

Rochester Borough Council
Regular Meeting in the Municipal Building
March 20, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Present: President Don Brothers, Rico Elmore, Sam Piccinini, Renee Simmons, Toni Bucher, Jodi Hemer (arrived at 6:35pm), Mayor Keith Jackson, Solicitor Paul Steff, Sargent Dawn Shane, Fire Chief Mike Mamone III, Manager John Barrett

Absent: Vice-President David Alford, Chad Rape,

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

Persons in Attendance:

Jessica Howe, Rochester Civil Service Commission, presented the certified list of the 3 officers that passed the civil service exam for Council's review and consideration. The rankings were: Cameron Stone #1, Jeff Roberts #2 and Anthony Roach #3.

Albert Ellis, 311 Deer Lane, discussed his purchase of 313 Deer Lane from the Borough in 2021. The Borough demolished the existing building but it was still being assessed on the current property tax bill he received. Mr. Ellis stated that he gave the Borough \$2,700, \$2,000 for the purchase of the property. He asked where did the \$700 go? After some discussion, The Solicitor and Manager will review the matter.

Action Items:

Mrs. Bucher motioned to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2023 regular Council meeting as presented. Mr. Elmore seconded and the motion carried.

Mrs. Simmons motioned to pay all approved bills as submitted. Mrs. Bucher seconded and the motion carried.

BILLS:

Gen. Fund – Ck# 11811–11857 – totaling \$90,211.32.

Payroll (3/3, 3/17) – Ck# 5561-5579 plus Dir. Dep. and Elec. Pymts. – totaling \$119,177.39.

Council received for their review and consideration, 2 applications from Clinton Hays for the purchase of 2 vacant lots from the Beaver County Repository. The first is for 469 Kossuth Street and the second is for 471 Kossuth Street. Mr. Hays was not present and Council took no action on the applications.

Council received for their review and consideration, a proposal from J. Martin & Associates for completing the annual audit of the Borough's financial accounts and completing the Annual Financial Report for DCED. The proposal provides for 2 options: (1) a 3-year option; (2) a 5-year option. J. Martin & Associates (Cottrill, Arbutina & Associates) have completed the Borough's annual audit for the past 9 years. The Manager has been pleased with their service and is recommending Council consider the 5-year option for approval. After some discussion, Mrs.

Bucher motioned to approve and accept J Martin & Associates' 5-year option for the years 2022-2026. Mr. Elmore seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their review and consideration, bids for the 2023 Road Paving Program. Youngblood Paving was the low bidder with a base bid price of \$110,257.10, Add Bid #1 - \$25,923.65, Add Bid #2 - \$33,026.40. Council may choose the base bid only or the base bid plus either or both of the Add Bids. After some discussion, Mr. Elmore motioned to accept and approve the base bid only from Youngblood Paving. Mr. Piccinini seconded and the motion carried. There was discussion regarding street opening permits. The Solicitor will review the ordinance regulating street openings.

Review Items:

Council received for their review, the February 9, 2023 minutes of the Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority meeting.

Committee Reports:

Public Administration – Chad Rape, Chairperson

Council received for their review, the Expense and Revenue Report from January 1, 2023 through March 13, 2023.

Public Safety – Rico Elmore, Chairperson

Mr. Elmore reviewed and discussed the proposed 2023 fire department budget. The general operating budget for the fire department was \$92,600. The remaining expenditures would be paid by the respective municipality for items such as, insurance, utilities for the buildings, hydrant rental, etc. After some discussion, Mr. Piccinini motioned to approve the 2023 budget as presented contingent upon Rochester Township agreeing to a 50/50 split of the \$92,600 general operating budget. Mr. Elmore seconded and the motion carried.

Public Works – Toni Bucher, Chairperson

Mrs. Bucher had nothing to report.

Recreation – Renee Simmons, Chairperson

Mrs. Simmons had nothing to report.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Jackson discussed the condition of the sidewalk at the corner of New York Avenue and Jackson Street, the fire hydrant at the corner of Deer Lane and New York Avenue and the condition of Hinds Street.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Steff had nothing to report.

Code Officer's Report:

Council received for their review, the February 2023 Zoning Officer's and Code Officer's reports. There was discussion regarding the codification of the Rochester Code of Ordinances. Solicitor Steff will review. Mr. Piccinini discussed installing a copy of CrimeStar on the Code Officer's lap top and on a computer in the Borough office for tracking the status of complaints and citations. The Sargent will get this installed.

Police Report:

Council received for their review, the February 2023 Police Department report.

Sargent Shane discussed the hiring of a full-time police officer. She stated that Cameron Stone would accept a full-time position but she was not sure if Jeff Roberts would. After some discussion, Mr. Piccinini motioned to hire Cameron Stone and Jeff Roberts and if Mr. Roberts did not accept the position, then offer the position to Anthony Roach. Mrs. Simmons seconded and the motion carried.

Fire Chief's Report:

Council received for their review, the February 2023 Fire Department report.

Manager's/Treasurer's Report:

Council received for their review, the February 2023 Treasurer's Report.

Old Business/New Business:

Council, the Mayor, and the Solicitor received the State Ethics Commission Statement of Financial Interests form which is to be completed for the year 2022 and returned to the Manager's office by May 1, 2023.

Sargent Shane discussed hiring Dave Hunter as a part-time police officer. Mr. Piccinini motioned to approve the hire. Mr. Elmore seconded and the motion carried. Sargent Shane asked about a waiver to have college/high school students ride in the police car. This would be for those interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement. Mr. Piccinini motioned to approve the ride-along contingent upon the Solicitor approving the waiver form. Mrs. Simmons seconded and the motion carried. Sargent Shane stated that there would be a need to purchase protective vests for some of the part-time and full-time officers approved for hire; possibly 4 or 5 vests. Mr. Piccinini motioned to approve the purchase. Mr. Elmore seconded and the motion carried. There was discussion about getting more light around the outside of the bar at the corner of Deer Lane and New York Avenue.

Mr. Piccinini requested an executive session for personnel matters.

Council went into an executive session at 8:36 p.m. Council would not be reconvening after the executive session.

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

Submitted by,

John M. Barrett
Borough Manager