

July 12, 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: Kheyfets, Oswald, Purcell, Revis, Pellegrini
Absent: Desai**

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

Mayor Carelli stated that Governor Phil Murphy signed an Executive Order to fly the flags half-staff last Friday, July 7th in honor of two firefighters Augusta Acabou and Wayne Brooks, Jr. who died responding to a blaze on a cargo ship in Newark. I think it is appropriate tonight with a room full of first responders and I would just ask that we have a moment of silence for these two brave firefighters.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

June 28, 2023

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

**ROLL CALL: Ayes: Oswald, Kheyfets, Purcell, Revis, Pellegrini
Absent: Desai
(5 ayes - 0 nays - 1 Abstain - 0 Absent - motion carried)**

SWEARING IN OF POLICE OFFICERS:

Chief Quant introduced and spoke briefly about Patrolman Brown, Sergeant Duffy and Lieutenant Famularo.

- Probationary Patrolman Mychael Brown
- Sergeant Andrew Duffy
- Lieutenant Anthony Famularo

Mayor Carelli spoke briefly about Chief Quant who was promoted to Seargent in 2014 and then Lieutenant in 2020.

- Police Chief Charles R. Quant, Jr.

Chief Quant thanked the Mayor and Council and the residents of Riverdale. The residents have always been a big support to the police department and the police department appreciates it very much. Congratulations to Mychael thank you for joining our Community and our Police Department. I would also like Sergeant Duffy and Lieutenant Famularo on your promotions. It's a very exciting time for him both personally and professionally like other officers he has invested a lot of time to his career and he appreciates the recognition. He thanked Terri Pellegrini and the four dispatchers. Terri holds the entire police department together and I don't know what we would do without her. The dispatchers are the same way they are family members and they are the first people you see when you come into the police department.

7:56PM 5-minute break

**8:03PM ROLL CALL: Present: Kheyfets, Oswald, Purcell, Revis, Pellegrini
Absent: Desai**

PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE

- 1) Public Hearing and Adoption of an Ordinance entitled:

July 12, 2023

ORDINANCE 02-2023

**CALENDAR YEAR 2023 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET
APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

The Municipal Clerk read the notice for the second reading and final adoption.

Mayor Carelli opened the meeting to the public for comments.

Lisa Ferrara, 115 Newbury Place, asked about the percentage increase.

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

ALL IN FAVOR

Councilman Kheyfets set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Oswald,

RESOLVED that Ordinance No. 02-2023 as read on second reading at this meeting, be adopted and finally passed.

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

COPY OF ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTION IN FULL ON PAGE NO. 43-A

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS ON RESOLUTIONS:

Mayor Carelli opened the meeting to the public for comments.

Lisa Ferrara, 115 Newbury Place, asked if the mayor can speak a little about the DOT Grant and the mayor responded every year, we apply for grants from the NJDOT where we put sewers in and believe it or not, we almost paved every street in town. The resolution approves the application so the Borough Engineer can apply for the grant.

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

RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT AGENDA:

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

117-2023: APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE MATHEWS AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS

118-2023: AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD THROUGH JULY 12, 2023 FOR 2022/2023 BILLS IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$987,624.00

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

COPY OF BILLS LIST AND RESOLUTIONS IN FULL ON PAGE NO. 43 - B AND C

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MAYOR REPORT: No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PERSONNEL: No report.

UTILITIES: No report.

COMMUNICATIONS: No report

PUBLIC WORKS: No report.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Councilman Revis asked Chief Regeling if he had anything and he asked about the budget and they will set up a meeting for next week. Chief Regeling congratulated the promotions and the Chief.

BUDGET And FINANCE PRESENTATION:

Mayor Carelli gave a Power Point presentation that provided an overview of the 2023 municipal budget. He thanked the Governing Body, municipal officials, professionals, employees and volunteers for their work throughout the year. He gave a recap of the 2022 tax bill and reviewed the 2022 assessments. Tax rate in 2022 was .616. He gave a summary of the operating budget.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS ON BUDGET:

Lisa Ferrara, 115 Newbury Place, asked about the 2.7% increase with the exception being \$44,000.00 as advertised with this resolution tonight you are going up 3.5% with an exception of \$65,000.00. The mayor responded that the actual tax levy is going up 2.7%. Heidi Wohlleb, Auditor responded that's not the resolution that's the ordinance. It's not going up right now but it could and we are not doing it.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION OF THE 2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Councilman Oswald set forth the motion, seconded by Council President Pellegrini to approve the following resolution:

119-2023: Resolution to adopt the 2023 Municipal Budget (Sheet 41)

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

COPY OF 2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET IN FULL ON PAGE NO. 44-A

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mayor Carelli opened the meeting to the public for comments.

Kim Soto, 23 Halsey Avenue, she asked if the council received the plans and is everything okay. The mayor responded that we have the plans for Phase VI it's doable from an engineering standpoint and the design as it stands needs four (4) easements. We are still discussing what's the best way to do that. First off, we are going to have to notify those property owners and it is going to require cooperation.

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

CLOSED SESSION:

At 8:45 p.m. Mayor Carelli announced that Council would go into closed session to discuss Litigation Update/Roemmele vs. Borough of Riverdale.

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ALL IN FAVOR

Closed session being completed, the meeting returned to public session at 8:52 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Council President Pellegrini set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Oswald to adjourn the meeting.

ALL IN FAVOR.

Adjourned: 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Abubakar T. Jalloh
Municipal Clerk