

Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council August 18, 2005

PRESENT: Mayor DeIorio; Councilman Badillo, Harms, Murphy, Matarante, Zeglarski and Rubilla; Borough Attorney Bill Lane

ABSENT: None

Mayor DeIorio called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and said it is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act and adequate notice of this meeting has been provided as required by law.

All contracts awarded by Mayor and Council must comply with the affirmative action requirements of P.L. 1975, C.172. (NJAC 17:27).

As required by the Fire Prevention Code, he indicated the fire exits and the procedure to be followed in case of fire.

Borough Clerk Arlene Triano read a short prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

Request from the residents of the 600 block of Ashwood Avenue for permission to hold their annual block party on Saturday, September 3, 2005, with a rain date of September 4<sup>th</sup>. This has the approval of the Police Department. (Referred to Council).

**Councilman Badillo moved to grant permission for the residents of the 600 block of Ashwood Avenue to hold their annual block party on Saturday, September 3, 2005 with a rain date of September 4<sup>th</sup>; seconded by Councilman Harms and adopted.**

Request from the residents of the 400 block of Spruce Street for permission to hold a block party during Labor Day weekend on Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2005. This has the approval of the Police Department. (Referred to Council).

**Councilman Badillo moved to grant permission for the residents of the 400 block of Spruce Street to hold a block party during Labor Day weekend on Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2005; seconded by Councilman Matarante and adopted.**

Request from the West End Community Center to hold their annual family picnic on Saturday, September 10, 2005. They also requested permission to have West Clay Avenue blocked to traffic from Hexacon to West Grant Avenue and for use of the Girl Scout Park for games for the children. This has the approval of the Police Department. (Referred to Council).

**Councilman Harms moved to grant permission for the West End Community Center to hold their annual family picnic on Saturday, September 10, 2005 and permission to have West Clay Avenue blocked to traffic from Hexacon to West Grant Avenue and for use of the Girl Scout Park for games for the children; seconded by Councilman Badillo and adopted.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Matarante moved that the reading of the Regular Meeting of May 19, 2005, the Executive Session and Special Meeting of June 2, 2005, the Regular Meeting of June 16, 2005, and the Closed Session Meetings of July 21, 2005 and August 4, 2005, be dispensed with as all members have received copies and they be approved as recorded; seconded by Councilman Murphy and adopted.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT

Councilman Matarante moved that the Treasurer’s Report for July 31, 2005, be accepted and spread upon the minutes with the exception of the budget detail; seconded by Councilman Murphy and adopted. (See app. pg. # ).

PAYMENT OF BILLS

The following routine bills listed on a consent agenda were offered by Councilman Murphy and seconded by Councilman Matarante.

Current Account Cks. #5175-5277 #90144-90149

2004 Reserve	\$ 312.60	
2005	2,919,554.67	
Reserve for Grants	<u>18,887.23</u>	2,938,754.50

Capital Account Ck. #295-303 (Void #289) 311,258.39

Animal Control Trust Account Ck. #140

Animal Control Account	1,660.17	
Roselle Park Payroll Debit 7/22/05	<u>22.51</u>	1,682.68

Recreation Trust Account Cks. #207-213 5,965.00

Sewer Utility Account Cks. #277-282

Sewer Utility Account	2004	.00
Sewer Utility Account	2005	21,089.37
Blue Cross/Blue Shield		2,414.60
U.S. Healthcare		<u>1,722.69</u>

Roselle Park Payroll Debit	07/22/05	11,577.98	
Roselle Park Payroll Debit	08/05/05	<u>11,032.42</u>	47,837.06
<u>Hud Trust Account Ck. #205-206</u>			
Hud Trust Account		98.23	
Roselle Park Payroll Debit	07/22/05	1,006.96	
Roselle Park Payroll Debit	08/05/05	<u>933.04</u>	2,038.23
<u>Trust Others Account</u>			
Roselle Park Payroll Debit	07/22/05	4,472.76	
Roselle Park Payroll Debit	08/05/05	<u>2,954.01</u>	7,426.77
<u>Public Assistance Trust Cks. #1092-1110</u>			3,867.00
<u>CAASA Trust Account (Void Ck. #20-replaced with Ck. #22)</u>			

# # # # #

RESOLVED: The Collector-Treasurer is hereby authorized to reduce the Sewer Utility charges on the following accounts for 2004:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BLOCK – LOT</u>		<u>BILLED</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>AMT. REDUCED</u>
W. & M. Rozaieski	410	7	222	20	202
J. Daitol	702	1	175	73	102

The Collector-Treasurer is hereby authorized to refund overpayment on the 2004 Sewer Utility payments to the following homeowners

W. & M. Rozaieski					
152 W. Roselle Ave.	410	7		Overpayment Amt. \$311.30	
J. & E. Daitol					
801 Walnut St.	702	1		Overpayment Amt. \$158.10	

The Collector-Treasurer is hereby authorized to reduce the Sewer Utility charges on the following accounts for 2005:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BLOCK – LOT</u>		<u>BILLED</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>AMT. REDUCED</u>
S. Bachofen	402	12	266	170	96 (\$168.00)
J. Santora	512	11	339	104	235 (\$411.25)
G. Grana	901	8	492	268	224 (\$392.00)
Mid-Jersey Realty	913	18	1758	870	888 (\$1,554.00)

Paperwork confirming the above figures are available in the Tax Office.

# # # # #

Roll called, all members voting Aye, said resolutions were adopted.

### PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES

#### Second Reading and Public Hearing

An Ordinance (#2162) entitled, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING ORDINANCE NO. 1184 AND AMENDMENTS THERETO FOR THE PURPOSE OF RESCINDING PERMIT PARKING AND DESIGNATING TIME LIMIT PARKING ON THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF EAST CLAY AVENUE”, was brought up and read by title only on its second reading and public hearing.

Councilman Matarante moved that the public hearing on Ordinance #2162 be opened; seconded by Councilman Rubilla and adopted.

There being no one wishing to speak, Councilman Matarante moved to close the public hearing; seconded by Councilman Rubilla and adopted.

Councilman Matarante moved that Ordinance #2162 be adopted on second reading and advertised as prescribed by law; seconded by Councilman Rubilla.

Roll called, all members voting Aye, said ordinance was adopted.

An Ordinance (#2163) entitled, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2159 REGARDING THE CREATION OF A SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT AND THE CREATION OF A DISTRICT MANAGEMENT CORPORATION”, was brought up and read by title only on its second reading and public hearing.

Councilman Matarante moved that the public hearing on Ordinance #2163 be opened; seconded by Councilman Badillo and adopted.

Jacob Magiera, 612 Sheridan Avenue, said he was supporting this ordinance because it is in the best interest of the taxpayers and residents of Roselle Park.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Councilman Matarante moved to close the public hearing; seconded by Councilman Harms and adopted.

Councilman Matarante moved that Ordinance #2163 be adopted on second reading and advertised as prescribed by law; seconded by Councilman Harms.

Mayor DeIorio said this project has been long awaited and something this Council and past Council's have worked through with the business community and community at large. He said it was a step in the right direction and thanked the businesses that were there when they had the open discussion and presentation by the Special Improvement District Manager of the Summit Improvement Authority.

Roll called, all members voting Ayes, said ordinance was adopted.

## RESOLUTIONS

The following routine resolutions, listed on a consent agenda, were offered by Councilman Matarante and seconded by Councilman Harms. (See app. pg. # ).

- #104-05 – Requesting approval to establish a Dedicated Trust Rider for Donations - Acceptance of Bequests and Gifts for Community Shuttle Bus
- #105-05 – Requesting approval to establish a Dedicated Trust Rider for Donations – Acceptance of Bequests and Gifts for Anthony Signorello Youth Center
- #106-05 – Authorizing contract under State Cooperative Purchasing Program with Elite Tree Service for tree trimming and removals (\$42,033.00)
- #107-05 – Authorizing additional hours for John Fitzpatrick to represent the Borough in connection with the Vail Zoning Board matter
- #108-05 – Appointment of a part-time Custodian for Municipal Building

Roll called, all members voting Aye, said resolutions were adopted.

**Resolution #103-05, accepting Final Change Order with Matina & Son, Inc. for the resurfacing of West Clay Avenue and Drainage Construction from Faitoute Avenue to Locust Street (minus \$8,396.45), was offered by Councilman Harms and seconded by Councilman Badillo.**

Councilman Harms said part of the road is sinking and he was not sure if it was the company that did the paving or the sewer line that is tied in. He said he wanted to have it checked before final payment is made to the contractor. Mayor DeIorio agreed, saying Council should feel 100 percent comfortable there are no more problems, because once they are given the last check, the Borough may never see them again. Councilman Harms requested that the Borough Clerk send a letter to the Borough Engineer asking him to investigate. Councilman Matarante asked, if the problems were caused by bad workmanship, would the Borough be entitled to recover any monies that may have already been paid? Borough Attorney Bill Lane said they are covered by performance bonds, so there is recourse.

**Councilman Matarante moved to postpone Resolution #103-05 to the September 15<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council; seconded by Councilman Murphy and adopted.**

## MATTERS FOR REFERRAL

**Mayor DeIorio moved to appoint Nelson W. Carle, 117 E. Clay Avenue, Roselle Park, as a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment (Alternate II), to fill the unexpired term of Mary Iungerman, for a term expiring on December 31, 2005.**

**Mayor DeIorio, on the recommendation of the Traffic Safety Officer, appointed the following as Alternate School Crossing Guards, effective immediately, for a term expiring on December 31, 2005:**

- . Carmen Benavides, 813 Martin Street, Elizabeth**
- . Filomena Perez, 614 Franklin Street, Elizabeth**
- . Barbara Dent, 163 West Grant Avenue, Roselle Park**

**Mayor DeIorio moved to appoint John Stevens, 227 Sheridan Avenue, Roselle Park, as a member of the Planning Board (Alternate I), to fill the unexpired term of Giuseppe Barberio, for a term expiring on December 31, 2005.**

**Mayor DeIorio moved to appoint John Velasquez, 130 Sherman Avenue, Roselle Park, as a member of the Planning Board (Alternate II), to fill the unexpired term of John Stephen expiring on December 31, 2006.**

Mayor DeIorio said there is an on-going issue with the Department of Environmental Protection concerning leaf pickup and Storm Water Sewer Regulations. He asked Councilman Harms to inform the public and prepare them for the fall leaf pickup. Councilman Harms said these are State rules and the Borough has to decide by October 1<sup>st</sup> how we are going to handle leaves. He said the State will not allow leaves to be placed on the curb, in the street or in plastic bags. He said leaves on the street must be picked up within 7 days, and homeowners who do not comply will be fined. He said a meeting will be held in September to discuss the new regulations and get suggestions on how Roselle Park will handle leaf pickup. Councilman Harms said the next Municipal Services Committee Meeting is September 12<sup>th</sup>, and asked Councilmembers to review the draft ordinance. He said the ordinance must be introduced by September 1<sup>st</sup>, and the second reading held on September 15<sup>th</sup>, in order to have the ordinance adopted by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Mayor DeIorio said if the public cannot make the meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup>, they can compile their comments and forward them to the Clerk's Office. He said this is not going to be easy to address, but because it is a State regulation, it must be dealt with. Councilman Murphy inquired about county roads and Councilman Harms said they were not excluded and have already come up with a schedule, but he would have to find out what it was. Councilman Murphy asked about the State highways, and Councilman Harms said he did not have the answer to that.

**Councilman Matarante moved to authorize the Mayor to sign off on a Memorandum of Understanding and Indemnification Agreement regarding Union County's Leaf Composting Facility; seconded by Councilman Harms and adopted.**

**Councilman Matarante moved to accept the resignation of Kristofer Havanki, effective July 1, 2005, as a member of the Roselle Park Fire Department; seconded by Councilman Harms and adopted.**

**Councilman Matarante moved to accept the resignation of Rocco Caruso, effective July 1, 2005, as a member of the Roselle Park Fire Department; seconded by Councilman Harms and adopted.**

**Councilman Matarante moved that a raffle license be granted to the Sherman School PTA for an off-premise raffle to be held on October 6, 2005; seconded by Councilman Badillo and adopted.**

**Councilman Matarante moved to accept the resignation of Rosario Santana, as a part-time custodian for the Casano Community Center, effective August 15, 2005; seconded by Councilman Harms and adopted.**

**Councilman Murphy moved to accept the resignation of Paula Ferreira, as Purchasing Agent, effective September 7, 2005; seconded by Councilman Harms and adopted.**

Councilman Badillo thanked Kristofer Havanki for his years of service and volunteerism in the Fire Department. He asked that a letter be sent to Ed Dec regarding a missing block of cement on the corner of Sherman and E. Colfax Avenue. He said it was promised that it would be done last week and as of today, it is still not done. He said he asked the Police Chief to send a police car and have yellow tape put up, which also was not done. Councilman Badillo said this week the Roselle Park Youth Baseball and Softball Teams ran a tournament, and he thanked Al Zolli and Gary Bundy who ran the tournament, and did a great job. He said, due to vacation schedules, the teams will be honored in September. He thanked Jeff Henry who has spent 8 years doing buildings and grounds for the League and said he wanted to honor him next month, as well.

Councilman Rubilla said he attended a Human Resources Meeting regarding negotiations and the Construction Code Department. He said there were an estimated 135 people in the audience tonight and explained the meeting guidelines for the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

Councilman Harms said he received a letter from Sunrise Village Apartments, who are looking to buy or rent the property across the street for parking. Mayor DeIorio said he should get a response from the Borough Engineer because of a culvert that is under the lot in question. Councilman Harms said they only want it for parking and do not plan on building there. Mayor DeIorio said he is concerned with putting a parking lot on the residential side of Jerome Street. He suggested a committee discussion, and

Councilman Badillo recommended surveying the residents of that area. Councilman Harms asked for a letter to be sent to Sunrise Village advising them that Council is considering their request. He said the Municipal Services Committee postponed a discussion of disabled vehicles being parked on side and back yards and asked for it to be put on the September 12<sup>th</sup> agenda for discussion. He asked that a letter be sent to Ed Dec regarding the progress on Markthaler and Hemlock and requesting the status of those streets.

Councilman Murphy said parking on side lawns has become a problem. He said an application has been distributed for the Kids Recreation Grant money from the County. He said he had the opportunity to speak to the staff of the Boys & Girls Club and noted that everything was on target.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilman Matarante moved, at 8:30 p.m., to open the public comment portion of the meeting; seconded by Councilman Harms and adopted.

Ed Fahoury, 240 W. Sumner Avenue, said he was there for Ricky to show his love and support in his time of need, which would not be necessary if Councilman Zeglarski had held back his statements to the press regarding his situation at work. He said Councilman Badillo is entitled to his life, public and private, and what he did to his family is just not fair and his potential oversight is just that, and there is nothing to indicate any criminal activity, and as a lawyer Councilman Zeglarski should know that. He said, instead of helping him, Councilman Zeglarski choose to show him absolutely no compassion and kicked the man when he was down. He said, if the tables were turned, Ricky would be helping him. He asked where Councilman Zeglarski was this weekend, saying Friday night prior to the article Ricky was with him watching the girl's softball tournament and cheering them on. He did not have anyone in his family on that team and was just watching them play and supporting his community. Mr. Fahoury said he never gave him the impression that his public and personal life would be drastically changed by a politician's comments and the callous use of ink by a newspaper writer. He said the next day he arrived on the field for his game and there was Ricky in 100 degree heat getting the fields ready for a game. He asked why he never sees Councilman Zeglarski around town like Ricky? He said maybe Councilman Zeglarski does not like baseball, but he knows where the football and soccer fields are, the wrestling matches, the tennis and basketball courts. He asked why he was not out there supporting our children and said if he did not like sports why hasn't he been to the High School plays, CAASA dances, the Assumption Fair or Back to School Nights. He said he could always count on Ricky being there and supporting the community, but Councilman Zeglarski is not, yet he sits on the dais throwing rocks at a pillar of our community. Mr. Fahoury said this is wrong and called it prejudice of the worst kind. He said, as a resident of the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward, he was having an extremely hard time looking at him on the dais and asked how he could depend on him as his Councilman not to be prejudice against the residents that do not have his party affiliation. He said he does not trust him after what he did to Ricky, and said he must pay a price. He asked him to step down right now as 5<sup>th</sup> Ward Councilman.



Jacob Magiera, 612 Sheridan Avenue, said E. Colfax Avenue is a hazardous area and asked if they were going to change the crab grass that was planted there. He said he made a contact for the tree preservation program. He said he called Assemblyman Cohen in reference to Densely Populated Community and Quality Education monies and was told that was gone. He inquired about the Sunshine Law and Mayor DeIorio said he addressed his question in the past about educating employees of the Borough and Elected Officials, whether it be the Open Public Meetings Act or the Open Public Records Act. He said in doing so they received information from the League of Municipalities and their workshops. He said he reported to Mr. Magiera and members of the public that he spoke to Al Morgan, the Mayor of New Providence, and he sent him a follow up letter today reminding him of the discussion about having the Union County League of Municipalities host this discussion in a workshop format. He suggested hosting the workshop here so the Borough could videotape the meeting and put it in the archives for new employees. He said he looked forward to his response. He asked if there was any movement on the Union Township resolution, and Mayor DeIorio said the resolution has been postponed until September. Mr. Magiera said the decorative street lamp by Dunkin Donuts was broken and wires were exposed and had sharp edges. He said he contacted Public Service and they removed it and put a cover on it. He said the mountain of dirt that was illegally in Hawthorne Basin has been removed.

Hank Calabrese, Webster Gardens, said the gentleman that spoke at the beginning of the meeting spoke on behalf of many people. He said Mr. Zeglarski got exactly what he deserved, saying what gives anyone the right to condemn a man without a fair trial. He said he has known Ricky Badillo for a long time and he is the type of man that leans toward children, is a humanitarian and gives of himself to help others. He said Councilman Zeglarski owes Ricky Badillo an apology for what he has done to him. He said at a prior meeting Councilman Zeglarski mentioned a condition that prevailed at Webster Gardens concerning rats and asked if he did anything. He said the property behind them has been used as a dumping place for many years.

Mayor DeIorio said he wanted to make it clear to the public that what is being discussed in Councilman Badillo's private life is not a criminal act that concerns the Prosecutor's Office, FBI or the Attorney General's Office. He said he knows the people that are here tonight that want to speak in support of Councilman Badillo might use the terms trial by jury, and innocent before being proven guilty. He said it does not even go to that level, saying it was an administrative issue that is handled internally. He said it is unfortunate that it has risen to this level, but he wants the public, the press and whoever else is listening to him to know that a private issue is a private issue and it is not a criminal matter.

John Christiani, 252 Halsey Street, Kenilworth, said he came to support Ricky Badillo. He said he was an Essex County Corrections Officer. He said the Councilman that made statements in the newspaper offended him not only as a friend of Ricky, but as a Corrections Officer. He said the Councilman stated that Councilman Badillo should resign, but Councilman Badillo did not do anything wrong. He said there is nothing

wrong with letting an Officer on the pod. He said Councilman Badillo has not been changed with anything and said Councilman Zeglarski owes him an apology.

Michael Peterson, 45 E. Colfax Avenue, said he was a Democrat who has only lived in Roselle Park for about 2 years. He said it took him aback with the type of attacks that Councilman Zeglarski has had to endure tonight, because what they have done is questioned his integrity and judgement by making these statements. He said that is precisely what he has questioned with Councilman Badillo, which was his judgement. He said citizens that vote for Councilpeople or any public office do have the right to question their actions, saying this is a public paid job. He said he has seen this become a partisan issue, because everyone has gone to Councilman Badillo's defense and attacked Councilman Zeglarski for having the temerity to even question Mr. Badillo's judgement. He said he wanted elected officials that are above reproach, who have integrity, honesty and whose judgement he can trust. He said Councilman Zeglarski was unfairly attacked tonight and questioned whether if the roles were reversed and it were a Democratic Councilman, if Republican members of the Council would come to his defense.

Councilman Matarante said anyone who knows him knows he does not like to be painted with a brush, and the six of them did not gang up on Councilman Zeglarski. He said he did not know the political persuasions of the people that have spoken, and said lets take politics out of it. He said a Democratic Councilman in the not too distance past, while the Chairman was a Councilman, not only got into criminal trouble but he believed there was a conviction, and no Democrat or Republican asked for his resignation.

Councilman Zeglarski said he wanted to address the issue, implying he would have treated someone in his own political party differently. He said the fact of the matter is that the individual did step down from the position. He said he did not know of any criminal charges and it was a neighbor vs. neighbor dispute that was way out of hand. He said that individual was on their way out and went out. He said what he asked for was a meeting to consider all of the issues regarding the scandal and did not imply he was guilty of a crime. He said the fact that there was an accusation of a serious nature brought his integrity into question, and that was brought by a Government agency and officials. He said he did not think there was a question that the Jail Administrator was levying charges in the newspaper. He said Councilman Badillo had ample time to call and defend his position that he was unjustly accused. He said the criminal thing is not really the issue saying he did not feel he committed a crime. Councilman Rubilla asked why, when the ink wasn't even dry on the Star Ledger, he called for his removal from office. Councilman Zeglarski said there was enough information for him to determine and he was suspended. Mayor DeIorio said the question was whether it was proper for Councilman Zeglarski to ask or question the matter at hand. He said the newspaper read that it was in the best interest of everyone involved for Councilman Badillo to consider resigning and said it is obvious to all of them that this has turned into a political matter. Councilman Zeglarski said this is a clear example of a political event. Mayor DeIorio said he has given him the opportunity to speak and like he said before, they are going to have a healthy discussion. Councilman Zeglarski said this was not a healthy discussion and was political activism. Councilman Badillo said at the last meeting Mr. Kinloch

came up and blasted the Mayor for 25 minutes, and everyone is being allowed to come up and voice their opinions.

Nick Pagnetti, 309 E. Grant Avenue, said it was obvious to everyone there tonight that Councilman Badillo is not involved in any criminal activity. He said he is entitled to due process even in an administrative case. He said Councilman Badillo has not even had a hearing, so to ask that he be removed prior to any kind of due process of law is preposterous. He said he felt very strongly about this because he was a retired Police Officer and earlier in his career, through a horrendous decision of a lower court, he was convicted of assault and had to go through an appeal at a County Court on that conviction. He said it took five months for the case to come up in Superior Court, and you cannot know the agony he went through at this time, and to top it off, there were a couple of Councilpeople calling for him to be fired from the job before he had his due process. He said it was a terrible period in his life and when they went to the Superior Court he was exonerated. He said it looks like Ricky Badillo is being gang tackled while he is down before he has his due process, his administrative hearing or his day in court. He said there is no such thing as guilt by proximity and said he did not do anything wrong. He said after the process is done and Councilman Badillo is found to be blameless in this matter, he hoped the apology would be as vociferous as the request for the removal from Council.

Gary Bundy, 105 E. Roselle Avenue, thanked Council for the compliments regarding the Girl's Softball Tournament but said Al Zolli is the one that should be given kudos. With regard for why he is there tonight, he asked everyone to remember their school days when they were taught the power of words and the quote "the pen is mightier than the sword". Unfortunately, he said we also learn at a young age that words can be used to hurt people. He said no one likes to be told they are a bad person or committed a wrongful deed, let alone see it in writing or print, and you were taught not to do these things because they are hurtful. He said he brings those lessons from grammar school 101 to your attention, because that is what was done to Ricky and his family. He asked why it was implied that Ricky "helped" an individual commit a crime. He said there are no criminal charges against Ricky and asked why it was not reported from the start that the culpable party gave a statement to the authorities that Ricky had no part and no knowledge of this person's actions. He asked why it was not reported that at least 4 to 5 other individuals, including superiors, unknowingly did the same exact thing that Ricky is now being disciplined for at his workplace and asked why some were so willing to take misinformation to attack one of the pillars of the community. He asked how they could possibly say that any of this has anything to do with Ricky Badillo's character, dedication, devotion to this town, it's people or his job duties as a Councilman and asked why they were so willing to be hurtful. He said as they ponder these questions and push their conscience aside, they can brush common sense away by saying, "well I read it in the paper so it must be true". He said even simple words like "helped" can cause many to fly to judgement, but maybe it is not just the media which causes us to be prejudice, maybe it is also politics. He said in closing he was sorry to inform this Council that most of us in the audience really don't care whether you are a Democrat or a Republican. He said almost all do care about our families, children, schools and our town and most care

about each other. He said Ricky Badillo has been there each step of the way caring about all of us and all the things that effect us here in town. He said for every ballgame, school play, project graduation, senior's night and Christmas Parade that he has attended over 22 years, he has never once not seen Ricky Badillo there supporting all the people. He said he must confess that he does think Ricky is guilty, not of what he has read or heard but of simply trusting a co-worker who took advantage of that trust. He said he learned in his early youth that when he made a mistake or hurt someone, he was suppose to say he was sorry. He said he truly hopes that Ricky does not get disgusted and walk away after how he has been treated. He said he knows that Roselle Park is a better place because of him and said he hopes that he will continue to serve the town and its people.

Debbie Schaffer, 127 E. Clay Avenue, spoke on behalf of herself and Jim Talbot. She said after reading the article in the Star Ledger about the alleged misconduct of Essex County Corrections Office Jose "Ricky" Badillo they felt compelled to respond to these unfounded allegations. She said Ricky is known to the public as Roselle Park's Councilman-At-Large, but is best known to them as the Tournament Director of the Roselle Park Youth Baseball League, saying they have both known Ricky for many years and have had the privilege of working with him in their roles as Presidents of the organizations. She said you would be hard pressed to find someone that is more considerate and generous with his time, saying there was no task he is not willing to undertake in order to support the children and organizations of this town. She asked where were those that cast the stones in Friday's article, not helping them out on Sunday during the tournament in 100 plus degree weather. She said Ricky was there, despite his personal problems, helping to prepare the fields between games and providing whatever support was needed putting the youth of this town before his own needs. She said they stand behind Ricky during this most trying time for him and his family and it is unfortunate that someone that does so much for this town and its citizens, including it's youth, should be the target of such slander, and certainly this has no bearing on his abilities to perform his duties as Councilman-At-Large. She said there are no criminal charges pending, no laws broken and he has not been arrested. She said that any discussion of Ricky's resignation from Council is certainly politically motivated and in extremely poor taste. She said she wanted Ricky to know that they stand behind him and support him 110 percent, as he does for all of them, and wanted him to know he is not alone.

Gregory Kinloch, 336 Sheridan Avenue, said he never thought that voting no on fireworks and arguing about Mayor and Council's salary could bring such a crowd. He said he was the husband of Nancy Kinloch, who objected to the fireworks, and his wife was accused of politics wrongfully by Mayor DeIorio. He said Councilman Murphy made some statements about his time on Council, his salary and the salary of other people and gave percentages. He said he was there to answer and hoped that they still had that in front of them. He asked Councilman Murphy if he had the salaries? Councilman Murphy said in 1986 the salary was \$1,765.00, 1987 was \$1,855.00, and 1988 was \$2,000.00. Mr. Kinloch noted that he was not on Council in 1989, 1990 or 1991. Mr. Kinloch said in 1991 the salary was \$2,472.00, 1992 was \$2,596.00, 1993 was \$2,726.00, 1994 was \$4,000.00 and Councilman Murphy asked him to tell the public what the

difference was. Mr. Kinloch told Councilman Murphy to tell them since he had the information. Councilman Murphy said it was a little short of \$13,000.00 and added that the average salary increase up until this point in time has been roughly \$100.00 plus. Mr. Kinloch said for the Mayor's salary in 1993 was \$3,588.00, and in 1994 \$6,000.00 which is a \$2,500.00 increase. Councilman Murphy said he would add to what he said on that particular day. He said Council and Council only approves the budget the only time the Mayor gets involved is if there is a tie to be broken. Councilman Murphy said the suggestion came from the budget hearings that were held while Councilman Kinloch was on Council. Mr. Kinloch said the Mayor also has veto power, and if he does not like something he can veto it. Mayor DeLorio said because of additional work, participation as elected officials, and the constant amount of requests to give to organizations around town, there was a recommendation for a salary adjustment, and Mr. Kinloch and himself were both there so Mr. Kinloch is just as responsible as he is. Mr. Kinloch said the Mayor's salary is up to \$11,991.68. Councilman Murphy asked Mr. Kinloch to tell the public what his salary was in 1995 and 1996. Mr. Kinloch stated \$4,190.00 and in 1996 it was \$5,720.00. Councilman Murphy asked him to state the difference and Mr. Kinloch said \$1,600.00. Mr. Kinloch said the reason he brought this up is because the Mayor and Council agreed when the budget was finalized that they would not have the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks because the budget was strapped and he disagreed. He said there is a sale of assets account and explained that Schering Plough bought sewer rights from the Borough of Roselle Park and they paid the Borough close to 2 million dollars. He said that money is put into an account which is called a sale of assets account and is taxpayer's money because it is their sewer rights, and they have a right to know what is going on with this money. He said some of that money was used to purchase a fire truck and some for the Youth Center, but there is money in that account and they also have a sidewalk program. He said he did not know if anyone there ever used the sidewalk program, but it had an amount of \$25,000.00 a year put into that program. Mr. Kinloch said that money was taken from the sale of assets account. Councilman Harms said \$25,000.00 was put in the budget, and he did not want the public to think they were taking money from whatever amount Mr. Kinloch thinks they have in that account. Mr. Kinloch said he did not say everything, just the sidewalk program, and Councilman Harms said it is not taken from the sale of assets. He said it was \$25,000.00 and Council did not want to keep it at that, they wanted to cut and that is what the taxpayers pay for not sale of assets. Mayor DeLorio said the suggestion he thinks Mr. Kinloch is making is that Council could have taken it out of sale of assets money. He said sale of assets money in his opinion and the opinion, of past Councils, is poor fiscal management. He said fireworks or any event for that matter is an operating expense like utility bills or office supplies. He said an event is an on-going every year expense. Mayor DeLorio said it was agreed on many years ago, and they continue to agree, that the only type of funds or projects paid out of the sale of assets account are those of a capital improvement or project such as the purchase of a vehicle. He said it is a one shot purchase because inevitably if you continue to take out money every year, that money will disappear and the taxpayers will be hit a lot harder when that amount results into a zero balance, rather than paying for something you know is going to come out once vs. an operating expense. He said they could have taken fireworks money out of there yes, but should they no, because it is poor fiscal management. Mr. Kinloch said that was his opinion, and Mayor

DeIorio said it has been the opinion of the Governing Body ever since the Borough has had those funds. Mr. Kinloch said when they bought the fire truck they took the money out of sale of assets, and the Mayor said it was a capital purchase. Mr. Kinloch said they could have bonded it for 30 years which would have been a better way of doing it, and Mayor DeIorio disagreed. Mayor DeIorio said you only want to purchase these capital projects once, you do not want to continue to go back to that fund. He said there is approximately \$700,000.00 left in the account. Mr. Kinloch said he disagreed saying there was enough money in that account and it is the people of Roselle Park's money from their sewer utility and that \$15,000.00 would not have hurt that account to any degree.

Charlene (Chippy) Mead, 525 Spruce Street, said everyone knows that Ricky is involved in Little League, but does everyone know how involved Ricky is with the senior citizens. She said had this meeting have been in the afternoon you would not see any empty seats. She said when he walks in that Center, their eyes all light up and said he is so well liked by all the seniors. She said she wanted him to know that they are with him and his family 100 percent.

Gina Franco, 111 Avon Street, said she was back there tonight due to the Borough tree in front of her house. She said the tree roots are getting into her home sewer and causing her floor drain in her basement to clog and causing a very unsanitary smell, not only in her basement, but throughout her entire house. She said she stated in 2001 when she was before them that something had to be done with the tree. She said she understands it is a live tree and the Borough's policy concerning them, but it is causing a real problem to them as homeowners. She said in 2001 the Borough did repair their sidewalk, but the problem with the tree itself still exists. She said they recently had to extract more roots by calling a plumber and pay quite a lot of money to have a camera put into their sewer system to see where the problem is coming from. She said she would appreciate anything the Borough could do to help them with this matter. Mayor DeIorio said he spoke with Councilman Harms and said the problem is that it is a live tree, which is causing problems and other residents have similar problems. He said if they did decide to take down the tree and Council overrides the on-going rule of taking down a live tree then what is to stop them if someone else wants them to take down their tree because the roots are also affecting their sewer system. Mayor DeIorio said he would speak with Frank and they will take another look at it.

Rafael Fabray, 37 Hillside Road, Elizabeth, said he came there in support of Ricky Badillo. He is the Director of the Union County Chapter of the Hispanic Leadership Counsel which supports Ricky Badillo, who is a member. He said Ricky is an active participant and just like he shows up for Little League and everything else in the Borough, he works hard with the organization. He said that Ricky has their full support throughout the State, and especially in Union County. He said he and his organization are disturbed by comments made by one of the Councilmembers and said, based on what everyone said here tonight, he should take heart as to what has been said and apologize to Ricky. He said his comment about this not being a political matter is just patently

outrageous, and to find out he is an attorney and making all these unfounded comments just leaves him speechless.

Cathy Gebhart, 415 Chestnut Street, read a letter from Rich Angus, E. Webster Avenue, who left for vacation this morning. She said he wrote that he just wanted to take the time to communicate his support to a member of our community and the Youth Baseball organization, Mr. Ricky Badillo. He said he has known Ricky for over 9 years and has found him to be diligent, hardworking, fair and an overall good man. He said he continues the measurably, difficult task of coordinating the Roselle Park All-Star Tournament even though his son hasn't played in years, simply because he loves the town and the kids in it. Mr. Angus said he has been a resident of this town for 18 years and he can attest that Ricky has always been there for this town, especially the kids. He said those that are calling for his resignation can be likened to lynch mobs, acting opportunists without all the facts, and shamelessly trying to bring down someone who has always put the needs of our town and the children first. He said they should be ashamed of themselves.

Mary Schwarz said she came there to support Ricky and Councilman Zeglarski should say he is sorry to Ricky.

Nick Badillo, 836 Galloping Hill Road, said his father was awesome, and he stood behind him. He said he was not only a father, a pastor to a community. He said he has shepherded people through awesome things and many of these people stand behind him. He said his family loves him and prays that the Lord will bring him through this.

Mario Valic, 715 Elm Street, said he has been a resident of Roselle Park for the last 23 years. He said he has known Councilman Badillo for quite sometime now and he can vouch for the integrity, the honor and the dignity of this man. He said he knows his family and, if he did anything wrong, it was being trustful. He addressed Councilman Zeglarski, who said Ricky should resign, saying it is an abomination to condemn someone who has not even been tried, and stated that no one really even knows what happened only from the papers. He said he believed Councilman Zeglarski should apologize to Councilman Badillo.

Ray Roach, 715 Walnut Street, said he was shocked to hear that Councilman Zeglarski was an attorney, and before any facts were in asked for Badillo's resignation. He asked how a Councilman and an attorney who is suppose to have a greater grasp of laws and constitutional rights could take such action. He said he did not want Councilman Zeglarski running his town and asked for his resignation.

Marilyn Padulsky, 135 Camden Street, said she was there regarding the part-time custodian position and stated that her husband was on the DPW for 26 years and sometimes worked as a custodian at the municipal building. She said she wanted to know why the Borough has to spend money, when there are people on the DPW that can do it. Mayor DeIorio explained that in the past the Borough contracted with an outside firm to do their cleaning services. He said Frank Wirzbicki the DPW Superintendent, agreed

with the departments that they were not doing a good job, and the Borough did have DPW workers cleaning the Borough buildings for a while. He said Frank recommended moving away from having them service the buildings and, instead of hiring an outside service and spending \$35,000.00 for substandard work, that the Borough hire part-time individuals and assign them to a particular Borough building. Mrs. Padulsky asked if the person hired was taking care of the Casano Center or just the Municipal building. Mayor DeIorio said the person hired today is a replacement for someone that resigned. He said there are 4 part-time individuals under the auspices of the Department of the Public Works and they are assigned to their particular Borough building.

Peter Dercola, 412 Roosevelt Street, said he came on behalf of Councilman Ricky Badillo and said he has known him for a long time. He said when he played Little League baseball he would come up and because he and his brother are twins would call them Mike and Ike. He said though he did not know his name, he knew him as the Mike and Ike man. He said he is now friends with his daughter Angelina, and on behalf of himself and his family wanted him to know they are behind him 100 percent.

James Cray, 137 Charlotte Terrace, said he was also there to support a good friend of his family, Councilman Badillo. He said he was speaking not only as a resident of the Borough, but as a former baseball player. He said Coach Rick was one of the best coaches he ever had. He said he not only taught them how to get along with each other but how to have fun out there and that is what made him happy.

Anita Miller said she was there as a senior citizen and, as Chippy pointed out, if this meeting had been in the afternoon they would all have been there. She said being on the Board of Trustees for many years they have been privileged to have him at many of the meetings and he was always there for them. She said she wanted to give her wholehearted support.

Lori Mazzeo, 430 Seaton Avenue, said Ricky was like family to her and most of the people there tonight were there to support him. She said he had a heart of gold, and she wanted him to know that.

Keith Delgado, 198 Maple Street, said he came in support of Ricky. He said he helps Ricky run the tournament and knows that Ricky comes from work early in the morning and is there everyday, and leaves late at night from the baseball field to go right back to work, and for a month he lives on 3 to 4 hours sleep. He said if you talk to other people that come to the tournament, they all know and love Ricky.

Nick Iosi, 53 Country Club Lane, Springfield, said he came in support of his friend Ricky Badillo and said he wanted to share a story. He said Ricky has been his best friend for 40 years and when Ricky said to him he wanted to get involved with politics he tried to talk him out of it. He said there was nobody in that room that knows Ricky like him besides his family. He said he asked Ricky why he wanted to get involved with politics and Rick's answer to him was so he could help people. Mr. Iosi said from the



conversation he is hearing here tonight, he was wrong and Ricky was right. He said he was behind him 100 percent.

Bill Tulen said he has been a resident since 1988 and is on Active Duty for the United States Army. He said he does not know Ricky Badillo but thinks the whole town is behind him. He said this is the first time he came to a meeting and said what matters is the future of this town. Mayor DeIorio thanked him for serving our Country.

Angelina Badillo, 836 Galloping Hill Road, said she was there for her Dad to tell him that they are all behind him 100 percent. She said no matter what happens there will never be a cloud over her family's head. She said there are a lot of people there to back her father up to say he did nothing wrong, and her family will not resign from this town. She said they will never let the people down, saying her father would never do that. She addressed Councilman Zeglarski saying she walked downstairs the day after finding out about her father, and read in the paper what he said. She asked if he knew how that made her feel? She said she knew that none of it was true, but it made her dislike him very much, and her father told her not to dislike him. She said and she told her father he was a man with a lot of integrity, because not many people could say that, and thanked him.

Nick Guriano, 848 Prospect Street, said he thought everyone knew what a standup individual Councilman Badillo is and there was not much more he could say. He said he had a general question for Councilman Zeglarski, saying he thinks the idea of a Councilman is somebody that fosters community and puts emphasis on unity. He said he could not understand how he could bash one of his own men, somebody that sits up there next to him week in and week out. He said you cannot lead by example when you kick a man when he's down.

Betty D'Antico, 232 Pershing Avenue, told Ricky she is a registered Democrat but she votes for him all the time, and she is there to show him she loves him and supports him.

Joanne McGillis, 227 Bender Avenue, said she is a detective with the Jersey City Police Department for 26 years and her husband is a retired Police Officer from the Jersey City Police Department. She said when they read the newspaper they did not believe it for one minute. She said they believe that Ricky was guilty of nothing more than being a friend to a fellow officer which happens so often in her profession. She said they heard a lot about Ricky and sports, but another hat that he wears that she did not hear mentioned is one with the First Aid Squad. She said from her own personal experience, quite awhile ago, her husband had a blood vessel burst, and when she called 911 there were no medical people available. She said she called Ricky, who at the time was going through a crisis with his own father, but he made it to her house within 12 minutes and he assisted to help her husband get to the hospital. She thanked Ricky for that and for everything he does for this town.

Geri Leary, 521 Spruce Street, said she was there this evening to support Ricky Badillo, saying the recent events that she has heard has prompt her to come this evening.

She said she read in the newspaper where 3 members of our community, Melanie Selk, Joe Fonte and Councilman Zeglarski are asking for the possible removal of Councilman Badillo from office and said she would like to address that. She said first Melanie Selk, isn't she a blast from the past, she reminds her of the movie Hokis-Pokis where someone lit the black flame and the 3 witches appeared. She said someone lit the black flame candle and Melanie appeared. She urged the person with the black flame candle to blow it out and send Melanie back to wherever it is she came from. She said next is Joe Fonte: Who is Joe Fonte? She said Joe Fonte is a Council candidate running against Ricky Badillo with a clear political motive to seize an opportunity to have his name in the newspaper. She said in last place is Councilman Zeglarski, who is not familiar with the phrase innocent until proven guilty, saying perhaps he missed that chapter, however he should have had enough common sense to be familiar with it. She said the charge against Ricky Badillo is an administrative personnel issue and not a criminal case, and quite frankly none of his business. She said she considered this incident not to reflect poorly on our community, as stated by Councilman Zeglarski. She said those of us that support our community and Councilman Badillo recognize that terrible situations happen to good people. She said in her opinion Councilman Badillo is a victim of circumstance and is an excellent County employee, friend, father, brother, son and caring person. She said she has witnessed this over the past 15 years and believes he was unfairly represented in the newspaper, and by those who chose to comment negatively. She said she may have prepared some unkind statements regarding Councilman Zeglarski, Melanie Selk and Joe Fonte but she believed they subjected themselves to criticism when they chose to publicly attack her friend Ricky Badillo. She said nobody asked but that is her opinion.

Brian Delgado, Cranford, said he has a joke where he calls him Dad but all kidding aside he has learned a lot from this man. He wanted him to know he supported him, loved him and said he would ride the storm and come out on top.

Maria and David Del Rio, 138 E. Colfax Avenue, said they were there to let Ricky know they support him. She said they love him and God is watching over him.

Megan Joyce, 41D Colfax Manor, said clearly they can say she is bias because she is Bob Zeglarski's girlfriend. She said she would like to remind everyone that came to speak up for Councilman Badillo that Bob Zeglarski has a family too, and she is so proud of him for having the strength to stand up to the vitriol that he has faced from these people for doing what he thinks is right. She said as a citizen of this town she has the right to question the actions of those that are elected to represent her. She said she finds it interesting that all of them have come up and rebuked Councilman Zeglarski for rushing judgement, and yet the words she has heard from people about Bob in the last few days have been some of the most judgmental words that she has ever heard. She said she would like to remind them that, as you are so quick to say in Councilman Badillo's favor "let he who is without guilt cast the first stone". She said they should look into themselves, and if that is the way they would want to be treated and if that's the way they would like Councilman Badillo to be treated, then show that same courtesy for other people whether you think that what they believe is right or not.

Justin Samolewicz, 618 Filbert Street, said he just wanted to voice his support for Councilman Badillo whom he has known all his life. He said he wanted to thank him for giving him a lesson on how a human being acts and how a family man closes his ranks and really holds firm even at a time when things really seem to be closing in.

Frank Janus, 604 W. Scott Avenue, Rahway, said he worked in Roselle Park when he was younger and happens to know Ricky and was there to support him. He said any lawyer would tell his client not to make comments to the newspaper. He asked Councilman Zeglarski how he would hold a hearing and what would he use as a basis to discuss a possible resignation. He said they will find that Ricky did nothing wrong, other than show a little courtesy to another officer. He said he read the statements from the person in charge of the jail, and there was no policy as to who you let come and go into a cell block. He said he worked in the Elizabeth Police Department and he could walk into any cell block he wanted to, at any time he wanted to. He said this was a political maneuver.

Mark Walnick, 411 Faitoute Avenue, asked for a response from Councilman Zeglarski regarding what everyone is saying. Councilman Zeglarski said he would wait until everyone is finished speaking before he responds.

Gail Bradley, 721 Elm Street, said she was there for the Badillo Family whom she has known for 16 years. She said on behalf of her family and herself she was there to support him and said their family went through something similar. She said she wanted him to know they are there for him no matter what.

Maryann Janus, 604 W. Scott Avenue, Rahway, said she was there to support Ricky. She said this is politics at its worse and everyone knows it. She told him to hang in there, saying she knows he'll persevere and said he has a tremendous amount of support in this community, because they know him and know what he's done.

Chief Wielgus, Roselle Park Police Department, said Ricky was a personal friend of his. He said what Ricky did was let a Police Officer on his pod, and he did not consider it bad judgement. He said Ricky was getting railroaded, and he did not understand how his Director could allow any internal investigative materials to be put into a newspaper, saying it is strictly confidential. He said he was 100 percent behind him. He referred to what Councilman Zeglarski said in the paper and told him he should watch his comments because they might come back to haunt him.

Kevin Breen, 34 Bender Avenue, Roselle Park, NJ said he takes a lot of pride in Roselle Park. He said his community has taught him that we are to love, respect and support one another no matter what the situation or circumstance, especially when it is one of your own. He said unfortunately his pride has been tainted because one of his own leaders has gone against everything he has been taught since he was a small child in this community. He told Councilman Badillo that he loved him like a father and he stands behind him.

Jenny Acosta, 45 Marthaler Place, said she has lived in this town her whole life and has known Angelina since they were 2 years old. She said she was there to support Mr. Badillo whom she has known for as long as she has known Ang. She said everytime she has been over their house he always has a warm smile. She said he is a great guy, and she was there with a lot of her friends to support his family. She said she felt it was very disrespectful that while some of her friends are coming up to speak, people are saying why don't we get on with this already and stop all this about him. She said she was there to support her friends and their family because this community is about family and about being with each other. She said it is extremely disrespectful and if they have something to say they should come up to the microphone and say it.

Joseph Alfano, 215 E. Colfax Avenue, said he is the Republican Committee Chairperson. He addressed Councilman Zeglarski, saying he felt his statements in Sunday's paper calling for Councilman Badillo's resignation were appalling. He said Councilman Zeglarski claims he wants what is good for Roselle Park, but his actions are partisan. He said he may want to follow the example of the newly elected Chair in Kenilworth Gerard Ramos who stated in the paper "Never attack personally or their families, run clean issues and/or campaigns." He said Ricky has been serving this Borough for almost as many years as Councilman Zeglarski's been alive. He said his record is impeccable, and he is not just a Councilman, he is a volunteer, father, husband and friend. He said it is not Councilman Zeglarski's place to change what the people did on November 5, 2003. He said there were 2,459 people that voted for Ricky, over 68% voted him in, and Councilman Zeglarski cannot change that with his wishes. He said on November 8<sup>th</sup> the people of this town will exercise their right to determine who is going to be the Councilman-at-Large. He said he was confident that despite his efforts to take an employment issue and make it political, and convicting him in the newspaper, the people will speak their peace November 8<sup>th</sup> and he is sure Ricky will be re-elected.

Terry Mazzeo, 430 Seaton Avenue, said she was there for Ricky who has supported her in the past. She said she was disappointed in Bob, who she voted for. She told Ricky that God is watching over him and so is everyone else, they all love him and support him.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Councilman Matarante moved, at 10:20 p.m., to close the public comment portion of the meeting; seconded by Councilman Harms and adopted.

Councilman Zeglarski asked if there is going to be a response to any of the charges. He asked if there was going to be a defense. He said what he is being accused of is wrong. Councilman Rubilla said he brought it on himself. Mayor DeIorio said his question was responded to. He said he sent him a response and gave his opinion. Councilman Zeglarski said he was not looking for a response from him. Mayor DeIorio said the Councilman has once again interrupted him and asked him again for his respect and the opportunity to allow him to speak. He said the response was made clear and, unless other members of Council chose differently, or think differently the matter that he brings before the public, not even before the Governing Body, but to the public and the

press is purely a private matter and in his opinion a political partisan attempt to defame a Councilperson and a member of this community who has not only the support of the people here, but the support of the people of Roselle Park. He said he felt the comment was deliberate on Councilman Zeglarski's part, and had he been a gentleman and a good statesman he would have called the Councilman, irrespective of whether he likes his comment or not. He could have contacted him or any member of this Governing Body privately and said I believe we have a problem that needs some discussion, but instead he choose to run to the newspapers on a weekend which is wrong and partisan. He said the Borough's history has shown that there are times we go through tragedy and face obstacles and challenges. He said back in 1994 this town went through another matter from an elected official, and both parties and the public chose not to bring it to a public forum. He said he has well over a dozen articles on that particular incident that were reported by the Star Ledger and not one time did a member of the Governing Body from any political party comment on it. He said it was a private matter and a serious issue, but at the time the elected officials and party leaders chose not to bring out the trash and say it to the newspapers. Mayor DeIorio said a year ago another incident happened and both of those incidences were criminal in nature, where criminal charges were being proposed, and nothing near to the level of Councilman Badillo's situation. He said a year ago the process went though the courts and the person was found guilty. He said the newspapers called him and to this day he has that message on his voice mail because the reporter for the Star Ledger in his opinion is slanted, one sided and professes to sensationalistic journalism. He said the question was, in a round about way, do you think that because of the charges of this Councilperson being found guilty that there is enough law to remove him from office. Mayor DeIorio said the first thing he did was call that Councilperson, and he did not respond to the Star Ledger. He said he knew that this is a family town and that they work together irrespective of political party. He said he called that person and said he wanted them to know that the newspapers are snooping around. He said bottom line is it's not the business of this Governing Body to discuss, and said he hoped that whatever happens he hopes his family and the other party involved get through it. He said he hoped Councilman Zeglarski learned from this situation and takes the consideration not of the activists of the audience but of the regular everyday people of Roselle Park who took the time to support the Councilman and tell Councilman Zeglarski that what he did was wrong and he did not need this in Roselle Park. He said he would always work with any member of the Governing Body, regardless of party, and asked all members to please refrain from this type of behavior because if does not do this community any good.

Councilman Zeglarski said he did not put it in the newspaper and that it is terrible for our town. He said he wanted Councilman Badillo's family to understand that he was the son of a Mayor and people said things to him of him that were completely inappropriate and that was hard to deal with. He said he understands that it is difficult for them. Councilman Rubilla stated it was in print. Councilman Zeglarski said he did not attempt to harm them or make them feel horrible. He said he wanted them to know what was going through his mind on Saturday. He said as an elected official he has an obligation to his community, and he really thought that this press was bad and would drag on. He said he felt that Council having a quick discussion about it could have put a lot of

things to rest, so they would not have been here on Thursday with this type of scene because he agrees that this is really bad for the community. He said this is going to hang in limbo now, and that is why he cannot apology for anything.

Mayor DeIorio thanked the members of the audience for being there pro or con. He said he was there for Ricky and would stand behind him, not only as his friend, but as the leader of this community. He said what is happening to his family is unfortunate and the people standing here tonight are behind him and will continue irrespective of the outcome.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, at 10:30 p.m., Councilman Matarante moved to adjourn; seconded by Councilman Harms and adopted.

Attest:

Borough Clerk