

MARCH 21, 2024 REGULAR MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL

READING OF PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW ARTICLE

Mayor Signorello read the following statement into the record:

This meeting is being held in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of this meeting was published in the Union County Local Source and the Newark Star-Ledger. Said notice was posted in the Municipal Building, and a copy is on file with the Office of the Borough Clerk.

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 Borough 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/PRAYER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

COMMUNICATIONS

None

PROCLAMATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

1. Women’s History Month

Mayor Signorello said we have a proclamation for Women’s History Month and a certificate for Woman of the Year and invited Councilwoman Lyons, Councilman Patel and Ms. Gilda DeIorio and her family to the dais.

Councilwoman Lyons said this is Women’s History Month and congratulated Gilda DeIorio on being named 2024 Woman of the Year. Councilman Patel read a brief synopsis of Ms. DeIorio’s career and dedication to the community.

Former Mayor Joseph DeIorio spoke on behalf of his mother, and thanked all her customers, neighbors and employees who helped her along these last 45 years while she was in business.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, PENDING ANY CORRECTIONS

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

1. Regular Meeting of March 7, 2024

MOTION BILLS & PAYROLLS BE NOT READ AND PASSED FOR PAYMENT

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

PUBLIC PORTION

Councilman Petrosky moved at 7:12 p.m. to open the public comment portion of the meeting on agenda items only; seconded by Councilman Robaina, all members present voting Aye, said motion was adopted.

There being no one wishing to speak, Councilman Petrosky moved at 7:13 p.m. to close the public comment portion of the meeting on agenda items only; seconded by Councilman Robaina, all members present voting Aye, said motion was adopted.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS

Finance Department: Kenneth P. Blum, Jr., Chief Financial Officer

Noted we will be presenting the budget introduction at the next Council Meeting.

Scheduled Verbal Reports:

None

Written Reports Received:

1. Court Administrator's Report for February 2024
2. Treasurer's Report for January 2024
3. Treasurer's Report for February 2024

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

ORDINANCES

SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING

Deputy Borough Clerk Corrigan read the following Ordinance by title:

ORDINANCE NO. 2772

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 4, SECTION 11, SUBSECTION 2 OF THE CODE

OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSELLE PARK, ENTITLED “LOCAL LICENSE REQUIRED”

Councilman Petrosky moved to open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2772; seconded by Councilman Robaina, all members present voting Aye, said motion was adopted.

There being no one wishing to speak, Councilman Petrosky moved to close the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2772; seconded by Councilman Robaina, all members present voting Aye, said motion was adopted.

Councilman Petrosky moved that Ordinance No. 2772 be adopted on second reading and advertised as prescribed by law; seconded by Councilman Robaina.

Mayor Signorello said as part of the licensing process, we have a body which is made up of the Mayor, Chief Administrative Officer, Chief of Police, Zoning Officer and Class II Member of the Municipal Land Use Board. The addition we are making tonight is there will be a member of the Borough Council formally appointed by Council on an annual basis and a member of the public appointed by the Mayor. He said basically we set a time of the year for applications for marijuana licensing, we review them, score them and approve them based on whether or not they are acceptable. That process has happened last year and is closed, and there are no more licenses to give out from a retail perspective; so we will entertain for potential licenses if they come up.

<input type="checkbox"/> Vote Record – Ordinance No. 2772					
		Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adopted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopted as Amended	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Defeated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tabled	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Petrosky	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Johnson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Signorello, Jr.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Robaina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	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 Petrosky; seconded by Councilman Robaina, all members present voting Aye, said motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 92-24

AUTHORIZING CERTAIN APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS

WHEREAS, it shall become necessary to expend, for some of the purposes specified in the Budget, an excess of the respective sums appropriated; and,

WHEREAS, there is an excess in one or more appropriations over and above the amount deemed necessary to fulfill the purposes of such appropriations; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed transfers do not affect any appropriation to which or from which transfers are prohibited under statute.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Roselle Park, County of Union, State of New Jersey that the below captioned transfers between appropriations be authorized pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40:4-59*:

TRANSFERS TO:

<u>ACCOUNT #</u>	<u>ACCOUNT NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
01-0140-00-01112-210	Legal Services OE - Miscellaneous	\$ 75,000.00
01-0140-00-01452-264	Streets & Road Maintenance OE - Cinders & Salt	\$ 25,000.00
01-0140-00-01901-115	Compensated Absences S&W - Compensated Absences	\$ 200,000.00
01-0140-00-03802-210	Capital Improvement Fund OE - Miscellaneous	\$ 100,000.00
Total		<u>\$ 400,000.00</u>

(Continued on Next Page)

TRANSFERS FROM:

<u>ACCOUNT #</u>	<u>ACCOUNT NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
01-0140-00-01011-101	Clerk S&W - Regular	\$ 17,000.00
01-0140-00-01012-203	Clerk OE - Elections	\$ 8,000.00
01-0140-00-01032-353	Financial Administration OE - Bank Service Charges	\$ 20,000.00
01-0140-00-01192-204	Buildings & Grounds OE - Maintenance of Equipment	\$ 5,000.00
01-0140-00-01192-205	Buildings & Grounds OE - Professional Fees & O/S Serv	\$ 10,000.00
01-0140-00-01192-214	Buildings & Grounds OE - Other Materials & Supplies	\$ 1,000.00
01-0140-00-01192-215	Buildings & Grounds OE - Purchase of Equipment	\$ 5,000.00
01-0140-00-01192-221	Buildings & Grounds OE - Hardware, Cleaning & Supplies	\$ 1,000.00
01-0140-00-01192-222	Buildings & Grounds OE - Electric	\$ 1,000.00
01-0140-00-01192-223	Buildings & Grounds OE - Plumbing, Heating & A/C	\$ 6,000.00
01-0140-00-01192-226	Buildings & Grounds OE - Beautification Program	\$ 5,000.00
01-0140-00-01252-210	Group Insurance Plans for Employees OE - Miscellaneous	\$ 15,000.00
01-0140-00-01258-210	Health Benefits Waiver OE - Miscellaneous	\$ 2,000.00
01-0140-00-01331-101	Fire S&W - Regular	\$ 6,000.00
01-0140-00-01351-101	Fire Protection S&W - Regular	\$ 1,000.00
01-0140-00-01371-101	Police Salaries and Wages - Regular	\$ 30,000.00
01-0140-00-01371-102	Police Salaries and Wages - Overtime	\$ 31,000.00
01-0140-00-01371-103	Police Salaries and Wages - Part-Time	\$ 4,000.00
01-0140-00-01371-106	Police Salaries and Wages - SLEO	\$ 14,000.00
01-0140-00-01391-101	Traffic Control School Guards S&W - Regular	\$ 6,000.00
01-0140-00-01442-370	Maintenance of Vehicles OE - Fire	\$ 1,000.00
01-0140-00-01442-371	Maintenance of Vehicles OE - Police	\$ 5,000.00
01-0140-00-01442-372	Maintenance of Vehicles OE - Emergency Management	\$ 5,000.00
01-0140-00-01442-373	Maintenance of Vehicles OE - Public Works	\$ 20,000.00
01-0140-00-01442-390	Maintenance of Vehicles OE - Construction Code	\$ 5,000.00
01-0140-00-01451-101	Streets & Road Maintenance S&W - Regular	\$ 2,000.00
01-0140-00-01451-102	Streets & Road Maintenance S&W - Overtime	\$ 5,000.00
01-0140-00-01472-210	Solid Waste Disposal Cost OE - Miscellaneous	\$ 12,000.00
01-0140-00-01482-210	Solid Waste Collection Cost OE - Miscellaneous	\$ 5,000.00
01-0140-00-01492-210	Recycling OE - Miscellaneous	\$ 10,000.00
01-0140-00-01591-101	Recreation S&W - Regular	\$ 38,000.00
01-0140-00-01631-101	Community Center S&W	\$ 22,000.00
01-0140-00-01671-103	Code Enforcement S&W - Part Time	\$ 12,000.00
01-0140-00-01802-210	Street Lighting OE - Miscellaneous	\$ 9,000.00
01-0140-00-01832-210	Telephone OE - Miscellaneous	\$ 5,000.00
01-0140-00-01842-210	Electricity OE - Miscellaneous	\$ 10,000.00
01-0140-00-01842-235	Electricity OE - Traffic Light Electric Service	\$ 5,000.00
01-0140-00-01852-210	Water OE - Miscellaneous	\$ 8,000.00
01-0140-00-01862-210	Gas OE - Miscellaneous	\$ 12,000.00
01-0140-00-01872-210	Gasoline OE - Miscellaneous	\$ 11,000.00
01-0140-00-02005-210	DCRP OE - Miscellaneous	\$ 5,000.00
01-0140-00-02012-210	Social Security OE - Miscellaneous	\$ 5,000.00
Total		<u>\$ 400,000.00</u>

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be filed forthwith with the Chief Financial Officer.

RESOLUTION NO. 93-24

AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF THE 2024 UNION COUNTY
INFRASTRUCTURE AND MUNICIPAL AID GRANT

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Roselle Park, County of Union, State of New Jersey hereby authorizes submission of the following 2024 Union County Infrastructure and Municipal Aid Grant application; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is formally acknowledged that all funds awarded through this grant must be matched dollar for dollar by the Borough of Roselle Park:

Priority No. 1: Improvements to Boy Scout Park

Planned improvements include aesthetic upgrades to green space and the affirmation of the park's passive nature. This is a place-making effort for the benefit of the local neighborhood. Specific work includes the installation of a new flag pole, complete with adequate up lighting, and a new shaded structure centrally located in the park with ADA compliant leading paths, and new electrical services.

Priority No. 1 Grant Request:	\$ 77,220.00
Priority No. 1 Local Match:	\$ 77,220.00
Total Anticipated Project Cost:	\$ 154,440.00

Grand Totals and Summary of Priorities:

Total 2024 Grant Request Amount:	\$ 77,220.00
Total 2024 Local Match Amount:	\$ 77,220.00
Total Anticipated Cost of Projects:	\$ 154,440.00

The following Resolution was offered by Councilman Petrosky; seconded by Councilman Robaina.

RESOLUTION NO. 94-24

DESIGNATING THE AREA IDENTIFIED AS BLOCK 608, LOTS 1.01, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 AND 24.01 OF THE MUNICIPAL TAX MAP OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSELLE PARK, COMMONLY KNOWN AS 107 FILBERT STREET, 110 CHESTNUT STREET, 1 WEST WESTFIELD AVENUE, 5-9 WEST WESTFIELD AVENUE, 11-13 WEST WESTFIELD AVENUE, 15 WEST WESTFIELD AVENUE, 21 WEST WESTFIELD AVENUE, 33 WEST WESTFIELD AVENUE AND 37-39 WEST WESTFIELD AVENUE ALONG WITH ALL STREETS AND RIGHTS OF WAY APPURTENANT THERETO, AS A NON-CONDEMNATION AREA IN NEED OF REDEVELOPMENT PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 ET SEQ.

WHEREAS, the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, *N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et seq.* (the "**Redevelopment Law**") authorizes municipalities to determine whether certain parcels of land located therein constitute areas in need of redevelopment; and,

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 210-23, adopted on July 20, 2023, , the municipal council (the "**Borough Council**") of the Borough of Roselle Park (the "**Borough**") authorized and directed the Borough's Municipal Land Use Board (the "**Land Use Board**") to conduct a preliminary investigation to determine whether the properties identified as Block 608, Lots 1.01, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24.01 on the Borough's tax maps, along with all streets and rights of way appurtenant thereto (the "**Study Area**")

meet the criteria set forth in the Redevelopment Law for designation as a condemnation area in need of redevelopment; and,

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 212-23, adopted on July 20, 2023, the Borough Council authorized and directed the Borough's Planning Consultant, CME Associates (the "**Planning Consultant**"), to perform the preliminary investigation to determine whether the Study Area meets the criteria set forth in the Redevelopment Law for designation as a condemnation area in need of redevelopment and prepare a report containing its findings; and,

WHEREAS, the Planning Consultant undertook the preliminary investigation and prepared a report containing its findings entitled, "Condemnation Area in Need of Redevelopment Study Block 608, Lots 1.01, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 22, 23, and 24.01, Borough of Roselle Park, Union County, NJ" dated November 30, 2023 (the "**Report**"); and,

WHEREAS, the Redevelopment Law requires the Land Use Board to conduct a public hearing prior to a determination whether the Study Area should be designated as a condemnation area in need of redevelopment, at which hearing the Land Use Board shall hear all persons who are interested in or would be affected by a determination that the property is an area in need of redevelopment; and,

WHEREAS, on December 18, 2023, after providing due notice, the Land Use Board conducted a public hearing (the "**Public Hearing**") in accordance with the Redevelopment Law to determine whether the Study Area qualifies as a condemnation area in need of redevelopment and whether to recommend the Borough Council designate the Study Area as a condemnation area in need of redevelopment; and,

WHEREAS, at the Public Hearing, the Land Use Board reviewed the findings of the Planning Consultant set forth in the Report, heard expert testimony from the Planning Consultant, and gave members of the public and interested parties an opportunity to be heard regarding the potential designation of the Study Area as a condemnation area in need of redevelopment; and,

WHEREAS, the Planning Consultant concluded in the Report, and testified to the Land Use Board at the Public Hearing, that there is evidence to support the conclusion that the properties in the Study Area satisfy the criteria set forth in the Redevelopment Law for designation as a condemnation area in need of redevelopment; and,

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of the Public Hearing, the Land Use Board determined, for the reasons set forth in the Report and explained on the record during the public hearing as memorialized in a resolution of the Land Use Board, that the properties in the Study Area meet the criteria set forth in the Redevelopment Law for designation as a condemnation area in need of redevelopment; and,

WHEREAS, however, for the reasons set forth in the Report and explained on the record during the public hearing as memorialized in a resolution of the Land Use Board, the Land Use Board recommended that the Borough Council designate the Study Area as a non-condemnation area in need of redevelopment pursuant to the Redevelopment Law; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council agrees with the Land Use Board's findings and recommendations and the Planning Consultant's conclusions set forth in the Report, and desires to designate the Study Area as a non-condemnation area in need of redevelopment pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-6*, such designation authorizing the Borough and Borough Council to use all those powers provided by the Redevelopment Law for use in an area in need of redevelopment, other than the power of eminent domain.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Roselle Park, County of Union, State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1.

The aforementioned recitals hereof are incorporated herein as though set forth at length herein.

SECTION 2.

After considering the conclusions set forth in the Report and the Land Use Board's findings and recommendations, the Borough hereby finds that the Study Area meets the statutory criteria pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-5* for designation as a non-condemnation area in need of redevelopment, and the Study Area is hereby designated as a non-condemnation area in need of

redevelopment pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 40A:12A-6 (the “**Non-Condemnation Redevelopment Area**”).

SECTION 3.

The designation of the Study Area as a non-condemnation area in need of redevelopment shall authorize the Borough to exercise all of its powers under the Redevelopment Law in the Non-Condemnation Redevelopment Area, other than the power of eminent domain.

SECTION 4.

The Borough Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for review pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 40A:12A-6 (b)(5)(c) of the Redevelopment Law.

SECTION 5.

The Borough Clerk is hereby directed to serve, within ten (10) days hereof, a copy of this Resolution upon (i) all record owners of property located within the Non-Condemnation Redevelopment Area, as reflected on the tax assessor’s records, and (ii) each person who filed a written objection prior to the Public Hearing, service to be in the manner provided by *N.J.S.A.* 40A:12A-6 of the Redevelopment Law.

SECTION 6.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Mayor Signorello asked Ms. Fran McManimon of McManimon Scotland & Baumann and Mr. Ron Reinertsen of CME up to the dais so that everyone understands where this is going. He said we haven’t done redevelopment in a while and there are three stages to it: the Redevelopment Study, the Redevelopment Plan and the Redevelopment Agreement; and this theoretically would be the first part of that.

Mr. Reinertsen said they did the study.

Mayor Signorello said the one outcome from this recommendation from the Municipal Land Use Board, that the Borough accepted, was rather than condemnation using non-condemnation. He said for everyone’s understanding this is a non-condemnation study. He further said we could do nothing with this at this point. The study is there should any Mayor or Council eventually want to do a non-condemnation project there and revisit that in the future, but this could also end there.

Ms. McManimon said the study is there and the designation is there in order for any development to take place and the Council would need to adopt a Redevelopment Plan.

Mr. Reinertsen said the key word is “may” in this statute. It doesn’t say shall adopt a plan; it says may at some point.

Mayor Signorello said this is recognizing the study is done and putting a stamp on it and if we choose to revisit that in the future, we may do so.

Mr. Reinertsen said that is correct, and the one change in the wording of the plan is going from condemnation to non-condemnation.

Councilman Patel said the Resolution said to notify the business owners and asked if we can make it that also the business tenant is notified; in case you are renting the place.

Mr. Reinertsen said that is more a legal question, which is an interesting point that came up the other day. He said there is case law on this and tenants do not have to be notified because they are not fee owners and do not have an interest in the property itself and are leasing it from their landlord.

Mayor Signorello said we, as a Borough, recognize the taxpayer and the tax owner. He feels it would be an extra onus on the Borough that doesn't need to happen, and feels it is not our responsibility.

<input type="checkbox"/> Vote Record – Resolution No. 94-24					
		Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adopted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopted as Amended	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Defeated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tabled	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Petrosky	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Johnson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Signorello, Jr.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Robaina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	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"/>

REPORTS OF BOROUGH COUNCIL

Councilman Petrosky

Expressed condolences to the families of Michael Tango, Patricia Jobe and John Maiorelli.

March 13th attended the Recreation Meeting and spoke about the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt that was scheduled for Saturday, March 23rd, but was moved to Sunday, March 24th at the Library from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon due to inclement weather.

March 16th attended the Casano Center St. Patrick's Day Celebration, and commended Rupen Shah on a job well done. They had a great turn out and actually ran out of food.

March 21st attended the Joint Sewer Meeting, and provided an update on what took place at the meeting.

Wished a happy birthday to Roselle Park, which was incorporated on March 22, 1901. The Historical Society is planning a celebration in two years in 2026 when Roelle Park will be 125 years old, and our Nation will be 250 years old.

Provided contact information.

Councilman Johnson

Acknowledged this month as Women's History and Irish Heritage Month.

Noted he had planned to attend the Casano Center St. Patrick's Celebration and having corn beef, but unfortunately, they ran out of food. Commended Rupen Shah on a job well done.

Touched base on reporting crimes and reporting infractions. He said he received several emails in regards to things he felt should have been sent to the Police Department. For urgent and non-urgent Police matters, feel free to copy him and he can always follow-up, but for an immediate response, please call the Police Department.

Gave a special shout out to Alex Balaban and Heather and Brian Dunne from Animal Rescue for helping out his family in resolving a domestic bunny concern.

As Public Safety Liaison, he thanked the Roselle Park Police Department on doing a fine job on the traffic safety study.

Provided contact information.

Mayor Signorello asked the public to please refrain from leaving abandoned pets of any kind at any elected officials' homes.

Councilman Signorello

March 8th attended the Sherman School Read Across America and read the book "Left Foot, Right Foot." It was a joy talking about fire safety, calling 911 and he brought in a smoke detector and a carbon monoxide detector.

Noted if you have a street light out to please email him or email the Clerk's Office.

Provided contact information.

Wished everyone a nice holiday next week.

Councilwoman Lyons

March 8th attended Read Across America at Sherman School and Robert Gordon School and read to the 4th and 5th graders; it was a great time.

March 15th hosted a Women Inspiring Women Night at Costa's and we had a great turnout. Also had Playoke, which is a local business in town who are a karaoke team, and on April 12th she will be hosting a Karaoke Night at Costa's.

March 16th attended the Casano Center St Patrick's Day Celebration, and had a great time.

Attended the Library Board Meeting this week and provided an update on some of their events.

Provided contact information.

Councilman Patel

Noted the Environmental Commission is hosting its first Repair Café event at the Casano Center on Saturday, March 23rd from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. They will have experts on hand to fix beloved, but broken items for free.

The Community Garden sign ups will begin in April; stay tuned for updates in the coming weeks.

Thanked Mayor and Council for awarding Gilda DeIorio as Woman of the Year.

Provided contact information.

Councilman Robaina

Expressed condolences to the Matos and Edwards families.

On behalf of he and the 5th Ward residents, thanked Mayor Signorello for his unwavering commitment to improving our parks and open spaces. Resolution No. 93-24, which was passed this evening, authorizes the submission to the Union County Infrastructure and Municipal Aid Grant with a 50% match to improve Boy Scout Park.

March 9th attended a Budgeting Conference at Mercer County College, and heard examples on budget scenarios and funding opportunities.

April 17th from 5:15 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. he will be hosting a 5th Ward Public Safety and Listening Session, location to be determined, and are setting this up as a result of concerns due to vehicle thefts and home invasions in the area. Councilman Johnson, as Public Safety Chair and a representative of the Police Department will be on hand to hear concerns and provide information. If you see suspicious activity on your block, don't hesitate to call the Police Department at 908-245-2300.

Last week, as a PTA member and father of an 8th grader, supported the 8th Grade graduating class at their fundraiser at The Habit Burger Grill in Union and thanked all the families who came out to support and volunteered their time and energy to support our children and schools. On March 22nd, the 8th Grade Committee will be having a fundraiser at Wendy's in Roselle from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on March 28th from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., the Habit Burger in Union will host another fundraiser.

March 16th attended the Casano Center St. Patrick's Day Celebration, and thanked Rupen Shah for coordinating and organizing another fantastic event.

Attended a couple of webinars by the NJ Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Council and NJ DOT, and discussed public right of way accessory guidelines, NJ Bike and Walk Coalition and DOT updates, including the strategic highway safety plan overview.

Reminder the sign up sheet for the inaugural Tour de Roselle Park on May 4th is now available. The ride starts at 12:00 Noon and the clinic starts at 1:30 p.m.

Noted it's Irish Heritage Month and ended his report with an Irish Blessing: "May your joys be as deep as the oceans, your troubles as light as its foam and may you find sweet peace of mind wherever you may roam." Wished all who observe a peaceful Ramadan, Happy Holi, Happy Purim, Happy Easter and Happy Birthday Roselle Park!!

Provided contact information.

Mayor Signorello

Noted the State awarded us approximately \$37 million to renovate the train station. Unfortunately, our Project Manager for the train station renewal left for another job at Amtrak, which sort of set the project back a bit. They are 90% complete as far as design. He said they were looking to go out to bid in the Fall this year but now may go out to bid January 2025, with a likely start date of the end of 2025 or Fall of 2025. He said there are plans to add an elevator and overhaul the parking lot situation.

Spoke about Route 28 and pedestrian safety. He said there is only so much that the Roselle Park Police Department can do. He said he is constantly appalled with how little people have respect for driving in 2024 and going through stop signs in Roselle Park and speeding everywhere. He said we can take a look at the most painful areas, such as Route 28. Last year NJ DOT agreed to do a study on it, and his understanding is that they are continuing to do a study on it. He said he will continue to press on this and advocate with a listening session with Council on this once BA Casais is back.

Provided contact information.

PUBLIC PORTION

Councilman Petrosky moved at 7:43 p.m. to open the public comment portion of the meeting on any subject matter; seconded by Councilman Robaina, all members present voting Aye, said motion was adopted.

Adolfo DiCosmo, 531 Spruce Street

Asked about the Transit and if we are looking to give it a project labor grant with the building trades.

Borough Attorney DeMarco said if it's a public works Transit project, the State would have to use a contractor that does pay prevailing wage; but that would be funded by the State. He said this is not a project that is done by the town; it's a project that the town supports and that Transit does.

Mr. DiCosmo said he doesn't think we understand what he means by project.

Mr. DeMarco said he knows what a project labor agreement is; but there is no agreement to sign.

Mayor Signorello gave an example of when we need to build a new DPW building, that will be a project that is funded, overseen by Neglia Engineering and designed by us. That's within our realm, where we can do a PLA. This project is on NJ Transit land, so it's actually going to be done by NJ Transit; it is not a Roselle Park project. He said Roselle Park is not putting it out to bid; NJ Transit is putting it out to bid.

Betty Woodruff, 134 Bender Avenue

Had a question on the Cannabis Review Board; who is the Class II member and saw it was changed from five to seven members.

Mayor Signorello said it is officially seven members now, after the vote tonight. He said the Class II member is Andrew Casais.

Ms. Woodruff asked if it is officially seven, who are the last two members.

Mayor Signorello said on the next meeting agenda we can have Council vote on who they want amongst them to be number six and he will appoint a resident to be number seven.

Ms. Woodruff said so the Mayor is basically responsible for the whole committee.

Mayor Signorello said not entirely. As it works in our form of government with most positions, the Mayor makes the appointment and it is up to Council confirmation.

Ms. Woodruff asked who is the Police Chief and who is the Zoning Officer.

Mayor Signorello said Dominick Frino is the Police Chief and Richard Belluscio is the Zoning Officer.

Ms. Woodruff asked why the board was expanded to seven members.

Councilman Johnson said this is a strong Council and weak Mayor system; so therefore, he felt we should have a Council representative on there.

Jean Wands, 110 East Roselle Avenue

Asked what are the Borough's intended plans for cannabis sites; what do we have in mind, how many and where.

Mayor Signorello said last year there were three licenses awarded and we only have one applicant so far, which is the applicant on Westfield Avenue. There is an existing medical facility called Breakwater, which is located by McDonald's. They have an existing building and are building a future building behind it and will be knocking down the building in front. He said they have also requested a license for potentially recreational. We have one other applicant for another area on Westfield Avenue, so there will be a total of three.

Ms. Jeans said this is recreational marijuana and assumes these are shops where you can purchase recreational marijuana.

Mayor Signorello said yes, and these licenses are conditional on good behavior just like liquor licenses.

Ms. Wands said one of her concerns is also encouraging our children not to do drugs and not to do pot. She said if a town has sites in a one square mile, that's not really sending a positive message in her view and she is deeply concerned.

Mayor Signorello said he understands and appreciates the concern, and he also thinks underage drinking is a concern. He said he wants to assure her that they will be held accountable and if they are having issues, their license will be revoked.

Ms. Wands said now you will have people consuming alcohol and now consuming pot, and then driving; do we not have a moral responsibility to our citizens living in Roselle Park.

Mayor Signorello said respectfully they can go over the bridge into Roselle to get it. He said that problem already exists and it is legal to consume.

Ms. Wands said her disappointment is great and is saddened by it.

Gudrun Antonsson, 216 Bender Avenue

Asked if any Councilmember had a listening session about granting rights to a cannabis store before you voted on it.

Mayor Signorello said we have done listening sessions in the past; but no, not on cannabis.

Ms. Antonsson asked about the traffic study analysis.

Mayor Signorello said Route 28 has been identified as a problem area from a safety perspective.

Councilman Johnson said it was identified as a safety issue around the end of 2020 and the beginning of 2021. He said it was after the second fatality occurred off of Dalton and Route 28.

Ms. Antonsson asked if that was considered in the cannabis referendum.

Mayor Signorello said we think about public safety all the time.

Ms. Antonsson said there is a proposed change from professional services to a retail establishment, and if there has already been a fatality and known traffic problems from 2020 to 2021 that calls for a study and further action; shouldn't that have been included in part of your analysis.

Mayor Signorello said respectfully the problem we have on Route 28 is that Route 28 from Plainfield to Westfield to Garwood to Cranford is a one lane, 35 mph street. The problem we have in Roselle Park, which is a detriment to a lot of towns and cities in America, is that at some point they have turned it into a four lane highway. He said he agrees with her, but the answer is not, not doing business on Westfield Avenue anymore. The answer is turning it from four lanes into two lanes and having parking. He said it was considered as part of the Municipal Land Use Board application.

Mayor Signorello said we have done special listening sessions on a myriad of issues. He said nothing done here is hidden; everything we do is announced on the website and posted on Facebook. He said we did two votes on marijuana; one that had 6 yes votes for medical cannabis with only two members of the public there. The other was for recreational cannabis and there were maybe two people present for that.

Mayor Signorello gave permission to have residents come up and speak a second time during the public portion.

Betty Woodruff, 134 Bender Avenue

Asked how many of Mayor and Council would buy a house within a block of a cannabis store.

Councilman Johnson said we purchase houses near liquor stores; this is modern day prohibition.

Councilwoman Lyons said she is a hard no on cannabis and has spoken out as a resident. She said if there is a problem, the Governing Body is here to take care of it.

Mayor Signorello said he would rather own a home next to a thriving, clean business in a nice looking building irrespective of what that is versus a building that is falling apart, underutilized and being pretty close to blighted.

Ms. Woodruff said she just never expected this to happen and does not support it. She said Westfield, Garwood and Cranford do not have it.

Mayor Signorello said his hope and prayer is that respectfully he proves her wrong. He said he hopes they come in with a beautiful building and that she never hears a peep from it; and hopes that after 18 months from now she comes back and says it was no big deal.

Milton Woodruff, 134 Bender Avenue

Said his wife just spoke and he does not disagree with her at all.

Had a compliment for the Governing Body that the Christmas Tree Lighting was a nice affair that had crafters there as well, and said it was extremely well done. As a representative of the Methodist Church, they certainly appreciated the care and time taken to clean up before and afterwards. In conjunction with that, he had a suggestion to have crafters participate in the Farmers Market as well.

Mayor Signorello said he would bring this up to the Farmers Market Manager.

Mr. Woodruff asked about the marijuana ordinance and how far apart a store can be from a school or playground.

Mayor Signorello said the Federal statute is 500 ft. from a school and our ordinance is 1,500 ft. from a school.

Mr. Woodruff asked if the one they are talking about on Colonial Road was close to that.

Mayor Signorello asked Mr. Belluscio if there was a variance required for that and said the only variance there was for parking, and to his knowledge it was not within 1,500 feet.

Mr. Woodruff said parking is also going to be an issue. He said one of the issues the town is tending to overlook is trying to put marijuana in the same category as alcohol and feels we don't want to invite that type of clientele into our town. In addition to which, he doesn't think too many people have an objection to medical marijuana; but now possibly having three recreational cannabis locations, and asked what the rationale is for having three recreation locations in a one square mile town.

Mayor Signorello said he fundamentally disagrees with a lot of that thinking. He said we have zoned for retail and we have not zoned for any consumption.

Adolfo DiCosmo, 531 Spruce Street

Noted his concern is his five children and understands what the public is trying to say; but fentanyl is a problem today. He said he cannot control his children from doing drugs, but if they wanted to smoke marijuana, at least he knows that it is being monitored and fentanyl is not involved. Drugs are a problem, but if they are being monitored and there are no other illegal substances, such as fentanyl in it, you are actually going to be saving lives; and people have an open mind to that.

Councilwoman Lyons said on the other end, being clear minded and being completely sober should be an option and should be taught. She has been around many people that have tried something, they did not die, but they wasted their lives.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Councilman Petrosky moved at 8:18 p.m. to close the public comment portion of the meeting on any subject matter; seconded by Councilman Robaina, all members present voting Aye, said motion was adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Councilman Petrosky moved at 8:18 p.m. to adjourn; seconded by Councilman Robaina, all members present voting Aye, said motion was adopted.

Attest:

Donna L. Corrigan
Deputy Borough Clerk