

May 24, 2023

The Council Workshop 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: Desai, Kheyfets, Oswald, Purcell, Pellegrini
Absent: Revis

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

May 10, 2023

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

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Desai, Kheyfets, Oswald, Purcell, Pellegrini
Absent: Revis
Abstain: None
(5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 Abstain - 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 Kheyfets set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Purcell to approve the following resolutions:

- 82-2023:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUNDS, OVERPAYMENTS OR CANCELLATIONS IN THE TAX OFFICE
- 83-2023:** MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEMBERS - Doreen Clark
- 84-2023:** AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD THROUGH MAY 24, 2023 FOR 2022/2023 BILLS IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$1,050,295.99
- 85-2023:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER (1) FOR ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION OBSERVATION FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE RETAINING WALL
- 86-2023:** AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS - Linda Roetman
- 87-2023:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL PLANNER SERVICES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2023
- 88-2023:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A NON-BINDING AGREEMENT WITH N27 CONSULTING, LLC TO REVIEW UTILITY PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS IN THE BOROUGH OF RIVERDALE
- 89-2023:** AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER (3) AND FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST #6 FOR THE INDEPENDENCE PARK RETAINING WALL REPLACEMENT PROJECT TO MIKE FITZPATRICK CONTRACTORS, INC., 18 COZY LAKE RD, PO BOX 430, OAK RIDGE, NJ 07438 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$52,399.16

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

COPY OF BILLS LIST AND RESOLUTIONS IN FULL ON PAGE NO. 31 - A THROUGH H

RESOLUTIONS:

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

90-2023: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PROMOTION OF ANTHONY FAMULARO TO THE POSITION OF POLICE LIEUTENANT FOR THE BOROUGH OF RIVERDALE AT AN ANNUAL SALARY OF \$151,047 EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023

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

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

91-2023: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PROMOTION OF ANDREW DUFFY TO THE POSITION OF POLICE SERGEANT FOR THE BOROUGH OF RIVERDALE AT AN ANNUAL SALARY OF \$141,859 EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023

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

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

92-2023: AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT OF MYCHAEL BROWN AS A PROBATIONARY POLICE OFFICER IN THE RIVERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023 WITH AN ANNUAL BASE SALARY OF \$37,500

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

COPY OF BILLS LIST AND RESOLUTIONS IN FULL ON PAGE NO. 32 - A THROUGH C

MAYOR REPORT:

Mayor Carelli reported that we have received an invitation from the President of the Albanian American Culture Center. They are having an event that the Mayor and Council are invited too. The mayor has met with the new President and they are trying to help the community. They are doing some work at the building to make it look nicer. The Newark Pompton Turnpike is completed and he thinks that the contractor did a great job. We have paved every street in town since we have been here other than across the highway which we get a grant. Councilman Purcell asked about Hamburg Turnpike when we talked about having a crosswalk over by Post Lane since there has been two accidents over the last twelve months. The mayor responded that he can reach out to the county engineer Chris Vitz and ask him if that's something we can do. On Sunday the mayor had to call the fire department because he smelled gas in his basement. It turned out to be his dryer and he

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has a gas detector that kept beeping. He thanked the Police Department and Fire Department for their fast response.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PERSONNEL: No report.

UTILITIES: Councilman Oswald reported that there has been a lot of activity at the park which has been great. He had a little hiccup with parking and like you said we will learn from it. Next year when we do have the Passaic County softball finals, we will make arrangements to make things a little bit different. The mayor asked if Councilman Oswald can work with Steve to have the toddler playground back. Councilman Oswald said he has been working on that trying to find something through Co-op. There is a young man that would like to do an Eagle Scout Project behind the Community Center right next to the playground he wants to raise the money for a gaga pit, it's a game that you play with a ball and it's within an octagon made out of pressure treated wood.

COMMUNICATIONS: No report.

PUBLIC WORKS: No report.

FINANCE/SEWER: Councilman Desai reported that at the sewer meeting he received the initial readings from the I and I investigation and they did a terrific job showing you the whole picture of what's going on for each of the meters everything was incorporated into one graph. The downside of this is there is no enforce mechanism. We had talked about possibly hiring Ron Mondello as a consultant and also scheduling a public meeting to talk about the public's opinion on having a cannabis manufacturing operation in the town with a class II license. The mayor responded that he did reach out to Ron and they would like to hire him to do some research on towns like Riverdale that authorized the class II manufacturing and what their revenues may look like. He told him that there aren't any and it's too new. I did say that he gave an example of a town that received a big check and he said there are some vertical approvals where they were approved for manufacturing, cultivating and selling all in one. He also said he would be more than willing to do a town meeting. The mayor did a little investigating and he wanted to know what that revenue would do for his taxes and the best scenario is you brought in 25 million dollars you get half a million in revenue that would save you about \$196.00 per household per year. Councilman Desai responded that to date he has not heard a valid argument as to what is the hardship to the public. The question that was asked at the 2020 Election by the registered voters in regards to legalizing marijuana in Riverdale. Out of 3256 registered voters 2375 voted and the yes vote for the legalization of Cannabis was 63% and the no vote was 37%. Discussion Ensued.

BOROUGH CLERK REPORT: No report.

BOROUGH ATTORNEY REPORT: No report

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS:

Memorial Day Parade / Monday May 29, 2023 / 10:00am

Mayor reported that the Memorial Day Parade will be on Monday and we will line up at 9:30am at Arlington and march down to Borough Hall which a ceremony will follow. The Grand Marshall for this year will be Bob Wolf. Bob's son Jarret usually drives the Grand Marshall every year so he gets to drive his father.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mayor Carelli opened the meeting to the public for comments.

Randall Bush, 27 Halsey Avenue, he is here to a follow up about the sewer issue on his street. The drawings for Halsey Avenue have not been done. Mayor responded that the

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council authorized him to do Phase 6 and he doesn't know why he hasn't. We have been up front saying no work on roads until 2024.

Bill Gardiner, 25 Halsey Avenue asked why Cotluss wasn't left off until next year. The mayor responded that we received a NJDOT Grant to do the Newark Pompton Turnpike and the last portion of Cotluss Road. The grant was put in 2022 for \$350,000 and we were awarded to do that job. Our Engineer did the specs last year and the goal was to have everything done in 2022 because we were not doing work in 2023 that was the plan. We awarded the work in September, 2022 and gave notice to proceed to pave Newark Pompton Turnpike. He received a call from the engineer letting him know that PSE&G needed to put a gas line in from Hamburg Turnpike to Cedar Street. Instead of PSE&G paving the half the road once they were done, we decided that the Borough would pave it and PSE&G would give us \$150,000. Mr. Gardiner also said that he would be for a public meeting on the Cannabis.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

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

ALL IN FAVOR.

Adjourned: 8:38PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Abubakar T. Jalloh
Municipal Clerk