

Rochester Borough Council
 Regular Meeting in the Municipal Building
 September 20, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

Present: President Benjamin Rader, Vice-President Marjorie White, Don Brothers, Marlin Robinson, Ron Becker, Wes Hill, Donna Short, Brandy Dietrich, Mayor Keith Jackson, Solicitor Bernie Rabik, Police Chief Frank Mercier, Code Officer Peggy Griffith, Manager John Barrett

Absent: Fire Chief Mike Mamone III

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

Persons in Attendance:

Emily Palmer, Engineer for the Rochester Borough Sewer & Maintenance Authority, provided the annual update and training for the MS4 Program administered by the Authority. Ms. Palmer also noted that the Borough's stormwater ordinance will need reviewed and updated to meet some new requirements passed by the PA DEP.

Ben Dinardo, 196 Clay Street, stated that he and his brother, Andrew, were interested in working with Council to rebuild the riverfront area and develop activities to utilize the wonderful asset Rochester has along the Beaver and Ohio rivers. There was a suggestion that Council consider developing a Riverfront Committee.

Action Items:

Mr. Hill motioned to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2021 regular Council meeting, the August 30, 2021 special Council meeting and the August 23, 2021 Public Safety Committee meeting as presented. Mrs. Dietrich seconded and the motion carried.

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

BILLS:

Gen. Fund – Ck# 10779–10843 – totaling \$106,913.03.

Payroll (8/20, 9/3, 9/17) – Ck# 5056-5082 plus Dir. Dep. and Elec. Pymts. – totaling \$143,784.46.

Council received a letter and a proposed letter of support from Frank Bovalino, Beaver Pool Committee, asking Rochester Borough to provide a letter of support to aid in Beaver Borough's efforts to secure funding to construct a new outdoor swimming pool. After some discussion, Mr. Robinson motioned to approve and sign the proposed letter of support. Mr. Becker seconded and the motion carried.

Council received a letter from the Salvation Army, Rochester, asking Council to help with the Salvation Army's Christmas Assistance efforts this year. The two traditional ways to help are (1) to adopt a family or (2) be a host site for their "Angel Tree" tags. More information was provided with the letter. Mrs. Short pointed out an option on the sponsor form which provided for a monetary donation. After some discussion, Solicitor Rabik stated he would give \$200 to the Borough towards a donation and Mr. Rader stated that the Borough should match that for a total contribution of \$400. Mrs. Short motioned to approve a \$400 donation to the Salvation Army. Mr. Becker seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their approval, the Police Pension Plan 2022 Minimum Municipal Obligation in the amount of \$312,305. The calculation was provided by Feaster Pension Consulting. After some discussion, Mr. Robinson motioned to approve the 2022 MMO as presented. Mr. Brothers seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their approval, the PMRS Rochester Borough Pension Plan 2022 Minimum Municipal Obligation in the amount of \$14,224. The calculation was provided by Manager Barrett. After some discussion, Mr. Hill motioned to approve the 2022 MMO as presented. Mr. Becker seconded and the motion carried.

Review Items:

Council received for their review, the minutes of the August 12, 2021 Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority meeting.

Council received for their review, a thank you from the Rochester Quarterback Club for the Borough's recent support.

Council received for their review, an invitation to attend the Mental Health Association's "Ribbon Cutting" ceremony celebrating the re-construction of the retaining wall and the new parking lot and seating area. The ceremony is September 29th at 2:00 p.m. at their 105 Brighton Avenue, Rochester location.

Council received for their review, a proposed 2022 Road Paving list. The cover page is the overall quantities and costs amounting to \$172,750.60 and the remaining pages breakdown the cost per road. Manager Barrett discussed the proposed plan. Council will review the plan and act on it at their October regular meeting.

Committee Reports:

Public Administration – Ron Becker, Chairperson

The Expense & Revenue report covering January 1, 2021 through September 16, 2021 was presented for Council's review.

Public Safety – Don Brothers, Chairperson

Mr. Brothers stated that he had a Public Safety Committee meeting. The Fire Chief outlined his top three priorities for fire services: (1) providing paid part-time firemen, (2) a new/used ladder truck, (3) a new fire station. The Committee presented a proposed draft for a revised Intermunicipal Agreement for fire services with the Township. Council will review all items.

Mr. Brothers raised a concern about residents putting their garbage out at the curb well in advance of the pick-up day while the ordinance allows only one day in advance. It was agreed that enforcement is a difficult task. Code Officer Griffith will provide a standard letter for notifying the residents of the regulations for garbage disposal.

Public Works – Marlin Robinson, Chairperson

Mr. Robinson had nothing to report.

Recreation – Brandy Dietrich, Chairperson

Mrs. Dietrich noted the earlier discussion regarding a Riverfront Committee. Council agreed a committee with a singular focus would provide for regular attention to enable the Borough to fully utilize the riverfront asset. Mrs. Dietrich and Mr. Rader volunteered to be on the committee with Ben and Andrew Dinardo. A short mission statement outlining the charge for this committee will be created as the committee continues to fully develop.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Jackson had nothing to report.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Rabik had nothing to report.

Code Officer's Report:

Code Officer Griffith will provide the Manager with her August report for distribution to the Council members.

Police Chief's Report:

Chief Mercier presented the August 2021 Police Department Report and Code Officer's Report for Council's review. Chief Mercier reviewed several items from the reports. There was discussion regarding the high grass and garbage violations and how to deal with this on an on-going basis.

Chief Mercier noted his conversation with the Public Safety Committee regarding body cameras for the police officers and LPR cameras for various intersections in Rochester. The District Attorney's office and the Drug Fund would assist in purchasing the LPR cameras. There is a \$2,000 per year maintenance fee to participate in the LPR program. Chief Mercier is still trying to get pricing for the body cameras.

Mike Mamone and Mike Lucci, Rochester Township Commissioners, addressed Council regarding a regional police study involving the Borough, the Township and New Sewickley Township. After some discussion, Mr. Brothers motioned to authorize the Manager to complete the Letter of Intent on behalf of Rochester Borough requesting technical assistance from the Governor's Center for Local Government Services to complete a regional police department study involving the Borough, the Township and New Sewickley Township. Mr. Becker seconded and the motion carried. Roll Call 8-0 all members voted yes.

Fire Chief's Report:

The August 2021 Fire Department Report was presented for Council's review.

Manager's/Treasurer's Report:

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

Old Business/New Business:

Mr. Becker asked about the status of Mr. Solomon's post in Frazier Way. Manager Barrett stated that Mr. Solomon will have the post removed by his contractor when their schedule permits.

Mrs. White asked about the Borough refinancing their bond. Manager Barrett stated he will contact the firm the Borough used last time to see if there is a possibility for refinancing.

Mrs. White asked when the next newsletter might go out. After some discussion, the Manager will work towards having a newsletter sent out late November or early December.

Mrs. Dietrich asked about the Borough stopping ticketing for street sweeping. After some discussion, Mrs. Dietrich motioned to annually start ticketing April 1st of each year and stop ticketing November 1st of each year. Mr. Robinson seconded and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

John M. Barrett
Borough Manager