

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, 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:

January 24, 2024

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

**ROLL CALL: Ayes: Kheyfets, Oswald, Purcell, Pellegrini
Absent: None
Abstain: Desai & Revis
(4 ayes, 0 nays – 0 Absent – 2 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 Oswald to approve the following resolutions:

- 47-2024:** AUTHORIZE GRANT SUBMITTAL TO FY 2024 – 2026 STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY POPULATION REDUCTION CHEMICAL CONTROL TREATMENT GRANT PROGRAM
- 48-2024:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUING OF LICENSE FOR RAFFLE, APPLICANT AND APPLICATION HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE CLERK'S OFFICE – IEA Boosters Club Off-Premise 50/50 Raffle
- 49-2024:** AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD THROUGH FEBRUARY 14, 2024 FOR 2023/2024 BILLS IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$176,058.52
- 50-2024:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF RIVERDALE AND THE PEQUANNOCK RIVER BASIN REGIONAL SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

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

- 51-2024:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF NEW PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTERS – Elan Lopez / AJ Purcell

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

52-2024: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING GRANT SUBMITTAL TO FY 2024 SUSTAINABLE JERSEY PSE&G FOUNDATION FOR BOROUGH OF RIVERDALE SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM

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

COPY OF BILLS LIST AND RESOLUTIONS IN FULL ON PAGE NO. 14 -A THROUGH F

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PERSONELL: Councilman Kheyfets thanked the DPW for doing a great job as always.

UTILITIES: Councilman Oswald reported that he has been speaking with the Pompton Lakes Little League because of the damage that they sustained at their fields in Pompton. He just received a check for softball camp for the fields. Mayor Carelli responded that he was leaving it up to Matt as to who can use the fields and when they can use it and all the scheduling that goes with it. He was approached by the Borough Administrator of Pompton Lakes and he guesses they had a meeting with all the organizations and they were discussing the damage. He was asked the question if Riverdale would participate financially to help get those fields back in shape.

COMMUNICATIONS: No report

PUBLIC WORKS: Council President Pellegrini reported that the new hirer for the DPW is working out very well.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Councilman Revis reported that Chief Regeling had another meeting but he would like to thank everyone for the tires and the new Junior Firefighters.

FINANCE/SEWER: No report

BOROUGH CLERK REPORT: No report.

BOROUGH ATTORNEY REPORT: No report

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS:

- Tree Ordinance to be introduced February 28, 2024

Mayor Carelli said he knows that the Shade Tree is eager to introduce this ordinance so at the last meeting we had given Bob the state recommended ordinance. Bob responded that he did compare it and a lot of towns had nothing so it wasn't that difficult.

- Habitat for Humanity Project – Concept drawing attached

Mayor reported that he sent a concept drawing out to everyone. That was the result with several meetings with the Economic Development Committee. There were more units and taller units and we asked them to keep it closer to the street and only two stories. Bob responded that the next step will be entering into a redevelopment agreement with them. Before we do that, we need a planner to help us with the redevelopment agreement. At the next meeting we will have a professional services resolution with a planner. Liz from Habitat is working on the funding and she is asking for a resolution supporting their project and they can use that to go and make application for funding. We will have both those resolutions for the next meeting.

- **Legislation regarding Verizon Assessments Update**

Bob Oostdyk reported that Verizon's infrastructure has been subject to an alternate property tax for 50 or more years and it was in lieu of property tax. We had a particularly high assessment number; Verizon has a lot of infrastructure in this community. The legislator adopted a law that said at Verizon's urgent which states half of the community no longer uses landlines or uses Verizon than they are no longer subject to the tax and the rationale around that was other utilities don't pay taxes. This is very important to us and he doesn't think that our legislator representatives are aware of this. It has a huge impact on our tax assessment and we need our state representatives to know this is important to us.

Councilman Kheyfets reported that he has been approached by a couple of residents in regards to renting the Community Center. I think we need to decide on a higher level what we are going to do. The mayor responded that he is not opposed to opening the center Saturday and Sunday during the day and he is against evening rentals.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mayor Carelli opened the meeting to the public for comments.

Elaine Philban - Board Member at the Grand, she wanted to bring up the gate. She has lived in building 7 for a while and you cannot get to work on time and she is an essential worker that needs to be on time. She would like a letter or resolution that they can have to when the gate would be open even if it's for a state of emergency. The mayor responded that we should put together a policy where he can send a letter to the property management stating here is our policy and here is what we are going to do.

Linda Tomaskovic - VFW, the VFW building sustained substantial damage because of flooding. A lot of the members are residents of your beautiful community. On Monday, February 26th from 4:00pm - 7:30pm a Tastefully British will be at 163 Union Ave, Bloomingdale. 1/3 of all gross sales during this event will be donated to the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Butler to assist with restoration after the recent flood.

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

ALL IN FAVOR.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

ALL IN FAVOR.

Adjourned: 8:37p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Abubakar T. Jalloh, R.M.C.
Municipal Clerk