

Borough of Roselle Park Special Meeting of December 28, 2017

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Charlene Storey	Borough of Roselle Park	Councilwoman	P	6:00 PM
Eugene Meola	Borough of Roselle Park	Councilman	P	6:00 PM
Joseph Petrosky	Borough of Roselle Park	Councilman	P	6:00 PM
Thos Shipley	Borough of Roselle Park	Councilman	P	6:00 PM
William Fahoury	Borough of Roselle Park	Councilman	P	6:00 PM
Michael Connelly	Borough of Roselle Park	Councilman	P	6:00 PM
Carl Hokanson	Borough of Roselle Park	Mayor	P	6:00 PM

Mayor Hokanson called the meeting to order at 6:00 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.

A statement was read by the Mayor indicating that use of electronic devices by members of the Governing Body and Borough staff should be limited to Borough business. All communications are subject to the New Jersey Open Public Records Act.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Shipley moved to approve the following minutes; seconded by Councilman Connelly.

- Regular & Closed Session Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2017

<input type="checkbox"/> Vote Record – Regular & Closed Session Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2017					
		Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adopted	Storey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopted as Amended	Meola	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Defeated	Petrosky	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tabled	Shipley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawn	Fahoury	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Connelly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Hokanson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Regular & Closed Session Meeting Minutes of December 7, 2017

<input type="checkbox"/> Vote Record – Regular & Closed Session Meeting Minutes of December 7, 2017					
		Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adopted	Storey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopted as Amended	Meola	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Defeated	Petrosky	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tabled	Shipley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawn	Fahoury	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Connelly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Hokanson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

MOTION BILLS & PAYROLLS BE NOT READ
MOTION BILLS & PAYROLLS BE PASSED FOR PAYMENT

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

PUBLIC PORTION

Councilman Shipley moved at 6:03 p.m. to open the public comment portion of the meeting on agenda items only; seconded by Councilman Connelly and adopted.

Jacob Magiera, 612 Sheridan Avenue

- Asked for an explanation of Resolutions No. 362-17, No. 363-17 and No. 364-17.

CFO Blum said Resolution No. 362-17 is to cancel checks, Resolution No. 363-17 is cancelling a grant receivable balance, and Resolution No. 364-17 is cancelling Capital Ordinances as projects are deemed complete. He noted that there was approximately \$150,000.00 in Capital Surplus at that time.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Councilman Shipley moved at 6:07 p.m. to close the public comment portion of the meeting on agenda items only; seconded by Councilman Connelly and adopted.

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions listed on Consent Agenda were offered by Councilman Shipley; seconded by Councilman Connelly.

RESOLUTION NO. 359-17

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Roselle Park, County of Union, State of New Jersey hereby accept the resignation of Dion Smith from the position of Part-Time Community Center Desk Person (nighttime "Director"), effective December 26, 2017.

RESOLUTION NO. 360-17

BE IT RESOLVED that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to cancel small tax balances for the year 2017.

ROSELLE PARK
 Open Back Balances
 Sorted By
 Select By From: 2016 1 Through: 2017 4

Records Printed

Total Total:-0.88
 Total Interest:0.00
 Total Total w Int:-0.88

2

Block	Lot	Qual	Total Name	Address	Bank	Interest	Total w Int
00707	00027		-0.27 EDCO DEVELOPMENT GROUP LLC	340 REINDEL PL	00672	0.00	-0.27
01111	00023		-0.61 TRINAJSTIC, IVO & JEANNA	202 GALLOPING HILL RD	00660	0.00	-0.61

End of report.
 Total Total:-0.88
 Total Interest:0.00
 Total Total w Int:-0.88

End of report.
 Total Total:15.65
 Total Interest:0.00
 Total Total w Int:15.65

RESOLUTION NO. 361-17

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Roselle Park, County of Union, State of New Jersey hereby accept the resignation of Nicole Nunes from the position of Municipal Court Administrator effective January 15, 2018.

RESOLUTION NO. 362-17

WHEREAS, there exists various outstanding checks of the Borough of Roselle Park's Current Account; and,

WHEREAS, these checks were issued in 2016; and,

WHEREAS, sound procedures recommended review and cancellation of checks outstanding over a year old.

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 following outstanding checks are hereby canceled:

CURRENT ACCOUNT

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHECK #</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
12/15/2016	21364	\$ 100.00
TOTAL CURRENT ACCOUNT		\$ 100.00

RESOLUTION NO. 363-17

WHEREAS, the Borough of Roselle Park has grants that are completed or expired; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of Roselle Park has determined that the grant receivable and reserve balances must be canceled.

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:

1. That the Chief Financial Officer be and is hereby directed to take all necessary steps to cancel the following grant receivable balances.

<u>GRANT NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant	\$ 15.10
Total Federal and State Grant Fund	\$ 15.10
Grand Total	\$ 15.10

RESOLUTION NO. 364-17

WHEREAS, the Borough of Roselle Park has completed several capital projects; and,
 WHEREAS, the Borough of Roselle Park has determined that the remaining balances maybe canceled and moved to Capital Surplus.

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:

1. That the Chief Financial Officer be and is hereby directed to take all necessary steps to cancel the following capital appropriation balances and move them to Capital Surplus:

<u>ORDINANCE #</u>	<u>ACCOUNT #</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2337	04-2150-55-23370-120	\$ 156,832.04
2367	04-2150-55-23670-130	\$ 50,365.94
2374	04-2150-55-23740-100	\$ 25,272.58
2386	04-2150-55-23860-133	\$ 19,353.59
2412	04-2150-55-24120-132	\$ 16,466.03
TOTAL		\$ 268,290.18

<input type="checkbox"/> Vote Record – Resolutions #359-17 to #364-17					
		<u>Yes/Aye</u>	<u>No/Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Absent</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted	Storey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as Amended	Meola	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Defeated	Petrosky	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Tabled	Shipley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn	Fahoury	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Connelly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Hokanson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS

Councilman Shipley moved to approve the Reports of Departments; seconded by Councilman Connelly, all members present voting Aye, said motion was adopted.

- Casano Center Director’s Report for November 10th through December 18, 2017

PUBLIC PORTION

Councilman Shipley moved at 6:09 p.m. to open the public comment portion of the meeting on any subject matter; seconded by Councilman Connelly and adopted.

Jacob Magiera, 612 Sheridan Avenue

- Stated that as it related to 2010-2011 the next year will be déjà vu. Stated that in 2010-2011 Joe DeIorio was the Mayor and Carl Hokanson was the Councilman-at-Large. Now Carl Hokanson are the Mayor and Joe DeIorio is the Councilman-at-Large.

Saul Qersdyn, 150 Berwyn Street

- Noted the passing of Nery Gonzalez.
- Asked about JMEUC membership information.
- Noted the importance of the vehicle policy, including the use of public vehicles for private events.
- Asked about the removal of trees at 501 Walnut Street.

Councilman Petrosky stated that some of the information noted by Mr. Qersdyn was incorrect and that DPW was following procedure when addressing the trees removed and assessed at 501 Walnut Street.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Councilman Shipley moved at 6:16 p.m. to close the public comment portion of the meeting on any subject matter; seconded by Councilman Connelly and adopted.

Borough Clerk Casais made note that there had been some discussion about conducting interviews in connection with the 2018 Request for Proposals from Professional Service vendors; this matter would be for contract negotiations held in closed session. He stated that based on the information he has gathered it will take approximately 30 minutes to conduct interviews for each prospective vendor. Mr. Casais asked for a dates and further ideas of what the Governing Body would like to do.

Mayor Hokanson said this was an idea that was presented to him, but overall he is not sure why the process would change or be done differently after 20 years or so. He felt that it might just be a waste of time.

Borough Clerk Casais expressed he will do whatever the Governing Body decides, but requested guidance as to whether move forward in this way, or keep things the same as in previous years.

Discussion ensued amongst the governing body and Mr. Casais about potential dates and times for the interviews. After discussion, two dates and times were decided: January 9th and January 15th at 6:00 p.m.

INTERRUPT THE REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

Councilman Shipley moved at 6:30 p.m. to interrupt the regular order of business for a Closed Session Meeting; seconded by Councilman Connelly and adopted.

Mayor Hokanson read the Closed Session resolution and said Council would be discussing the following matter:

- Potential Litigation – Domingo Tapia vs. Roselle Park

RESUME REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

Councilman Shipley moved at 6:35 p.m. to resume the regular order of business; seconded by Councilman Connelly and adopted.

Mayor Hokanson said that during Closed Session, Council discussed the following matter:

- Potential Litigation – Domingo Tapia vs. Roselle Park

Borough Attorney Huxford said the Potential Litigation Matter regarding Domingo Tapia vs. Roselle Park has not been resolved.

Councilwoman Storey gave her farewell speech since she would not be attending the Reorganization Meeting due to the health of her 96 year old father-in-law. She read the following into the record:

“First of all, I want to offer a heartfelt thank you to our wonderful professionals. The vast majority are dedicated hard-working people who make the borough run smoothly. They are the ones who keep things going as councilmembers and mayors come and go. I especially want to thank Doreen Cali who gave me such good advice and always had the information I needed quickly.

However, there’s more to being an elected official than meets the eye. Often, residents only see councilmembers sitting on the dais at meetings or maybe attending town events or in videos. That really doesn’t cover the job. There are many committee meetings and many other meetings that are not visible that are just as, if not more, important to our borough. Along with the volunteer duties, I’ve done everything digging holes . . . to putting together slideshows . . . from cooking hamburgers and hot dogs at borough events to [delivering] vegetables from the farmer’s market to the Casano Community Center.

And there are the opportunities to make donations . . . As Casano liaison, I filled out shortages of holiday food baskets to a total well into the three figures and more. I know there are other councilmembers who make similar efforts and donations. I’d like to thank those councilmembers as they [agreed] to put in their time and hard work to do these kinds of jobs, spreading the burden of responsibility.

[I’d like to] shine a spotlight on a great volunteer who hasn’t always had the kudos he deserves. Not only did Paul Irslinger found a new Friends of the Library several years ago at the library director’s request, but he also persuaded George, a hard-working farmer who runs Valley View Farms, to donate much of his unsold produce to the food pantry at the Casano Center. George’s only condition was that the food be picked up consistently. Paul and his wife Kathy picked it up for years . . . Even now, with his health very poor, Paul and Kathy serve as [a] drop-off point for Alex Balaban’s food for animals in Roselle Park.

A lot of great things have happened while I was on council and I was proud to have been a part of them – and sometimes the driving force. Anyone who’s never done hiring may be surprised to find how difficult it is so I’m pleased to have led the committee that hired Rupen Shah, our great Casano Community Center Director. Not only is Rupen a tremendous idea person, he is also outstanding at implementing those ideas. He takes care of things quickly and thoroughly while still having the people skill set that led him to be loved by our seniors. Roselle Park is fortunate to have him. As the mayor’s

representative of the Library Board of Trustees, I've participated in a key hiring decision this year, bringing in Audra Osorio as the new library director. At her suggestion, the trustees have made some changes that will result in moving our library forward. You've seen some changes already. You'll be seeing a lot more in the coming year.

I'm very proud of the new look of our library grounds that have really been a blight on our town and now is a thing of beauty. Being deeply involved in the changes on a day-to-day basis was a privilege. And I'm pleased that the new armed forces monuments include one for the U.S. Merchant Marine, whose casualty rate in World War II was second only to that of the Marine Corps.

In other areas, I've been glad to take part in a number of things that have highlighted the centennial of World War I and our residents' role in it; including researching the lives of our dead and helping to put together an exhibit on the topic. I'm glad to have established, along with Councilman Meola, a popular holiday pedestrian safety effort. [In its] second year, our police department has been out there [handing out] certificates to [those] who follow the laws to keep our pedestrians safe . . . No taxpayer money was spent on this. I, myself, have purchased several hundred dollars and Mr. Meola also donated generously. Many thanks to the merchants who contributed cards and certificates this year and I hope that the drivers enjoy finding out what great places we have in Roselle Park. You can take a look on YouTube and you can see videos made by the Roselle Park Police Department. I'm also happy to have put in place [a safe place] for [online] sales and purchases, that's the borough hall parking lot, the police department parking lot, where residents can safely meet buyers and sellers they've only known through the internet. A recent incident shows how important that could be.

On a broader note, I've been a big supporter of development, appropriate kind of development, for Roselle Park and I've been in on some of the negotiations. The developments that are underway and that will follow will eliminate eyesores as well as bringing in the population density that is needed today for a vibrant downtown. It will be a shot in the arm for the borough's economy by providing new business for our business people and will also add money to the borough government's coffers. People have asked me over the years why we couldn't have the kind of developments found in Cranford and Garwood. Well, they're finally coming.

I wish I can say all my memories of public life are happy ones, but too often I have found that the negative clichés about politics and politicians, sadly, are true. I say this without calling out any one political party. I misjudged the character of too many people. I saw what I wanted to see too often because I truly believed that Roselle Park is the number one concern of just about every person I dealt with. That is, in fact, the case for some politicians, such as councilmen Meola. There are others I've worked with on whom the jury is still out. But too many others put party over the municipality and I'm not sure what the point of that is. It's a sad situation and I don't know how you deal with the bitter and ridiculous political division . . . and the local parties often don't even reflect the stands with their national counterparts. And let's be real, we're talking about a town roughly one-mile square.

I've also been disappointed in other ways. I found people who don't seem to be able to disagree with others based on ideas but would attack on the basis of race, ethnicity, and beliefs. I found people who gladly took oaths to support the Constitution, the fundamental law of our country, and ignored it when it wasn't about protecting them or outright trash it when it inconvenienced them. People who simply wanted what they wanted, regardless of the law of the land. I found myself associating with people who bragged of bringing the town together, but in fact, divide it outside their own little bubble. I found myself dealing with people who flat-out lied to me and to the public we all serve and I dealt with religious bigots. I saw these individuals' true characters too late. I apologize to those who tried to point it out to me sooner and whose warnings I did not take seriously.

But in the end, I believe that Roselle Park is home to some wonderful people. It's a good solid town that can have a bright future and I am pleased to have worked hard to try to contribute to that future. I hope that those who come to the dais next month and in years to come get us there. Good luck."

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Councilman Shipley moved at 6:42 p.m. to adjourn; seconded by Councilman Connelly and adopted.

Attest:

Andrew J. Casais, RMC
Borough Clerk