

BOROUGH OF ROOSEVELT  
33 N. Rochdale Ave, Roosevelt Borough, NJ 08555

Mayor and Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes of October 6, 2025

Mayor Malkin opened the meeting at 7:09pm and read the Open Public Meeting Act statement which stated, Adequate notice of this meeting, as required by Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, has been provided by a public notice on January 6, 2025 which was posted on the Bulletin Board Roosevelt Post Office and in the Borough Hall. The notice was transmitted to The Times and Asbury Park Press.

ROLL CALL

	PRESENT	ABSENT	LATE ARRIVAL
<i>Councilmember Lou Esakoff</i>	✓		
<i>Councilmember Danelle Feigenbaum</i>	✓		
<i>Councilmember Constance Herrstrom</i>	✓		
<i>Councilmember Claudia Luongo</i>	✓		
<i>Councilmember Tina Kaufman-Marut</i>	✓		
<i>Councilmember Ralph Warnick</i>		✓	
<i>Mayor Peggy Malkin</i>	✓		

Also in attendance: Attorney, Bill McGinn and Borough Clerk, Kathleen Hart

MAYOR’S REPORT: Will report later in the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: (Agenda items only)

M/Malkin opened the meeting to Public Comment for agenda items only at 7:10pm.

No Public Comment.

M/Malkin closed the Public Comment for agenda items at 7:10pm.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Letter received from NJ Department of Environment Protection, Division of Water Quality, Bureau of Environmental, Engineering and Permitting, dated September 12, 2025, regarding the approval of the design plans for the new WWTP Trickling Filters.
2. Letter from Roberts Engineering, dated September 23, 2025, regarding Improvements to Lake Drive existing sidewalks.
3. Letter from Roberts Engineering, dated September 29, 2025, regarding the water tower inspection report review.

MINUTES:

1. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – September 15, 2025  
On a motion by C/Esakoff to accept the minutes, with a second offered by C/Kaufman-Marut the minutes were approved by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call:

AYES: C/Feigenbaum, C/Herrstrom, C/Luongo, C/Kaufman-Marut

NAYS: None ABSTAIN: C/Esakoff ABSENT: C/Warnick

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 25-107 Authorizing the Borough of Roosevelt to Enter into a Shared Services Agreement with the Borough of Hightstown Regarding the Repair and Maintenance of Public Water and Sewer Lines, and Public Roads and Streets - TABLED

C/Herrstrom made a motion to table Resolution 25-107, with a second from C/Kaufman Marut, and was adopted by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call:

AYES: C/Esakoff, C/Feigenbaum, C/Herrstrom, C/Luongo, C/Kaufman-Marut  
NAYS: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: C/Warnick

Resolution 25-107 is tabled to the 10/21/2025 Council meeting.

- Resolution 25-104 Payment of Bills for October 6, 2025
- Resolution 25-105 Authorizing A Shared Services Agreement with the Borough of Hightstown for Solid Waste Collection Services
- Resolution 25-106 Resolution of the Borough Council of the Borough of Roosevelt Waiving July/August Water and Sewer Utility Billings for 5 Cedar Court, Block 2, Lot 51
- Resolution 25-108 A Resolution to Affirm the Borough of Roosevelt’s Civil Rights Policy with Respect to all Officials, Appointees, Employees, Prospective Employees, Volunteers, Independent Contractors, and Members of the Public that Come into Contact with Municipal Employees, Officials and Volunteers

C/Herrstrom made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda Resolution’s 25-104 through 25-106, and 25-108, with a second from C/Esakoff, and was adopted by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call:

AYES: C/Esakoff, C/Feigenbaum, C/Herrstrom, C/Luongo, C/Kaufman-Marut  
NAYS: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: C/Warnick

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Administration: No Report at this time.

Community Dev/Code: C/Herrstrom states that October 21 the Senior Group will have an event in either Belmar or Asbury Park – (lunch will be at either La Dolce Vita or Iron Whale). We will have a 1 hour walk before lunch at 11:30am.

Fund for Roosevelt is still raising money to offset the (50% of the Borough’s responsibility) current \$180,000 donations, have been pledged. Saturday mornings we are at the Post Office to try and get the word out to the residents. C/Feigenbaum states that she has someone who want to donate as soon as the project is approved. Ms. Feigenbaum also asks where did the signs come from that are around town? C/Herrstrom states from the Fund for Roosevelt.

Environmental, Health & Safety: No report at this time.

Finance: No report at this time.

Public Works: No Report at this time.

Utilities: No report at this time.

REPORTS OF BOROUGH OFFICIALS:

Michael Ticktin, 37 N Valley Road Environmental Commission – No report at this time. Asks the Council to re-adopt Resolution 23-45 Sustainable Land Use Pledge that was done in 2023. Council discussed and it will be placed on the next agenda.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. TNR Program – M/Malkin states it is a very decisive topic and people have many different feelings about it. M/Malkin reads a statement regarding TNR, if Borough does a TNR program then Borough is responsible. Re: cost, other cats get dropped off. Cons: high cost, ineffective of reducing cat population over time as new cats move in, potential of spread of disease, negative impact on wildlife, negative neighborhood perception, nuisance control and challenges in administering care and effectiveness in population control. Cost and resources – TNR programs require significant funding for veterinary costs including spay and neutering services, anesthesia, pain medications, vaccines and the veterinarian and technicians time. Ongoing commitment to manage colonies. Public Health and Safety – disease transmission, unowned cats can carry disease and parasites. Rabies Vaccination – duration of effect in feral cats can be limited causing a continuation public health threat risk. Impact on Wildlife – feral cats can still hunt and kill wildlife. Ecological Impact – TNR programs do not address ecological impact on wildlife populations. Community Relations – many residents find feral cats a nuisance regardless of their sterilization status and do not appreciate large number of cats in their neighborhood. Public Perception – the ongoing presence of feral cats can create conflict between animal welfare advocates and community members. Inhumane Consideration – limited post-operative care. Overall Welfare – some argue that TNR can be inhumane to the cats themselves subjecting them to stressful trapping, and confinement, without resolving the broader issues of their welfare. It would be a real hardship for the town to afford to oversee a TNR program. Also it's a known fact that when a town has a TNR program other people will come and dump cats within the town. C/Feigenbaum states this is all negative can we hear the positive comments. Mr. Cannon talked about his own township, which has 22,000 residents compared to us with 800 residents – let's get real. M/Malkin states that this is not coming from the Animal Control Officer – she does not deal with feral cats. C/Luongo states that she is willing to be a TNR volunteer and would also donate money and would like a committee established. Municipal Clerk, Kathleen Hart states the only question is whether the borough will adopt a TNR program or let individual groups do it. C/Feigenbaum states the only question is who is going to pay for the treatment of them. If the individual groups do it the borough does not pay. You are not prohibited from having a private group do it. C/Luongo states that she thought it was that nobody in Roosevelt can do TNR – M/Malkin states no. The discussion was does the borough adopt a sanctioned TNR program – if we don't then we have no cost and no responsibility but anyone is free to do their own TNR. C/Herrstrom states how about disseminating information? M/Malkin states the groups can do TNR, but the Borough can't be involved if we do not have a TNR program. If a person is feeding feral cats on their property then the Animal Control Officer can issue a summons and that has nothing to do with a TNR program, TNR is a separate program. The Council continues to have a lengthy discussion regarding a TNR program and the feeding a feral cat on their property and table the discussion to the October 20, 2025 meeting, at that time the Borough will vote on whether they should have a TNR program.

## NEW BUSINESS:

1. Lake Drive existing sidewalks; Council discusses sidewalks on Lake Drive – do we rip up all the asphalt sidewalks, Roberts Engineering opinion is the next time we apply for a grant we apply for funds to replace the sidewalks, either a portion, the full sidewalk – but will be very costly. C/Luongo asks about the asphalt under her grass, is that part of a sidewalk? Roberts Engineering just wanted us to know that some sidewalks are in poor condition, and what do we want to do. C/Herrstrom makes a motion to wait for the next round of funding, with a second from C/Feigenbaum, with an all in favor.
2. Water tower inspection report – everyone received the letter on the inspection of the water tank. Right now the water tower needs \$110,000 in repairs, it is 90 years old and the thickness of steel if it begins to thin it will start to leak and would have to be replaced. Right now to do all the necessary repairs it will cost \$110,000 - \$111,000 and \$20,000 for Roberts Engineering. Total of \$131,000 has to be done now, going forward there's a good chance the tower will last another 5 years, typically a water towers life span is 80 – 100 years it's now 90 years old. It's very possible in the next 5 years it will need to be replaced. Roberts Engineering feeling is it will be ok for another 2-5 years. The cost of a brand new

water tower in today's environment it would cost about a million dollars. We will ask Roberts Engineering to come to the October 20, 2025 meeting.

3. Affordable Housing Obligation – We are not responsible to put up any more affordable housing because we are developed out, however, we do have to rehab 30 residential homes in town, up to \$30,000 (income based), we have 10 years to accomplish this, 3 residents a year for 10 years. Repairs – heating, air conditioning, roof, anything that's a necessity. The program is administered by the State of NJ and a private company, they do all the work. Our Borough Planner, Andy Thomas, did give us a name of a company nearby and M/Malkin will contact him to see if he will accept Roosevelt as a client. Then we will do a non-fair an open contract and this needs to be done now. So if we have 30 residents that need \$30,000 in repairs we are looking at \$900,000 over the next 10 years, so that's \$90,000 a year plus whatever the company charges over the next 10 years.  
C/Feigenbaum wants political flags outside your house taken down – its freedom of speech you can't tell someone to take down their signs.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT (Any item)

M/Malkin opens the public comment at 8:18pm.

1. Lucy Craig, 39 N. Valley Road – states that the Mendies Farm is still interested on housing feral cats and is responsible for feeding and caring for them, (including medicine). What is licensed and permitted by a TNR program. Are the people who were feeding the feral cats aware of the ordinance? This now gives Animal Control the ability to issue a summons and then it will go to court. Suggests a feral cat coordinator (volunteer position which she would be willing to be that person) who can present options to residents and discuss TNR with them. Additional discussion takes place on the feral cat ordinance and possible amendments.
2. Attorney, Bill McGinn states there is no borough sponsored TNR program in the borough and states there is nothing stopping a local TNR program.

M/Malkin closes the public comment at 8:36pm.

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

Time Out: 8:37pm

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

Respectfully Submitted,

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Kathleen Hart, Borough Clerk

Adopted Date: November 17, 2025