

ROSSLYN FARMS BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Council Meeting
September 11, 2023

Time: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Location: Rosslyn Farms Community Center, Calvert Room

Attendees: Council Vice President David Robb (2025) was present and chaired the meeting. Council members Barbara Becker (2025), Chad Green (2023), Jonathan Glance (2025), and Jay Lear (2023) were present. Mayor Isabel Ford (2025), Secretary/Treasurer Dorothy Falk, and Solicitor Emily Mueller from GRB were also present.

Regrets: Council President Steve Tassaro (2023) and Council member Lee Griffin (2025).

Materials: A sign-in sheet and agenda were provided to those in attendance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Becker made a motion to accept the minutes from August 14, 2023 as presented, which was seconded by Mr. Glance. A discussion was held. Vice President Robb noted that the minutes indicate that he was supposed to have been consulted in putting together the RFP for the Community Center renovation, but that he had not been. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Lear made a motion to accept the minutes from August 21, 2023 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Glance and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

Vice President Robb opened the floor to those wishing to speak.

Sewer lateral installation request on Club – Jesse and Nyra Schell (26 Club) informed Council that they are interested in connecting to the municipal sanitary sewer system instead of having a septic system. They would need to install a grinder pump and tap in across the road from their home, which requires going through a Borough right of way. Mr. Robb reported that other residents on Club have indicated an interest in tapping into the sewer system as well. A discussion was held. Mr. Glance and Mr. Robb volunteered to participate in discussions with interested residents, who would need to generate a proposal to which the borough could respond.

Soccer field - Bill Haurilla from Archangel Gabriel Catholic School was present. They currently use the soccer field and would like to put in a porta-potty. A discussion followed. Mr. Haurilla will follow up with Council member Lee Griffin.

Mulch - Resident Daniel Proch asked Council to consider delivering mulch to residents.

Evergreen Montessori renting Calvert Room with exclusive access- The following residents spoke: Robert Umstead, Marcia Mastrangelo, Nancy Barsotti, Patrick Rodgers, Nyra and Jesse Schell,

Mary Bhaskar, Ken Fischer, Kathleen Green, Chris Green, Lori Feola, Taylor Frankovitch, and Susan Krets.

Concerns included losing access to a room and building that was renovated by residents for residents, not having an attractive, accessible area for residents to gather, and giving exclusive access of a community asset to a for-profit business. There was discussion of the value of a preschool versus the need to expand to older grades, options for the school to expand into the gym rather than the Calvert Room, risk to the tax-exempt status of the building, and recovering renovation costs. Council communication and transparency were also discussed. A petition opposing the proposal is being circulated and has been signed by residents in 107 households.

Ms. Becker reported that strong community opposition to renting the Calvert Room to Evergreen Montessori has affected support for the proposal. Other options will be considered.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Mueller reported that the Borough has received the settlement check from Honeywell.

Draft Sidewalk Ordinance: Solicitor Mueller reviewed the changes that were made to the draft ordinance at the August 21, 2023 meeting. Ms. Becker made a motion that Council authorize Ms. Falk to advertise the ordinance for adoption at the October 9, 2023 Council meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Glance. A discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Ms. Falk reported that she has invoiced the Borough of Carnegie for 2% of the regionalization repair project costs (\$556.34), which will close out the project. We are still waiting for confirmation from ALCOSAN that the transfer has been finalized.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Ford reported that 40-50 people attended the dedication of the Richard Thornburgh historic marker. She gave the police report: one domestic disturbance and one fire alarm call.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Falk presented Council with reports for Deposits, Profit and Loss, and Account Balances.

Ratify decision to issue refund check: Mr. Glance made a motion that Council ratify its decision to issue check #2051 in the amount of \$2,552.50 to resident Anastasia Markiw as a refund of the balance of cash security required for the grading permit (\$2,500) and the balance in the grading escrow account (\$52.50). Mr. Green seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Disbursements: Ms. Falk presented council with a list of disbursements for invoices received since the August 14 meeting. Mr. Glance made a motion that Council approve the disbursements as presented. Ms. Becker seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Pension – Minimum Municipal Obligation for 2024: Ms. Falk reported that the minimum municipal obligation for Rosslyn Farms for its 2024 retirement contribution is \$11,200, using an estimate of \$140,000 for payroll and a contribution rate of 8%.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Code management (Green) – Ms. Falk reported that Harshman was coordinating a preapplication meeting with Mallet in the industrial park for stormwater management. Mr. Glance volunteered to attend on behalf of the Borough.

Communication/Website (Green) – Mr. Green indicated that there have been issues with the website due to a lapsed security license. It has since been renewed.

Ms. Becker reported that residents have requested that the information on the site be updated to make it more helpful. Resident Derek Luke volunteered to help. A discussion was held on how to get information out to residents effectively.

Community Center/Facilities (Becker) -

The Design Alliance Architects proposal for Community Center options: Ms. Becker read comments from Betsy Tassaro, chair of the Community Facilities committee regarding her support for having Evergreen Montessori as a tenant in the building. A discussion followed.

Council discussed the proposal from The Design Alliance Architects, which was preauthorized at the August 14, 2023 meeting. Mr. Glance made a motion that the proposed steering committee include Mr. Green, Ms. Becker, Mr. Robb, and Mayor Ford. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lear, and it passed unanimously.

Finance/Grants (Robb) –

Caliguiri Group update: The written monthly update was distributed. We are waiting to hear the results of the Greenways, Trails, & Recreation and DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund grant applications.

Human Resources (Lear) – Mr. Lear reported that pool manager Brad Gossett was happy with the lifeguard situation this year. Council commended the efforts of all who made the season successful.

Infrastructure (Tassaro) –

Sidewalk repair project: Mr. Robb will continue coordinating the project now that the sidewalk ordinance has been finalized.

Parks/Recreation (Griffin) – A discussion was held on the request to install a porta-potty at the soccer field. Mayor Ford will reach out to Ms. Griffin.

Waste/Recycling (Glance) – No report.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A discussion was held on the length of the current police contract. Ms. Falk will look into it.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Glance made a motion that council adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM. Ms. Becker seconded the motion, which carried.