

FEBRUARY 16, 2023 REGULAR MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL

READING OF PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW ARTICLE

Mayor Signorello read the following statement into the record:

“This meeting is called to order pursuant to the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of this meeting was included in the Annual Notice of meetings published in the Union County Local Source and the Newark Star-Ledger on January 12, 2023. Said notice was posted on the bulletin board reserved for public notices in the Municipal Building and has remained continuously posted as required by Statute. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

All contracts awarded by Mayor and Council must comply with the affirmative action requirements of P.L. 1975, C. 127.

Fire exits are located in the directions I am indicating. If you are alerted for a fire, please move in a calm, orderly manner to the nearest smoke-free exit.

Proper notice having been given; the Municipal Clerk is directed to include this statement in the minutes of this meeting.”

ROLL CALL

The following is an accounting of the Mayor and Council’s attendance upon roll call called by Deputy Clerk Corrigan:

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Joseph Petrosky	Borough of Roselle Park	Councilman	P	7:02 PM
Gregory Johnson	Borough of Roselle Park	Councilman	P	7:02 PM
Joseph Signorello, Jr.	Borough of Roselle Park	Councilman	P	7:02 PM
Jay Robaina	Borough of Roselle Park	Councilman	P	7:02 PM
Rosanna Lyons	Borough of Roselle Park	Councilwoman	P	7:02 PM
Khanjan S. Patel	Borough of Roselle Park	Councilman	P	7:02 PM
Joseph Signorello III	Borough of Roselle Park	Mayor	P	7:02 PM

MOMENT OF SILENCE/PRAAYER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Deputy Clerk Corrigan read a short prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

PROCLAMATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

NONE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, PENDING ANY CORRECTIONS

Councilman Signorello moved to approve the following minutes, pending any corrections; seconded by Councilman Johnson, all members present voting Aye, said motion was adopted.

1. Regular Meeting of January 19, 2023
2. Closed Meeting of January 19, 2023

MOTION BILLS & PAYROLLS BE NOT READ AND PASSED FOR PAYMENT

Councilman Signorello moved that bills and payrolls be not read and passed for payment; seconded by Councilman Johnson, all members present voting Aye, said motion was adopted.

PUBLIC PORTION

Councilman Signorello moved at 7:04 p.m. to open the public comment portion of the meeting on agenda items only; seconded by Councilman Johnson, all members present voting Aye, said motion was adopted.

Jenny Cieslinski, 151 Warren Avenue

Inquired about the Ordinance relating to street sweeping regulations, and expressed concerns and confusion. She stated that Roselle Park has a parking problem, and the mentioned Ordinance would exacerbate that issue.

Mayor Signorello noted that the Council has been working closely with the Business Administrator, Mr. Casais, on the Ordinance, but he would attempt to answer questions and summarize based on what he had heard from the members of Council. He expressed understanding that restrictive parking due to street sweeping is challenging, but noted that the Borough needs to make sure its streets are actually being cleaned. He also noted that another thing is Ordinance would inherently addresses are cars that have been parked in the same location for extended period of time; he acknowledged that the latter matter was for both Police Department and Code Enforcement action, but that the Ordinance should help.

Councilman Signorello echoed Mayor Signorello, but noted he believed Ordinance No. 2713 should be tabled and revisited another time given the input he and other members of the governing body received from the community. Summarizing the input of experienced, he expressed that some residents vocalized support the Ordinance while others did the opposite. He noted his own support for the Ordinance went beyond community aesthetics, while important. He noted the flooding problem that has plagued certain area of the community during high intensity rain event, and if the streets are not cleaned, the gutters and basins get clogged up, resulting in flooding. He spoke further and assured Ms. Cieslinski that the governing body was going to work hard on this to make this right - corrected and changed.

Mayor Signorello further noted that there have been a lot of people that have said that they understand the concept generally, but there are a lot of things that need to get fixed. He assured Ms. Cieslinski that the governing body was going to take another critical look in light of the valid points that have been brought up.

Robert DeNais, 160 Jerome Street

Stated that he had been a resident for 71 years. Stated that as the town grew and situations have come up, things have been adjusted with respect to parking. He noted that he lived on Jerome Street before the apartments were built there. He noted that one of the reasons the apartments were able to be built was there would not be parking on the West Side of the street, and it has been like that for 60 years. He expressed

concerns about the street sweeping Ordinance because it would allow cars to park on the West Side of the street, where they would be blocking driveways, throwing things on lawns, and causing snow plowing issues. The problem now is the amount of double parking on narrow street; and the police do not enforce double-parking issues.

Mayor Signorello expressed fundamental agreement with respect to the Jerome Street situation. He stated that there's definitely a need to have more diligence around street sweeping.

Benjamin Zhou, 635 Woodland Avenue

Stated that he has been a resident of Roselle Park for about 20 years. He stated that he understood Ordinance No. 2713 would be tabled, but wanted to express that his wife opposes the Ordinance. He suggested that if the street sweeping schedule could be coordinated with the recycling schedule, it would be helpful.

Mayor Signorello agreed with Mr. Zhou. He stated that some of the components of the Ordinance may be ill-conceived, but the governing body would make necessary adjustments to simplify things.

Mr. Zhou also noted the Borough could save money if it had regular curbside garbage collection once a week instead of twice a week.

John Poulos, 731 Woodland Avenue

Stated he had a few issues with Ordinance No. 2713 as presented and introduced. He was concerned that no one will obey new signs or move their cars. He was likewise concerned that this would become another inconsistently and selectively enforced Ordinance. He expressed that he sees the Police Department and Code Enforcement pass by cars parked illegally, but do not do anything. His concern was that only a few will follow the Ordinance; expressing his concern even further, he indicated that he had seen the street sweeper go by in the past and spread dirty water on the ground, not really "cleaning" anything.

Mayor Signorello noted that the intention of the Ordinance was for the Borough to put its best foot forward, simplify a sweeping schedule, keep the Borough clean, environmentally conscious, and visually appealing. The Mayor noted that the Borough had aging storm water systems which get clogged up during heavy rain storms.

Mr. Poulos suggested the Department of Public Works clear the drain areas in the Spring and Fall in lieu of implementing a more intrusive street sweeping schedule. He noted this would be something that would be more beneficial than a street sweeper.

Mayor Signorello thanked Mr. Poulos for his comments and stated that the governing body wanted to hear all the concerns and suggestions from residents.

Michael Anne Regan, 134 Sheridan Avenue

Ms. Reagan expressed concerns about school and teacher parking during street sweeping days around schools. Asked the governing body to take teachers into consideration when considering the Ordinance going forward.

Mayor Signorello noted that the governing body would be taking teacher parking into consideration.

Tina Schwarz, 117 Avon Street

She stated that she lives on a street where there is street cleaning with alternate side parking on both sides, and it works. He stated that the neighbors remind each other to move their cars, and it works. Her only concern was the expanded hours proposed in the Ordinance, stating that the current hours work for them very well.

Councilman Signorello thanked Ms. Schwarz for her comments and noted that she was on one of the streets that does not have problems. He noted that he and his colleagues on Council would look into all the concerns of residents and evaluate them. He stated that during this vetting process a lot of information came out. Shame on those who do not move their cars. He believes something positive will come out of this. We welcome all input. Without your input, we can't fix it.

Mayor Signorello has and is still receiving emails regarding this Ordinance. They don't mind the idea, but the timing is off. This is the first draft.

Joseph DeIorio, 824 Larch Street

Mr. DeIorio doesn't hate Ordinance No. 2713, but the timing is off. My mother's business is at 301 West Clay Avenue. The earlier hours are better. We normally start repasses at 12:00 p.m. or at 1:00 p.m. With restrictions, that would limit our customers to be able to park on West Clay Avenue. Please keep this in mind and consideration. Mr. DeIorio suggested taking a look at the small business that have certain nuances.

Mariann Brenner, 141 Charlotte Terrace

Ms. Brenner inquired will there be others trained to drive the street sweeper in case the street sweeper driver is sick or on vacation, so there will be consistency with the schedule. She agrees with the times for the street sweeper. She's concerned with the items on the street such as basketball hoops, which actually take up more space and cause more of an issue with the debris in the street. It causes a lake effect. There's also trailers, landscape trailers and garbage cans that are left. The storm drains at the end of the street have to be done with the sewer vac because that adds to many issues that we have with the flooding.

Councilman Signorello asked Ms. Brenner to send him an email with her concerns.

Mayor Signorello noted they are going to train others to operate the street sweeper.

Jodi Bellomo, 208-210 Chestnut Street

Ms. Bellomo said why not just coincide the times that already exist and enforce it. She said if the Ordinance is enforced, people will move. She feels there's never any follow up. If there are no consequences to their actions, they will continue to do it.

Mayor Signorello noted we have two full time parking enforcement employees. They should learn the rules and be able to figure it out.

Ms. Bellomo noted it should be the police officers and the parking enforcement officers working together. They need to do their jobs.

Mayor Signorello said he somewhat agrees. The thought was it makes it easier for our police officers and parking enforcement.

Jeanine Goodis, 152 Berwyn Street

Ms. Goodis noted she has emailed these concerns already. She gets regular street cleaning. The hours are from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. At 1:05 p.m. the street sweeper is coming down the street before the police came by. The days the street sweeper is running late, that's when it all works out. The police came by and then the street sweeper to clean. She feels there's a better way to work together so the cars are moved and the street is swept. Also, she believes moving the time to 8:00 a.m. is an accident waiting to happen with kids walking to school and parents trying to get them to school.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Councilman Signorello moved at 7:42 p.m. to close the public comment portion of the meeting on agenda items only; seconded by Councilman Johnson, all members present voting Aye, said motion was adopted.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS

Scheduled Verbal Reports:

None (Scheduled for March 2, 2023)

Written Reports Received:

1. Police Chief's Report for January 2023
2. Construction Official's Report for January 2023
3. Animal Control Officer's Report for January 2023
4. Court Administrator's Report for January 2023
5. Treasurer's Report for January 2023

Councilman Signorello moved to approve the following written Reports of Departments; seconded by Councilman Johnson, all members present voting Aye, said motion was adopted.

ORDINANCES

SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING

Deputy Clerk Corrigan read the following Ordinance by title:

ORDINANCE NO. 2713

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 7, SECTION 13 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSELLE PARK, ENTITLED "PARKING PROHIBITED FOR STREET CLEANING"

Councilman Signorello moved to open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2713; seconded by Councilman Johnson, all members present voting Aye, said motion was adopted.

Joseph DeIorio, 824 Larch Street

Mr. DeIorio noted how will you deal with the permit parking in areas that have no driveways and nowhere to go.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Councilman Signorello moved to close the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2713; seconded by Councilman Johnson, all members present voting Aye, said motion was adopted.

Councilman Signorello moved that Ordinance No. 2713 be adopted on second reading and advertised as prescribed by law; seconded by Councilman Johnson.

Councilman Robaina asked what is the process for community input.

Mayor Signorello stated this is the community input.

Councilman Patel stated he sent in his questions and suggestions. How much will the street cleaning signs cost. Inquired can another cost effective street sweeper be ordered just to have it for if the other one breaks down. Should look into Jerome, Warren and Butler since they only have one side parking. Suggested if we can conduct a street cleaning survey to gather information identifying what areas need improvement. The businesses should be spoken to before we enforce the Ordinance due to the lack of parking. First Alert would be great to remind people the day before street cleaning. Warnings should be given out before the enforcement begins.

Councilman Signorello noted the street cleaning for Westfield Avenue will not change.

Mayor Signorello noted please send any feedback to Mr. Casais. We are figuring out where and what the new Department of Public Works sight is going to look like. He doesn't believe we have the space to entertain buying another street sweeper and we need to be able to secure, protect and store new equipment. The Capital budget may also be tight. I appreciate the suggestion but, it's not the right moment. In regards to the survey; I think the logistics of it and thinking of how it can be done and make sure everyone fills it out is a good open question. Please summarize it and send it to Mr. Casais.

<input type="checkbox"/> Vote Record – Ordinance No. 2713		Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted	Petrosky	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as Amended	Johnson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Defeated	Signorello, Jr.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Tabled	Robaina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn	Lyons	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Patel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Signorello	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Deputy Borough Clerk Corrigan read the following Ordinance by title:

ORDINANCE NO. 2714

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2, SECTION 41, SUBSECTION 1 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSELLE PARK, ENTITLED “ROSELLE PARK DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE CREATED”

Councilman Signorello moved to open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2714; seconded by Councilman Johnson, all members present voting Aye, said motion was adopted.

There being no one wishing to speak, Councilman Signorello moved to close the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2714; seconded by Councilman Johnson, all members present voting Aye, said motion was adopted.

Councilman Signorello moved that Ordinance No. 2714 be adopted on second reading and advertised as prescribed by law; seconded by Councilman Johnson.

<input type="checkbox"/> Vote Record – Ordinance No. 2714		Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted	Petrosky	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as Amended	Johnson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Defeated	Signorello, Jr.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Tabled	Robaina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn	Lyons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Patel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Signorello	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

INTRODUCTION

None

RESOLUTIONS

Deputy Borough Clerk Corrigan read all Resolutions by title into the record.

The following Resolutions listed on Consent Agenda were offered by Councilman Signorello; seconded by Councilman Johnson, all members present voting Aye, said motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 69-23

ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF WAYNE CAFFERY FROM THE POSITION OF PART-TIME BUS DRIVER

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Roselle Park, County of Union, State of New Jersey hereby accept the resignation of Wayne Caffery from the position of Part-Time Bus Driver effective upon the close of business on February 24, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 70-23

ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF MICHAEL MANNARINO FROM THE ROSELLE PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Roselle Park, County of Union, State of New Jersey hereby accepts the resignation of Michael Mannarino from the Roselle Park Fire Department effective February 10, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 71-23

ENCOURAGING CITIZENS BANK TO EXPAND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE “SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD” PROGRAM, AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE SAME

WHEREAS, on a cyclical basis, Citizens Bank sponsors a “Small Business Community Champion Award” program (the “Award Program”) which disburses thirty (30) prizes of ten-thousand dollars and zero cents (\$10,000.00) each to small businesses across the United States; and,

WHEREAS, such program is intended to acknowledge small businesses as the “heartbeat” of communities, and show appreciation and support for small businesses as local job creators and economic engines; and,

WHEREAS, one requirement of the Award Program is that a small business must have at least five (5) part-time or full-time employees in order to participate and be eligible for consideration; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of Roselle Park is a community with at least one-hundred eighty-six (186) known businesses; and,

WHEREAS, over one-hundred (100) of the one-hundred eighty-six (186) known businesses within of the Borough of Roselle – over fifty percent (50.00%) – are small businesses who employ under five (5) part-time or full-time employees, thus making them ineligible for the Award Program; and,

WHEREAS, it is the sense of the governing body of the Borough of Roselle Park to encourage eligibility criteria for initiatives such as the Award Program that more aptly recognizes the efforts of small businesses in the local business community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Roselle Park, County of Union, State of New Jersey hereby encourages Citizens Bank to expand eligibility criteria for the Award Program and formally expresses its support for action in furtherance of the same; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon adoption of the foregoing Resolution the Borough Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a fully executed copy of the same to Citizens Bank as appropriate.

RESOLUTION NO. 72-23

ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF NICHOLAS DE LA PENA
FROM THE ROSELLE PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Roselle Park, County of Union, State of New Jersey hereby accepts the resignation of Nicholas De La Pena from the Roselle Park Fire Department effective February 9, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 73-23

ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF JONATHAN MEJIA FROM
THE ROSELLE PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Roselle Park, County of Union, State of New Jersey hereby accepts the resignation of Jonathan Mejia from the Roselle Park Fire Department effective February 9, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 74-23

REMOVING JOSEPH STULEC FROM THE ROSELLE PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, in review of the volunteer membership of the Roselle Park Fire Department, the Chief of Department has recommended the formal removal of a volunteer firefighter; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council (hereinafter, the “Governing Body”) wish to effectuate this formal removal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Roselle Park, County of Union, State of New Jersey, upon the recommendation of the Chief of the Roselle Park Fire Department do hereby remove Joseph Stulec from his capacity as a member of the Roselle Park Fire Department effective February 9, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 75-23

APPOINTING SANDRA LYNCH AS A MEMBER OF
THE ROSELLE PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Roselle Park, County of Union, State of New Jersey hereby appoint Sandra Lynch of 107 East Westfield Avenue, Apt. 201, Roselle Park,

New Jersey 07204 as a member of the Roselle Park Fire Department, effective immediately, to be assigned to the Central Fire Co., Station No. 2.

RESOLUTION NO. 76-23

APPOINTING JOHN JAMES RANIERI AS A MEMBER OF
THE ROSELLE PARK FIRE PATROL

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Roselle Park, County of Union, State of New Jersey, at the recommendation of the Fire Chief, hereby appoints John James Ranieri of 416 Birch Street, Roselle Park, New Jersey 07204 to the Roselle Park Fire Patrol effective immediately.

RESOLUTION NO. 77-23

AUTHORIZING THE DECOMMISSIONING OF THREE (3) MUNICIPAL VEHICLES TO BE
USED DURING EXTRICATION TRAINING BY THE ROSELLE PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Borough of the Roselle Park (the "Borough") owns certain vehicles that are no longer in service, and are of negligible fair value; and,

WHEREAS, the Roselle Park Fire Department has requested final use of these vehicles to facilitate extrication training; and,

WHEREAS, by way of the foregoing Resolution the governing body wishes to memorialize the decommissioning of the enumerated vehicles, and set forth the provisions for their final disposition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Roselle Park, County of Union, State of New Jersey that the following vehicles be and are hereby decommissioned by the Borough and should be slated for sole use by the Roselle Park Fire Department as part of extrication training:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Make</u>	<u>Model</u>	<u>VIN Number</u>
1998	GMC	Suburban	1GK GK26R7WJ714385
1995	Chevrolet	Suburban	1GNGK26K8SJ397233
1999	Chevrolet	Blazer	1GN DT13W4XK202909

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon the adoption of the foregoing Resolution all vehicles referenced herein shall be stripped of licenses plates which shall be surrendered to the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission as necessary and appropriate; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon the adoption of the foregoing Resolution all vehicles referenced herein shall be removed from the various insurance policies of the Borough; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon the completion of extrication training, the Certificates Title for each vehicle so listed above shall be endorsed by the Borough Clerk to the entity contracted for removal of the vehicle wreckage without any further consideration; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the foregoing authorization(s) shall be acknowledged as made in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey related to the disposition of property including, but not limited to *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-36*.

RESOLUTION NO. 78-23

AUTHORIZING A PROGRAM AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF ROSELLE PARK
AND SHERRI HESKEYAHU IN CONNECTION WITH ROSELLE PARK HOUSING
REHABILITATION PROGRAM CASE NO. RP-51 FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE PROPERTY
LOCATED AT 462 COLONIAL ROAD KNOWN AS BLOCK 1113, LOT 6 OF THE MUNICIPAL
TAX MAP

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Roselle Park, County of Union, State of New Jersey hereby authorize an agreement between the Borough of Roselle Park (hereinafter, the "Borough") and Sherri Heskeyahu in connection with Roselle Park Housing Rehabilitation Program Case No. RP-51 for the improvement of the property located at 462 Colonial Road, Roselle Park, New Jersey 07204 known as Block 1113, Lot 6 of the municipal tax map.

REPORTS OF BOROUGH COUNCIL

Councilman Signorello

Noted and appreciated everyone's concern regarding Ordinance No. 2713 with the street cleaning process. Please continue to send all your concerns to Mr. Casais.

Noted there was a small fire in Woodside Gardens. I would like to thank one resident, who acted swiftly going to apartment with a fire extinguisher. This resident saved a lot of damage from being done. Thanked the Fire Department for responding quickly.

Please reach out to me or Ms. Corrigan, either by calling or by email, if there are street lights not working. Many have been replaced. Some may be brighter than others that were replaced.

Provided contact information.

Councilman Johnson

Attended the Ground Breaking/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the Hunter Property.

Attended the Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at House 157. He wishes them great success.

A special thanks to Superintendent Baiamonte and Councilman Signorello for helping him address the Avon Street pothole concerns.

A special thanks to Mr. Belluscio and Mr. Casais for working with him to draft an ordinance regarding the double utility poles that are not only unsightly, but pose safety concerns.

Mayor Signorello noted there's a general cleanliness issue with the poles. Could they be merged together. There's some messiness going on with the wire lines underneath.

Councilman Johnson stated absolutely. There's nothing wrong holding utility companies accountable, while setting forth guidelines for them to follow.

Councilman Johnson received a couple emails pertaining to rodents/rats infestation. He will ask Mr. Casais if we can send a newsletter with tips for residents on how to mitigate those concerns. Received a letter from Westfield Regional Health Department noting that animal feces must be cleaned up on a daily basis. Also, clean up the yard and driveway and cut the grass. Basic things we are already doing. Place garbage in metal or plastic containers. Westfield Regional Health Department did visit the area and they are going to sight the residents who are not cleaning up after themselves. He does not want to see residents sighted. Please be neighborly and considerate and clean up your property.

Encouraged all that their voice matters, and that he would always put the needs of Roselle Park residents first.

Provided contact information.

Councilman Petrosky

Expressed condolences to the family of Joyce Beauchamp.

Attended on February 3rd the Ground Breaking/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the Hunter Property.

Attended on February 4th the Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at House 157. Wishing them good luck.

On February 6th attended the Meridia Valentine's Day Event, which had Donato's Florist with flowers. It was well attended.

On February 6th attended the Fire Department Meeting.

On February 8th attended the Recreation Department Meeting.

Noted the Easter Candy Event will be at the Roselle Park Library on April 1st from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Flyers will be sent out soon.

On February 16th attended the Joint Sewer Meeting. The meeting consisted of purchasing equipment for the upcoming year.

Noted he would like to bring in and acknowledge Mason Harms. He received his 100th victory.

Provided contact information.

Councilwoman Lyons

Started her report with a proverb: Eyes that focus on what is beautiful bring joy to the heart and hearing a good report refreshes and strengthens the inner being.

She also has a joke: Father said to his son, can I borrow a newspaper? The son looked at him and said dad it's 2023. Why would I have a newspaper. You can borrow my IPAD. I could tell you this, the spider never knew what hit him.

Noted everyone loves change; especially in Roselle Park. The point is some things have to happen. We are going to hear what all of you have to say. We are going to do our best to do keep Roselle Park clean.

Attended on February 3rd the Ground Breaking/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the Hunter Property.

Would like to highlight Lidio's Café. It's family owned. Please stop by.

Congratulated House 157 Restaurant for their Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Wishing them the best.

Please reach out to me if you would like me to help, promote and highlight your business in Roselle Park.

On February 8th attended the pre-construction meeting for the sidewalk improvement program.

Attended the Library Board Meeting on February 15th. Would like to congratulate Kit Rubino on her retirement.

Noted and would like to highlight Read Across America happening on March 23rd.

Provided Contact information.

Councilman Patel

Attended the Meridia event making your own bouquet.

Recently, no parking zone/loading zone was installed at 240 Meridia to help stop double parking on Westfield. New lights were added to brighten up the sidewalks by Meridia

He delivered his first newsletter to every house in the 4th Ward. He will continue to work on improving communication between the residents and the town. Please check his social media and website for resources and digital newsletter. The newsletter encourages people to contact me. A couple of comments were mentioned regarding the street cleaning ordinance. Many residents can't make it due various reason and inquired if the town would set up a Zoom call, so they can voice their opinions.

As Council Chair of Roselle Park Commerce, he wanted to highlight new businesses in town. He attended the Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for House 157 Restaurant. They have many events. He wishes them much success. Also, would like to highlight Landz Music on West Westfield Avenue.

Noted he appreciates the Council's support on Resolution No. 71-23. Resolution No. 71-23 will give all small businesses a chance to win a \$10,000 award.

As the liaison of the Environmental Commission, would like to remind the residents that they can request the planting of a shade tree.

Noted some resident complaints that have been addressed. Thanked Chief McCaffery and Superintendent Baiamonte for their help with the complaints.

Provided contact information.

Councilman Robaina

Attended on February 3rd the Ground Breaking/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the Hunter Property.

Attended on February 4th the Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at House 157.

On February 9th I attended a Best Management Practices & Innovations in Storm Management Workshop. They spoke about simple solutions to relieve the strain on the stormwater system and how green infrastructure can mitigate flooding.

Noted attended the North Jersey Transportation Planning Association Meeting where there was a presentation on Middlesex County's Vision Zero Plan, which is an action plan to eliminate traffic-related fatal and serious injury crashes. Drivers are easily distracted with technology. Pedestrians and drivers both need to follow the traffic laws.

Noted the recent derailments and locally it's a reminder that all types of materials and millions of dollars of freight roll through our Borough's backyard. He asked the Administrator, the Construction Official and the Engineer to ensure all of our rails and right of ways, active, inactive and abandoned, are inspected and the infrastructure in and around them are safe.

Noted and asked to explore an extension of the bike and pedestrian path. It would be great to extend that path between Locust Street and Laurel Avenue along the Raritan Valley.

Save the date, Saturday, May 20th is the Annual Bike Safety and Helmet Giveaway at Mauri Park.

Noted he's hosting an informal event for 5th Ward residents on February 21st from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Ebenezer's Restaurant located on Westfield Avenue. He will listen to concerns and will also announce additional outreach events.

Would to thank everyone who reached out to him with well wishes on our upcoming addition to our family.

Provided contact information.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS (No Council Confirmation Required Effective Immediately)

Deputy Borough Clerk Corrigan read the following Mayoral Appointments into the record:

1. Appointing Anna Latorre of 119 Dalton Street, Roselle Park, New Jersey 07204 to the Mayor's Health and Wellness Committee to fill the unexpired term of Jamie O'Connell set to expire December 31, 2023.
2. Appointing Ursima Calenicoff of 115 East Lincoln Avenue, Roselle Park, New Jersey 07204 to the Mayor's Health and Wellness Committee to fill the unexpired term of Megan Appello set to expire December 31, 2023.

Mayor Signorello

Thanked Deputy Borough Clerk Corrigan for a great job.

Mayor Signorello will MC the Aldene School Tricky Tray event on April 15th. Please come and support or donate.

Mayor Signorello noted the Finance Committee will have their first meeting next week. We are facing an enormous head wind from a finance perspective this year. We will be advocating for more State Aid and more support. If the State does not act, many towns around us and including Roselle Park, will pay more. Encouraging residents to look into the Anchor Program before the deadline. We are looking into a half million-dollar cost increase. The Local Finance Board tells us that we need to tighten our belts locally. We already share many services.

Mr. Blum noted it's a million-dollar increase. We will have some challenges ahead. We are going to do our best. Hoping for more State Aid. It was promised in the past; hopefully they will come through. It's not unique to Roselle Park

Mayor Signorello noted it's very frustrating. The budget that we have is pretty much set in stone with the salaries we have on our books. The State is running out of excuses for things like our energy receipt tax. We only saw one last year. It's time for the Governor to put focus on some of the affordability we have locally.

Provided contact information.

PUBLIC PORTION

Councilman Signorello moved at 8:25 p.m. to open the public comment portion of the meeting on any subject matter; seconded by Councilman Johnson, all members present voting Aye, said motion was adopted.

Jodi Bellomo, 208-210 Chestnut Street

Ms. Bellomo would like to know if 240 & 250 Meridia is still on temporary certificate of occupancy. If so, why? Will there be a restaurant at Meridia.

Mayor Signorello noted he's not sure if they are still on a temporary certificate of occupancy. He will check with Construction Official Belluscio. They still want to put a restaurant there. They are advertising. He thinks they want to move the liquor licensing from there to the new sight.

Ms. Bellomo stated if they still have a temporary certificate of occupancy, they should be sighted. There's no follow through in this town. As homeowners, we are not allowed to do what they are doing.

Mayor Signorello noted he will follow up with the Construction Official and will get back to her.

Joseph DeIorio, 824 Larch Street

Mr. DeIorio noted these discussions have been said before of Meridia filling the commercial spaces at the locations. The apartments are all filled up, but the commercial spaces are empty. He believes we have the ordinance for empty commercial space locations. He's concerned the location at Westfield and Chestnut will fill up the apartments and the commercial space will also be vacant. We need to set the standards now with 240 & 250 Meridia before the other locations are done.

Mayor Signorello noted the mechanisms we have of the empty store front ordinance. They will be subject to that this year. This is something we need to close the loop on. He's not sure as per the redevelopment agreement, whether it states they have to put retail or restaurant.

Mr. DeIorio stated just get it filled.

Councilman Signorello noted a Roselle Park resident is trying to bring a business to the new Meridia sight.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Councilman Signorello moved at 8:33 p.m. to close the public comment portion of the meeting on any subject matter; seconded by Councilman Johnson, all members present voting Aye, said motion was adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Councilman Signorello moved at 8:33 p.m. to adjourn; seconded by Councilman Johnson, all members present voting Aye, said motion was adopted.

Attest:

Andrew J. Casais, RMC
Borough Clerk