-2020:** AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE RIVERDALE RECYCLING CENTER TO RER SUPPLY LLC, 4 SOUTH CORPORATE DRIVE, RIVERDALE, NEW JERSEY 07457
- 148-2020:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AWARD OF CONTRACT TO COOPER POWER SYSTEMS FOR THE PURCHASE OF GENERATORS FOR THE RIVERDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND RIVERDALE COMMUNITY CENTER FACILITIES FOR AN AMOUNT OF \$61,480.04

**ROLL CALL: Ayes: Desai, Kheyfets, Oswald, Purcell, Revis, Pellegrini
Nays: None
(6 ayes – 0 nays – motion carried)**

**COPY OF BILLS LIST AND RESOLUTIONS IN FULL ON PAGE NO. 63-A THROUGH
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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: Councilman Desai reported that the Linden Street Sewer Project will be included as an alternate in the bid specs for our next sewer project.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Councilman Revis reported that the Fire Department picnic is next Saturday being held outdoors with social distancing and in compliance with regulations. He also reported on a recent Police Department phone outage and said upgrading our system is becoming critical.

PUBLIC WORKS: Councilman Pellegrini mentioned the great job the DPW did expanding the lobby at the Borough Hall.

COMMUNICATIONS: Councilman Purcell reported on the possibility of doing a town drive-in movie. The cost for an event held on a Saturday with 75 to 125 vehicles is near \$4,000 and also \$495 for copyright licensing to show any movie. There are variables that could affect the cost.

UTILITIES: Councilman Oswald reported that at the last meeting someone asked how much water is used to water the fields. Steve Schotanus is compiling that information and we will have it for the next meeting. He also reported on the status of getting the water valves GPS marked.

PERSONNEL: No report. Councilman Kheyfets provided additional information regarding the Police Department phone outage and the equipment and service used.

BOROUGH CLERK REPORT: No report.

BOROUGH ATTORNEY REPORT: No report.

INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY:

Mayor Carelli announced the following:

“Certificate of Determination and Award” Issuance of Bond Anticipation Notes in the amount of \$5,305,844.00 on September 10, 2020 with a maturity date of September 10, 2021, numbered 2020-01 and 2020-02. Interest rate per annum is 1.50% payable at maturity, awarded and sold notes to Jefferies LLC, at a price of \$5,355,665.88, plus an amount equal to the interest on the Notes accrued to the date of payment of the purchase price.

MAYOR REPORT:

Mayor Carelli commended the DPW employees for a great job renovating the front office and lobby in the Borough Hall. Tomorrow we have a preconstruction meeting with Vektor Corporation on the roadwork for Parkway, Loy Avenue, Cedar Street, Sonya Terrace and a part of Cotliss Road. We are working on updating the employee handbook and we need to work on the health benefit waiver. He would like to have the annual increases for the borough employees at the next meeting. We have an opening in Public Works and hope to hire someone by October. The appointments to the PRBRSA will be done by resolution for a four and five year term. The Recreation Director has come up with a plan to have Fright Night for the younger children. Mayor Carelli gave the Council an update of our financials.

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OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mayor Carelli opened the meeting to the public for comments.

Loretta Kirshner, 35 Winding Way, Andover, NJ stated that she works at 75 Newark Pompton Turnpike in Riverdale. She is a Girl Scout, Program Director for the Girl Scouts of New Jersey and Co-Coach for the Steel Magnolias which is the Riverdale Robotics Team currently housed at the Riverdale Community Center. She explained the safety precautions the team would take if allowed to use the Community Center and emphasized that they are a responsible group. She expressed appreciation for the support and care the Mayor and Council are giving this topic.

Anne Gould, 22 Cotluss Road, wants to be sure the residents would be notified prior to the start of the roadwork project.

There being no further comments, Mayor Carelli closed the public session.

ALL IN FAVOR

CLOSED SESSION:

At 8:49 p.m. Mayor Carelli announced that Council would go into closed session to discuss matters of contract negotiations.

ALL IN FAVOR

Closed session being completed, the meeting returned to public session at 9:04 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Kheyfets set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Purcell, to adjourn the meeting.

ALL IN FAVOR.

Adjourned: 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Abubakar T. Jalloh
Municipal Clerk

CLOSED SESSION – September 23, 2020

Present: Desai, Kheyfets, Oswald, Pellegrini, Purcell, Revis

Absent: None

Also Present: Chief Kevin Smith

Municipal Court Proposed Contractual Agreement:

Mayor Carelli updated the Council on the request from the Borough of Butler to take over their court services. He distributed a Draft Agreement and Financial Analysis showing there would be a savings to both towns. Because of time constraints we have to make a decision. A meeting was held with the court staff, a Morris County Court representative and the Judge and they are all on board. Butler presented the draft agreement and fee at their meeting and it was unanimously approved. We would do a one year contract to see if it works. Council discussed the proposed agreement. Councilman Desai had several concerns. The overall consensus of the Council was to proceed with the agreement for a one year term.

Rock Creek / Grande Water Billing Update:

Councilman Desai updated the Council on the water billing discrepancy and options for negotiating with the Grande and Rock Creek. Councilman Oswald and Borough Attorney Oostdyk will meet with Rock Creek and try to have an answer by the next meeting on how they want to handle it.

PBA Grievance:

Mayor Carelli informed the Council of the reason for the grievance. A Sergeant requested to take vacation days for a weekend that a Patrolman had already scheduled to be off for his required military service. That would leave the three man squad short so the Chief denied the Sergeant the time off. The PBA would like a policy going forward to address this type of situation. Council discussed the current policy to plan and arrange for time off. They concluded that there is no need to do a policy change at this point and the grievance should be denied.

Closed session concluded at approximately 8:59 p.m.