

Borough of Roosevelt  
 33 N. Rochdale Avenue  
 Roosevelt, NJ 08555

Mayor and Council  
 Regular Meeting Minutes of March 6, 2023

Mayor Malkin opened the meeting at 7:06 p.m. and read the Open Public Meetings Act notice which stated, Adequate notice of this meeting, as required by Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, has been provided by a public notice on January 6, 2023 which was posted on the Bulletin Board Roosevelt Post Office and in the Borough Hall. The notice was published in The Times and Asbury Park Press.

ROLL CALL

	PRESENT	ABSENT	LATE ARRIVAL
<i>Councilmember Robert Atwood</i>	✓		
<i>Councilmember Lou Esakoff</i>	✓		
<i>Councilmember Michael Hamilton</i>	✓		
<i>Councilmember Constance Herrstrom</i>	✓		
<i>Councilmember Steven Macher</i>	✓		
<i>Councilmember Joe Trammell</i>	✓		
<i>Mayor Peggy Malkin</i>	✓		

Also in attendance: Greg Cannon, Esq., and Kathleen Hart, Borough Clerk.

MAYOR’S REPORT:

M/Malkin starts the meeting by talking about what happened here last week, we are all aware that a terrible tragedy occurred last Wednesday. Judy Hanin who lived here about 15 years, she was a gentle soul a quiet, she loved her cats and all animals. She was a private person but did have a circle of friends and neighbors. Her actions resulted in a horrendous situation and one that caused a series of dangerous and upsetting issues, it was the action of a desperate person. As Mayor Malkin and others stood at the scene it was difficult to comprehend what was unfolding before us, most of us were experiencing something that we never experienced before and certainly nothing our town has experienced. When Mayor Malkin had time to think about it the next day she realized something interesting we are living in a time of great upheaval and change, the last three years have been particularly stressful but believe it goes even further back. As the Mayor watched the huge gathering of Firefighters, EMT’s, Police, Government Officials, Utility Workers, Neighbors and so on and so on she was struck by something, all of these people came together to remedy the situation, there were so many facets, putting out the fire, evacuating neighbors, searching for the cats, and handling the death of Judy and on and on. Everyone at the scene knew their roll and went about their work, it was a cold raw day and it was not easy to be outside as the Mayor watched everyone it occurred to her that we didn’t know each other political views, religions, ethnicity, economic status or any other information, the cause of the anger and divisiveness that is so pervasive in our culture today. It was just people coming together to take care of each other and do what needed to be done. That realization lightens the Mayor’s heart and made her realize that in some ways we are all very lucky at the foundation we saw people of every background helping each other for the sake of helping. That was the one bright light in this horrible event.

On that note the Mayor would like to thank and recognize and honor some of the many, many people who contributed to remedying the situation, and states if I have forgotten anyone I am sincerely sorry:

The Millstone Fire and First Aid, Chief Jeff Wagner, Assistant Chief Sean McManus, Capt. Mike Maloney, Capt. Mike Wagner, Capt. Keith Buckalew, Capt. Alan South, Capt. Dallas Smith, Firefighters Darrell Reilly, Joe Howell, Nick Krause, Mark Mains, Andrew Hagenburg, Joseph Parento, Tim Byrne, Steven Koester, Lavar Wright, James Asprocolas and Michael Merritt. Also on scene: The New Jersey State Police, The New Jersey Department of Fire Safety, The Monmouth County Office of Emergency Management, The Monmouth County Fire Marshall Office, The Monmouth County Highway Department, Monroe Township Fire District II, The Hope Fire Company, The East Windsor Company II, The East Windsor Fire Company I, Robbinsville Fire Department, Plainsboro Fire Department, Cranbury Fire Department, Hamilton Township Fire Department, New Egypt Fire Department, Caseville Fire Company, Manalapan Township Fire Company II, Freehold Township Independent Fire Company, Naval Weapon Station Earl Fire Department, Wanamassa Fire Department, Squakum Fire Department, Adelpia Fire Company, Capital Health EMS, Freehold EMS and Middlesex County Regional Medical Examiner’s Office. It’s a lot of people who came to Roosevelt to help us and to all the people who were affected by this. The Mayor would like to extend on behalf of the Borough our extreme gratitude, appreciation and thanks, they made a horrible situation easier for us. C/Esakoff states that she was my dog sitter for a couple of years, and was a gentle soul and was just very lost.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda items only)

M/Malkin opened the meeting to Public Comment for agenda items only at 7:14 p.m.

No public comment.

M/Malkin closed the Public Comment for agenda items at 7:14 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Letter, dated January 26, 2023, from NJ Office of the Attorney General, Division of State Police, Emergency Management Section, regarding approval of the Roosevelt Borough Local Emergency Operation Plan. Our Plan was approved.

ORDINANCE:

SECOND READING

ORDINANCE 2023-01

An Ordinance Repealing And Replacing Current Code Section 12-5: “Registration And Maintenance Of Vacant And Abandoned Residential Properties In Foreclosure” With New Code Section 12-5: “Vacant And Foreclosed Properties; Registration” Within Chapter 12: “Property Maintenance” Of The Borough’s Revised General Ordinances To Update Regulations Pertaining To Vacant Properties Within The Borough To Comport With Newly Adopted State Law

C/Trammell made a motion to table Ordinance 2023-01, on second reading and carry to the March 20, 2023 meeting as the Asbury Park Press did not get the advertisement in the paper quick enough, with a second offered by C/Herrstrom.

Roll Call:

AYES: C/Atwood, C/Esakoff, C/Hamilton, C/Herrstrom, C/Macher, C/Trammell

NAYS: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None

Public Hearing to be held on March 20, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Borough of Roosevelt, 33 N. Rochdale Avenue, Roosevelt, NJ 08555

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 23-38

Payment of Bills for March 6, 2023

C/Esakoff made a motion to adopt, with a second offered by C/Trammell, to adopt the Consent Agenda Resolution 23-38, by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call:

AYES: C/Atwood, C/Esakoff, C/Hamilton, C/Herrstrom, C/Macher, C/Trammell  
 NAYS: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Environmental, Health & Safety: C/Atwood states he has received the Transportation Engineer Traffic Calming book and will review and then we will put together a committee.

Administration: C/Esakoff states we have come up with new wording for the building usage form. Council discusses if there is a conflict of interest with council members when voting on the use of borough hall. Since we are such a small town many volunteer on groups in town. If you are an officer of an organization, you should recuse yourself. C/Herrstrom wants to make a point that she is not a member of RAP.

Finance: C/Hamilton states we have to starting thinking about a meeting with the CFO regarding the 2023 budget. We should consider funding for some security equipment for the building.

Community Dev/Code: C/Herrstrom reports the Amphitheater Committee is reviewing proposals received and checking references. C/Herrstrom met to discuss the Roosevelt Senior group to going back to in person meetings and will report back. Mary Tulloss is talking with some of the older members in hopes of restarting the group back.

Public Works: No report.

Utilities: C/Trammel asks about the orange markers and C/Marcher states the Environmental Commission wants to put in stream gaging markers to see how the water levels change. M/Malkin asks if we know when the beaver catcher is coming? C/Trammell states that they are leaving N. Valley Road to us as that’s our property with the State doing Assunpink. C/Trammell states that most people are ok with the beavers being there. C/Trammell suggests that he speaks with Ellen Silverman, Environmental Commission Chair and discuss if we should bring this beaver trapper here and have him give us an idea how safe beavers are around people and what it is we should know about beavers. C/Trammell reports that T-Mobile is still working at the water tower and the lock at the gate is broken.

REPORTS OF BOROUGH OFFICIALS:

Ellen Silverman, 10 N Valley Road: Environmental Commission Chairperson reports Earth Day Celebration will be April 22, 2023, M/Malkin will plant a tree and will do an Arbor Day Proclamation at the first meeting in April. The Environmental Commission has ordered tree saplings for the students at school. Stream Clean Up will also take place on April 22, 2023. We also need a new contract for a Forester to do our Tree Inventory.

Michael Ticktin, 37 N Valley Road: Reports he has forwarded a copy of the CDBG application to C/Herrstrom to file for the grant. March 4<sup>th</sup>. was the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of inauguration of Franklin Roosevelt, as President, which is significant to our own history, but for no other reason than because the legislation of Roosevelt’s first 100 days included the National Industrial Recovery Act; the symbol of the Blue Eagle; which is on our flag, was Title 2 of the Act which created the Homestead Program and the original 34 Homestead of which this was one. It would be nice if we can adopt a Proclamation for the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

MAYOR’S APPOINTMENT:

1. Mayor’s Appointment to the Environmental Commission

BE IT RESOLVED that Dave Teich is hereby appointed as a member to the Borough of Roosevelt Environmental Commission to fulfill the unexpired term of Nick Murray, term ending December 31, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Erin Schneider is hereby appointed as an Alternate No. 1 to the Borough of Roosevelt Environmental Commission to fulfill the unexpired term of Dave Teich, term ending December 31, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Henry Ben Johnson is hereby appointed as an Alternate No. 2 to the Borough of Roosevelt Environmental Commission to fulfill the unexpired term of Erin Schneider, ending December 31, 2023.

2. Mayor's Appointment to the Planning Board

BE IT RESOLVED that Tina Kaufman-Marut is hereby appointed as a Class IV member to the Borough of Roosevelt Planning Board fulfilling the unexpired term of Jacqueline Carpenter, term expiring December 31, 2023.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Speed Humps – Pine Drive – Will be placed on April agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Use of Borough Hall: A request to use the Borough Hall by RAP for a Poetry Reading on April 1, 2023 from 7:30pm – 9:30pm. Request form on file.

C/Trammell made a motion to approve, with a second offered by C/Esakoff, with the following roll call vote:

Roll Call:

AYES: C/Esakoff, C/Herrstrom, C/Macher, C/Trammell

NAYS: None ABSTAIN: C/Atwood, C/Hamilton ABSENT: None

PUBLIC COMMENT (Any item)

M/Malkin opens the public comment at 8:00pm

1. Robert Disogra, 7 Nurko Road: He would first like to thank Ellen Silverman for the Lantern Fly discussion, it was very nice. He was not able to attend the February meeting regarding the cannabis, it's in his backyard, and would like to know if a committee has been appointed? M/Malkin explains that it's on hold, some of the laws have changed and are different than they were originally. Three farms in Roosevelt could farm originally but now 2 of the 3 farms cannot grow. So it changes things a little and the farmers are trying to figure out what's next. We will have a gentleman at our March 20, 2023 meeting from North Jersey to give an overview of the cannabis program, advantages and disadvantages. Mr. Disogra also asks about security, if cannabis was going to be grown indoors, what would be the requirements be for the building and the outlining area, especially for the homes in the areas.

M/Malkin closes the public comment at 8:06pm

CLOSED SESSION:

Resolution 23-39 Providing for a Private Executive Meeting that Excludes the Public

C/Hamilton offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, which was second by C/Esakoff.

WHEREAS, the “Open Public Meetings Act” enacted October 21, 1975 permits a public body to exclude the public from meetings or portions thereof wherein matters are to be discussed which are exempted from the requirements of the Act; and

WHEREAS, the said Act requires that prior to the holding of a meeting or portion thereof from which the public shall be excluded, the public body should adopt a Resolution at a public meeting providing for the holding of a private meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Roosevelt has determined that a meeting should be held from which the public should be excluded in order to discuss a subject which is exempted under the said Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council, as follows:

- That the next portion of this meeting be held in Private Session.
- That the general nature of the matter(s) to be discussed relate to the matters:
  - a. Items Falling Under Attorney/Client Privilege – Update on Reassignment MS4 Tier B to Tier A
- That no official action will be taken at the meeting but Minutes shall be kept and shall be available to the public after official action on the subject matter has been taken.
- It is anticipated the discussion conducted in closed session can be disclosed to the public after no further action is required in the matter.

Roll; Call:

AYES: C/Atwood, C/Esakoff, C/Hamilton, C/Herrstrom, C/Macher, C/Trammell

NAYS: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None

C/Esakoff made a motion, with a second offered by C/Hamilton, to adjourn closed session meeting with an All in Favor.

Time In: 8:10pm Time Out: 8:44pm

C/Esakoff made a motion, with a second offered by C/Trammell, to adjourn meeting with an All in Favor.

Time Out: 8:54 p.m.

The audio tape is available in the Clerk’s Office at Borough Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Kathleen Hart, Borough Clerk

Adopted Date: April 3, 2023