

October 26, 2022

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

Mayor Carelli presiding.

**ROLL CALL: Present: Kheyfets, Oswald, Purcell, Revis
Absent: Desai & Pellegrini**

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

October 12, 2022

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

**ROLL CALL: Ayes: Kheyfets, Oswald, Revis
Abstained: Purcell
Absent: Desai & Pelligrini
(3 ayes, 0 nays - motion carried)**

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.

RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT AGENDA:

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

- 178-2022:** AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD THROUGH OCTOBER 26, 2022 FOR 2021/2022 BILLS IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$873,626.27
- 179-2022:** RESOLUTION FOR RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE MORRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND
- 180-2022:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF RIVERDALE AND THE CHIEF OF POLICE
- 181-2022:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF NEW FIREFIGHTER – Richard Pesci III

**ROLL CALL: Ayes: Kheyfets, Oswald, Purcell, Revis
Nays: None
Absent: Desai & Pellegrini
(5 ayes - 0 nays - motion carried)**

COPY OF BILLS LIST AND RESOLUTIONS IN FULL ON PAGE NO. 73 -A THROUGH D

MAYOR REPORT:

Mayor Carelli reported that he spoke with the Borough Engineer today and we are ready to have a pre-construction meeting for replacing the gas line on Newark Pompton Turnpike from Hamburg Turnpike to Cotluss Road. We received a grant from the Department of Transportation for \$350,000 for resurfacing of the Newark Pompton Turnpike it was our goal to have that completed this fall in anticipation of next year's 100th year Anniversary. The mayor had a meeting with PSE&G to discuss the project and they are required when they replace a gas line, they trench the road and run the gas line down, fill the trench in,

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compact it and pave a patch. They are required to pave the road from the curb line to the center line. He asked the engineer to calculate what that is going to cost them and his rough estimate was in the neighborhood of \$150,000. So, he told PSE&G not to pave the road and the Borough will take the \$150,000. They have actually agreed to that. Unfortunately, it most likely won't be paved until early spring. We are replacing the retaining wall down at Independence Park and they started that work. We are replacing the old railroad tie wall that is crumbling with a cement block wall. Mike Fitzpatrick is doing that work and they already started clearing that. One of the things that was holding us up was we thought we were getting a grant to put lighting down at the baseball field. The way the grant worked is we applied for the grant and it was for almost 600,000 it had to be submitted to either our congresswoman or our two state senators. We were initially told that Senator Menendez was putting it on his list to move it to the appropriation Committee and we were very hopeful we thought we were going to get that grant. As it turns out I was informed that we didn't get the grant. The police committee had a meeting with the PBA their contract expires at the end of this year so we started negotiating with two meetings so far. The Mayor and Council received an email from a new resident who received her water bill and apparently her usage was being rounded up and she is being billed for usage that isn't being used. The mayor contacted Cora from Butler who does the water billing and asked her about it and she said it rounds up to the nearest thousand and years ago she was told to do that. The mayor has instructed Cora going forward to bill people on their exact usage. Councilman Oswald received a quote for the street lights and they would give us the same sockets that are out there and with that we would get the new bulb. They are giving us exactly what we want no transformer, flag pole, banner and the outlet. They are trying to shoot for eight weeks but if not, it would be twelve weeks. The mayor is waiting on the engineer to give him a proposal for Hamburg Turnpike we would like to put decorative lights on Hamburg Turnpike as well. They would not be the big black poles they would be attached to the telephone poles. There has been a lot of work done the past seven years we have paved almost every street in town. There will be flyers coming out soon we have booked the legacy castle for April 1, 2023 where we will be having Riverdale's 100th Anniversary Gala. The Authority is waiting on a list of our new sewer connections over the last year and he will be submitting that.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PERSONELL: Councilman Kheyfets reported that he has spoken to both Dino and Joe the IT guys for the town and I know what they need to upgrade their service to fiber.

UTILITIES: Councilman Oswald reported that the reconstructed bridge that was put in and the railings were put in last Friday and it looks great! The restoration of the soccer fields is in progress and looks really good. After the retaining wall we will have the walkway around the whole complex which should be sometime next year. We will be having a meeting with Mikie Sherrill and try to revise the ball field lighting project for next year.

COMMUNICATIONS: Councilman Purcell reported that he would like to acknowledge all the volunteers, Krista, DPW for the cleanup, Police & Fire Departments from what he saw and the brief moment he was there Fright Night was amazing with a huge turnout. He would also like to thank the Mayor & Council, Police department and Fire Department, AJ, for your overwhelming support my Mom passed away on October 12th unexpectedly and that's why he had missed Fright Night.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Councilman Revis reported the fire department would like to go to a wireless system and set up all the Borough buildings with one vendor. There was a meeting on October 20th for OEM and the various items that have to be handled and reported to the State by January 4, 2023. There was a scheduled that was presented with primary responsibilities. Also, Chief Regeling could not be here this evening because his mother in-law passed away, we send our condolences.

BOROUGH CLERK REPORT: No report.

BOROUGH ATTORNEY REPORT: No report

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NEW/OTHER BUSINESS:

Mayor Carelli reported that the Borough is purchasing the Jersey Central Building on Post Lane. It has been in disrepair for many years and it's pending an environmental review. The goal is to knock the building down and make it a parking lot.

The mayor also reported that Morris County is putting in a trail from Wayne and ending at River Road at the border of Riverdale. We are going to set up a meeting with Chris Vince who is the Morris County Engineer and it's his project so he would like to see what the Borough can possibly do to extend that trail up into Riverdale.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mayor Carelli opened the meeting to the public for comments.

Jarred Wolf, 2 Wayside Place, KIA is a commercial zone property and we are a residential property and for years they have extended into our residential property. The speeding is a problem. They do not adhere to business hours.

The mayor responded that he did a little research on the ordinance to see if there were any parking restrictions and there is nothing on that street.

Chief Smith responded that when there is an issue to call the police department right away.

Kathy Ressler – 25 Macopin Avenue, she has called the police department numerous times and the dispatcher tells her that it's not our issue. She has lived in this neighborhood for 43 years there are toddlers in the neighborhood and there are drivers testing the vehicles in the neighborhood.

Mayor Carelli responded that we agree with you 100% everything you are saying we are with you. We are here to try and provide some kind of solution. Enforcement is a big part of it but also every time I drive by on Macopin there are always cars lined up right from Route 23 all the way up.

There was discussion on the parking on the streets, temporary parking and temporary one-way.

Steve Rowan, 13 Evans Road, there is a tractor trailer that is parked on Windbeam Road to the end and the other part of the problem is the entrance and the exit to the building, there have been times where accidents are very close to happening.

Frank Cerinetti, 10 Macopin Avenue, first house next to weeds that are about five feet high.

Jenny, Evans Road, her concern is safety. The fire lane is continuously blocked by cars. A fire truck will never be able to get to the back of that building.

Magaly Cruz, 1 Macopin Avenue, has a problem with getting answers from the police.

Megan Reilly, 23 Macopin Avenue, asked about KIA having another lot.

Fina Mooney, 14 Evans Road, asked if a no outlet sign can be put on Macopin.

Tom Caldoron, 6 Hillcrest Terrace, wanted to know if there was a limit to the number of cars that are in the lot.

Sam Venezia, 20 Evans Road, suggested having the DPW employees paint the curb yellow 50' from the corner that would clear up the corners.

Sandra Davick, 23 Evans Road, all the trees at the end have died now you see the fence and you now hear the noise from the highway and you can see the traffic.

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

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ADJOURNMENT:

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

ALL IN FAVOR.

Adjourned: 8:53p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Abubakar T. Jalloh
Municipal Clerk deceased