

Rochester Borough Council
 Regular Meeting in the Municipal Building
 March 21, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Present: President Benjamin Rader, Vice-President Don Brothers, Marjorie White, Brandy Dietrich, David Alford, Ron Becker, Jodi Hemer, Mayor Keith Jackson, Solicitor Bernie Rabik, Police Chief Frank Mercier, Manager John Barrett

Absent: Rico Elmore, Code Officer Peggy Griffith, Fire Chief Mike Mamone III

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

Persons in Attendance:

Alex Andres, President of the Beaver County Regional Council of Governments and member of the Center Theater Players, thanked Council on behalf of the Center Theater Players for the use of the auditorium. It has been a great venue for them and have had full attendance for their performances.

Action Items:

Mrs. Dietrich motioned to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2022 regular Council meeting as presented. Mrs. Hemer seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Becker motioned to pay all approved bills as submitted. Mr. Alford seconded and the motion carried.

BILLS:

Gen. Fund – Ck# 11153–11205 – totaling \$115,954.47.

Payroll (3/4, 3/18) – Ck# 5211-5235 plus Dir. Dep. and Elec. Pymts. – totaling \$88,851.47.

Mrs. White is requesting approval to attend the 2022 PSAB Annual Conference, May 22-25 in Hershey. After some discussion, Mrs. Dietrich motioned to approve payment for the registration and costs for attending the conference. Mrs. Hemer seconded and the motion carried.

Mrs. White is requesting approval to have business cards prepared for herself as a Borough Councilperson. After some discussion, Mrs. Dietrich motioned to approve payment for Mrs. White to have business cards prepared. Mrs. Hemer seconded and the motion carried.

Resolution 2022-03 and Intergovernmental Agreement – to authorize a shared Emergency Management Coordinator with Rochester Township and East Rochester, for Council's consideration. After some discussion, Mrs. White motioned to approve and adopt Resolution 2022-03 and the Intergovernmental Agreement as presented. Mr. Becker seconded and the motion carried.

Manager Barrett provided pictures of four (4) of the islands at the round-a-bout. He is asking Council to consider concreting them to reduce maintenance costs and time. Vehicles drive through them, constant weeding is needed, and trash accumulates in the planters. The remaining planters would remain as they are. Mrs. White stated that a permit from the Conservation District would be needed to concrete over the planters. After some discussion, Mr. Becker motioned to approve concreting these 4 planters and obtaining any necessary permits. Mr. Brothers seconded and the motion carried 6-1 with Mrs. White voting no.

Manager Barrett presented eight (8) Public Body Resolutions from First Commonwealth Bank. There is one for each of the Borough's accounts naming Mr. Rader, Mr. Becker, and Mrs. Hemer as the signatures on the accounts. Manager Barrett is asking Council to adopt these resolutions as presented. After some discussion, Mr. Alford motioned to approve and adopt the eight (8) Public Body Resolutions as presented. Mr. Becker seconded and the motion carried.

Review Items:

Council received for their review, the minutes of the February 10, 2022 Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority meeting.

Council received for their review, the meeting notes of the February 16, 2022 Rochester Borough Development Corporation meeting.

Council received for their review, a letter from the County Commissioners. The Commissioners are allocating a portion of their ARPA funding to assist emergency services agencies with the purchase of new digital radios since the County is mandating all radios be digital by the end of 2023. The County will pay 80% of the cost and the agency will pay 20% of the cost. The County will send out cost figures to each agency based on the equipment list provided by the agency. Each agency will then decide if they want to participate in this replacement program or not.

Council received for their review, the 2020 Audit Report on the Real Estate Tax Collector.

Council received for their review, an email from the Rochester Library informing Council of their 100th birthday celebration and is inquiring if the Borough would like to participate in some manner. After some discussion, Mrs. White motioned to approve payment for a banner for the Library's celebration. Mr. Becker seconded and the motion carried.

Manager Barrett stated that he attended a meeting with the County Commissioners regarding the countywide property reassessment. The Commissioners are expecting the new assessment values to be sent out to property owners sometime in early 2023. The new assessment values will take effect January 1, 2024.

Committee Reports:

Public Administration – Ron Becker, Chairperson

Council received for their review, the Expense & Revenue report for the period January 1, 2022 through March 15, 2022.

Public Safety – Don Brothers, Chairperson

Mr. Brothers noted that some residents are still putting their trash out extremely early. Chief Mercier will continue to monitor this problem and address it as needed.

Public Works – , Chairperson

Mr. Brothers noted the need for some barricades along the sidewalk on Connecticut Avenue where the retaining wall had collapsed. There is a drop off there and doesn't want to see anyone fall over the edge. Manager Barrett will have the Public Works put up some barricades. Council asked if there was any update on the progress to replace the retaining wall and sidewalk and if the property owner had been given any sort of deadline to begin or complete the work. Manager Barrett stated the Code Officer has been in regular contact with the property owner but he was unaware of the status. The Manager also noted that no deadlines have been imposed at this time. After some discussion, Mr. Brothers motioned to give the property owner a 60-day notice for him to provide proof of progress such as a contract with an engineer, drawings showing the scope of work, etc., then ask for a tentative date for work to begin. Mr. Becker seconded and the motion carried.

Manager Barrett noted that the 2022 Paving Program has been advertised for bids and the bids should be available for Council's consideration at the April 18th meeting.

Recreation – Brandy Dietrich, Chairperson

Manager Barrett stated that the Riverfront Committee met on March 16th at the riverfront. The Committee walked the entire riverfront area and is developing a jobs list of work that needs to be done outside the scope of the restoration work the Sewer Authority will be completing. The Committee will then prioritize the jobs and present it to Council for review. Once monies become available, it can be used to complete the work from the prioritized list that Council has approved.

The next Riverfront Committee meeting is scheduled for April 20th at 6:00 p.m. at the riverfront.

Mayor's Report:

Council received for their review, a note from Mayor Jackson dated March 15, 2022. Mayor Jackson acknowledged Solicitor Rabik's response that he received. Mayor Jackson stated that Resolution 2021-04 should be public information and should be put in the newspaper. Mayor Jackson stated that he would like to have an independent audit be conducted on the Police Department and the Borough Building for the years 2018 through 2022.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Rabik noted his response to the Mayor's note and informed Council of a summary appeal he will be attending tomorrow before the Common Pleas Court.

Code Officer's Report:

Council received for their review, the January and February 2022 Code Officer's Reports.

Police Chief's Report:

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

Chief Mercier stated that ticketing for parking violations related to streetsweeping will begin April 1st. The residents will get a courtesy tag the first week then citations from then on.

Fire Chief's Report:

The February 2022 Fire Department Report was presented for Council's review.

Manager's/Treasurer's Report:

Manager Barrett presented the February 2022 Treasurer's report for Council's review.

Manager Barrett informed Council of a study being performed on select brownsfield sites in Beaver County. The study is being conducted by the County through a grant they received. Rochester was selected to participate in the U.S. Brownsfield EPA Community Coalition Assessment Project. Manager Barrett gave Council a copy of a power point presentation developed by the consultant overseeing the project. There will be public meetings scheduled in the future. The Manager asked Council to review the power point presentation and make time to be involved with this project. The Manager feels this will be an opportunity to solicit an engage developers to consider Rochester for future developments.

Manager Barrett presented to Council, a letter he received from Paula Scriva Jersey asking for relief from the mechanical device fee due to extraordinary building expenses she has incurred over the past 2 years. After some discussion, Mr. Brothers motioned to deny any relief from the mechanical device fee. Mr. Becker seconded and the motion carried.

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.

Mr. Becker noted work being done at 170 West Madison Street. The contract is using the electrical outlet on the Borough's decorative street light for there power needs. Chief Mercier will address this matter.

Mr. Alford asked how often the garbage contractor got paid. Manager Barrett stated that the Borough receives a monthly invoice from the contractor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

John M. Barrett
Borough Manager