

Rochester Borough Council
 Regular Meeting in the Municipal Building
 January 18, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Present: President Benjamin Rader, Ron Becker, Brandy Dietrich, Rico Elmore, Jodi Hemer, Mayor Keith Jackson, Solicitor Bernie Rabik, Police Chief Frank Mercier, Manager John Barrett

Absent: Marjorie White, Vice-President Don Brothers, David Alford, Code Officer Peggy Griffith, Fire Chief Mike Mamone III

Mayor Jackson swore in the newly elected officials; Mr. Becker, Mrs. Hemer, Mr. Elmore and signed their oath of office and affidavit of residency forms then presented them to Manager Barrett.

The regular meeting was called to order with the pledge of allegiance and roll call.

Persons in Attendance:

Mike Brdar, 90 Dewey Avenue, presented a letter to Council asking that his property be designated a single-family structure. It currently is considered a multi-family structure. Mr. Brdar stated that he had been renting out multiple units but for now is not interested leasing any of the units. Mr. Brdar stated that there are separate electric services for each unit and does not want to incur any expenses to convert the electric to a single service. After some discussion, the Solicitor, Code Officer and Manager will review the matter and report back to Council.

Action Items:

Mr. Becker motioned to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2021 regular Council meeting, December 20, 2021 stormwater meeting and January 3, 2022 reorganizational meeting as presented. Mrs. Dietrich seconded and the motion carried.

Mrs. Dietrich motioned to pay all approved bills as submitted. Mr. Elmore seconded and the motion carried.

BILLS:

Gen. Fund – Ck# 11021–11080 – totaling \$191,919.29.

Payroll (12/24, 1/7) – Ck# 5154-5178 plus Dir. Dep. and Elec. Pymts. – totaling \$110,713.17.

Manager Barrett presented Resolution 2022-01 – establishing fees and charges for various applications, permits and services provided by Rochester Borough for Council’s consideration. The only fee change is re-instating the \$300 fee for coin-operated amusement devices. After some discussion, Mr. Becker motioned to approve and adopt Resolution 2022-01 as presented. Mr. Elmore seconded and the motion carried.

Manager Barrett presented Ordinance 01-2022 – establishing names for the Borough’s recreation places, notably tax parcel 46-001-2106 named Howe Park in honor of Howard “Howdy” Howe for Council’s consideration. The ordinance has been properly advertised. After some discussion, Mrs. Dietrich motioned to approve and adopt Ordinance 01-2022 as presented. Mr. Elmore seconded and the motion carried.

Manager Barrett presented an invoice from Rochester Township for fire expenses incurred October through December 2021. There was a charge included for the incentive program the Township has for the firemen. The Borough has never shared this expense in previous invoices. An agreement between the Borough and Township, identifying expenses to be shared and what percentage of the cost is covered by each municipality, has never been drafted or signed. The Manager noted that there were 6 different expense items on the invoice. Five of them were normal expenses routinely paid by the Borough but the sixth one, incentive program, was not a normal expense item. After some discussion, Mr. Elmore motioned to pay the 5 routine expenses and exclude the incentive program payment of \$3,900 for an invoice total of \$3,812.54. Mr. Becker seconded and the motion carried. Council authorized the Manager to send a letter to the Township Commissioners advising them of Council's action and the need to develop a mutually agreed upon agreement detailing what and how fire expenditures are to be paid.

Review Items:

Council received for their review, the minutes of the December 9, 2021 Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority meeting.

Committee Reports:

Public Administration – Ron Becker, Chairperson

The Expense & Revenue report covering January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 was presented for Council's review.

Public Safety – Don Brothers, Chairperson

There was nothing to report in Mr. Brothers' absence.

Public Works – , Chairperson

Manager Barrett informed Council that one of the dump trucks has been at the repair shop waiting for a part for about a week. This has caused longer response times to clear and salt the streets during Sunday/Monday's winter storm.

Recreation – Brandy Dietrich, Chairperson

Mrs. Dietrich informed Council that the next Riverfront Committee meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, January 19th at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Jackson noted that the guiderail at the corner of Lloyd Street and Industry Way is missing or has fallen down. He feels it should be replaced to protect vehicles from sliding over the embankment. Manager Barrett will review the matter.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Rabik noted that Mr. Elmore is in the Air Force Reserves and is scheduled to deploy overseas in several weeks. He will be missing 2 or 3 meetings. Solicitor Rabik asked that Council make a motion granting Mr. Elmore a leave of absence during his deployment. After some discussion, Mr. Becker motioned to grant Mr. Elmore a leave of absence from his duties as a Council member during his deployment. Mrs. Dietrich seconded and the motion carried.

Solicitor Rabik and Chief Mercier discussed the need for a policy establishing guidelines covering employees who have been exposed to or have contracted the COVID-19 virus. After some discussion, Solicitor Rabik, Chief Mercier and Mrs. Dietrich will develop a draft policy for Council to consider.

Code Officer's Report:

Council received for their review, the December 2021 Code Officer's report.

Police Chief's Report:

Chief Mercier presented the December 2021 and 2021 Annual Police Department reports and Code Officer's report for Council's review. Chief Mercier reviewed several items from the reports.

Chief Mercier stated that special details such as aggressive driving, and DUI check points are now being administered through the County DUI Task Force and Hopewell Township. If a municipality would like to participate in these special details, the municipality would have to adopt a resolution stating their interest and intent to join the County DUI Task Force. Only members of the task force are eligible to participate. After some discussion, Chief Mercier will get a sample ordinance and some detail information for Council to review. The Solicitor, Police Chief and Manager will develop a resolution specific to Rochester Borough should Council wish to participate.

Fire Chief's Report:

The December 2021 and 2021 Annual Fire Department Reports were presented for Council's review.

Manager's/Treasurer's Report:

Manager Barrett presented the December 2021 Treasurer's report for Council's review.

Old Business/New Business:

Council, the Mayor, the Solicitor, the Police Chief and the Code Officer received the State Ethics Commission Statement of Financial Interests form which is to be completed for the year 2021 and returned to the Manager's office by May 1, 2022.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Submitted by,

John M. Barrett
Borough Manager