

Rochester Borough Council
 Regular Meeting in the Municipal Building
 May 20, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Present: President David Alford, Vice-President Toni Bucher, Don Brothers, Renee Simmons, Chad Rape, Rico Elmore, Sam Piccinini, Jodi Hemer (arrived at 6:45pm), Mayor Keith Jackson, Solicitor Paul Steff, Sergeant Dawn Shane, Manager John Barrett

Absent: Fire Chief Mike Mamone III

The meeting was called to order with the pledge of allegiance.

Persons in Attendance:

Charles Craft, 182 Clay Street, stated he recently had a house fire. His insurance company sent the Borough the fire escrow funds per their ordinance. He had the house demolished and was inquiring about retrieving the fire escrow funds. Manager Barrett stated that the funds would be release when the property was compliant with all the codes. There is some overgrown vegetation that needs addressed. Mr. Craft stated that he would take care of that.

Mariah Miller, Just 1 More sports bar, offered to assist the Borough with the sale of alcohol at the upcoming June events. After some discussion, Mr. Elmore will follow up with Mrs. Miller to see if an arrangement can be worked out.

Gwynn Riley, Marion Hill Associates/River Salvage Company, spoke to Council about a floating dock system that would attach to the stage area and rise and fall with the height of the Ohio river. Mr. Riley estimated the cost to be around \$210,000. After some discussion, Mr. Alford thanked Mr. Riley and stated that there may be some interest but the Borough did not have the funding available at this time.

Ron Bagolia asked Council if his organization could put in a memorial brick area near the memorial board installed last year at the Flag Plaza honoring veterans killed in service. After some discussion, Mr. Rape motioned to approve the brick area. Mrs. Bucher seconded and the motion carried.

Nate Goughnour, Beaver County Events, offered his services to Council in advertising and organizing their events. Council thanked Mr. Goughnour and said they would get in touch with him to discuss further.

Action Items:

Mrs. Bucher motioned to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2024 regular Council meeting as presented. Mr. Elmore seconded and the motion carried.

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

BILLS:

Gen. Fund – Ck# 12736–12821 – totaling \$313,765.90.

Payroll (4/26, 5/10) – Ck# 5836-5859 plus Dir. Dep. and Elec. Pymts. – totaling \$118,827.91.

Council received for their review and consideration, a proposed Inter-Municipal Cooperation Agreement between Rochester Borough and Rochester Township for the Support of the Rochester Fire Department. Solicitor Steff stated that he prepared Resolution 2024-02 authorizing the President of Council and the Manager to sign the agreement on behalf of the Borough if Council was satisfied with the agreement. After some discussion, Mr. Elmore motioned to approve Resolution 2024-02 and execute the fire agreement as presented. Mr. Piccinini seconded and the motion carried.

Council discussed items needed for the upcoming June events: flyers, chairs, tables, port-a-johns, sound, Fire-Police, ReAct, portable radios, water, beer, miscellaneous signs, caution tape. After much discussion, Mr. Brothers motioned to approve a budget of \$5,280 for the June 15th event and an additional \$500 for a drink booth run by the Borough. Mr. Alford seconded and the motion carried. There will be further discussion at the next meeting regarding the budget for the June 28-29 event.

Council to consider appointments to fill vacancies on the Zoning Hearing Board. The following persons have expressed an interest in serving on the Board:

- i. Wes Hill – 338 Deer Lane
- ii. Ernie Grillo – 580 Jefferson Street
- iii. Stephanie Moore – 472 Kossuth Street
- iv. Edward Hregdovic – 402 Jefferson Street
- v. John Moore – 472 Kossuth Street
- vi. Virdina Harris – 192 Pennsylvania Avenue
- vii. Stephen Starr – owner of the Jackpot slot parlor

After some discussion, Mr. Elmore motioned to appoint Wes Hill (1 year term), Stephanie Moore (2 year term), and Virdina Harris (3 year term) to fill the vacancies on the Zoning Hearing Board and appoint John Moore as an alternate (3 year term). Mrs. Bucher seconded and the motion carried. Roll Call 8-0, all yes.

Council received for their review and consideration, an agreement with Columbia Gas on compensation for paving roads Columbia Gas cut for their pipe replacement project. Columbia Gas would pay 81% of the paving cost. After some discussion, Mrs. Hemer motioned to accept and approve the agreement as presented. Mr. Elmore seconded and the motion carried. After some discussion, Mrs. Bucher motioned to award the paving contract to Youngblood Paving for \$397,545.58. Mr. Brothers seconded and the motion carried.

Review Items:

Council received for their review, a notice from the LCB of a pending liquor license transfer application.

Council received for their review, a Compliance Audit from the PA Auditor General on the Rochester Township Volunteer Firemen's Relief Association Fund for the years 2020-2023.

Council received for their review, the 2023 Rochester Borough Annual Audit Report completed by the Borough's auditors, J. Martin & Associates.

Committee Reports:Public Administration – Chad Rape, Chairperson

Council received for their review, the Expense and Revenue Report from January 1, 2024 through May 15, 2024.

Public Safety – Rico Elmore, Chairperson

Mr. Elmore had nothing to report.

Police Department Report – Sergeant Shane discussed a proposed mutual aid agreement with New Sewickley for the Borough to request the use of their officers should the Borough be in need of officers due to upcoming vacations, events, and PennDOT projects. After some discussion, Mrs. Bucher motioned to approve the mutual aid agreement. Mr. Brothers seconded and the motion carried.

Public Works – Toni Bucher, Chairperson

There was discussion about the condition of the alley behind 410 Reno Street and Liberty Way. The Manager will discuss this with the Public Works Department.

Recreation – Renee Simmons, Chairperson

Mrs. Simmons had nothing to report.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Jackson noted various high grass areas on E. Washington Street and Jackson Street.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Steff had nothing to report.

Code Officer's Report:

Council received for their review, the April report from the Code Officer and the 2024 activities log from the Zoning Officer.

Fire Chief's Report:

Council received for their review, the April 2024 Fire Department report.

Manager's/Treasurer's Report:

Council received for their review, the April 2024 Treasurer's Report.

Old Business/New Business:

Mr. Alford noted that the pavilion was completed and the blacktop floor will be laid when scheduling permits.

Mr. Piccinini asked the Solicitor if he could draft a hold harmless letter to Matt Bryan for allowing the Borough to park cars on his lot for the June events.

Council went into an executive session at 10:15 p.m. to discuss ongoing contract negotiations.

Council reconvened at 11:10 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:11 p.m.

Submitted by,

John M. Barrett
Borough Manager