

Rochester Borough Council
Regular Meeting in the Municipal Building
October 18, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Donna Short, Brandy Dietrich, Fire Chief Mike Mamone III

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

Persons in Attendance:

A gentleman in the audience asked Council for their consent to purchase 318 Deer Lane from the Beaver County Repository. The Solicitor advised him that he needed the School District's consent before Council would act on his request.

Essex Law, representing ABC Delivery, was requesting Council's consent to purchase 454 Riverview Street from the Beaver County Repository. Mr. Rader stated that this item was on the agenda and Council would consider it once they reached that part of the agenda.

Action Items:

Mr. Brothers motioned to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2021 regular Council meeting as presented. Mr. Becker seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Hill motioned to pay all approved bills as submitted. Mr. Brothers seconded and the motion carried.

BILLS:

Gen. Fund – Ck# 10844–10889 – totaling \$440,248.81.

Payroll (10/1, 10/15) – Ck# 5083-5106 plus Dir. Dep. and Elec. Pymts. – totaling \$94,765.55.

Council received for their consideration, a proposal from J. Martin Associates to complete the Borough's Tax Collector annual audit for the years 2020, 2021 and 2022. After some discussion, Mr. Robinson motioned to accept and approve the proposal as submitted. Mr. Becker seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their consideration, a request from ABC Delivery, LLC for Council's consent to purchase 454 Riverview Street from the Beaver County Repository. Mr. Law was asked if he has seen the guidelines Council adopted regarding these requests. Mr. Law stated that he had not seen the guidelines adopted by Council regarding purchases from the Repository. Manager Barrett provided a copy for Mr. Law. After reviewing the guidelines, Mr. Law asked Council if they would consider lowering the deposit and fee. After some discussion, Mr. Becker motioned to set the deposit and fee for this request only, at \$250, which would not be returned upon completion of the renovations. Mr. Brothers seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their consideration, a proposed 2022 Road Paving list. The cover page is the overall quantities and costs amounting to \$175,750.60 and the remaining pages breakdown the cost per road. The Manager would also like to add Heller Street from Virginia Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue and Maryland Avenue from Jackson Street to Adams Street for seal coating. After some discussion, Mr. Robinson motioned to authorize the Engineer to bid out the road paving as presented. Mr. Brothers seconded and the motion carried.

Council received a request from the Fire Department to close Jefferson Street between Ohio Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue for staging the Halloween Parade. After some discussion, Mr. Hill motioned to approve the request. Mr. Robinson seconded and the motion carried.

Manager Barrett is requesting Council appoint Ken Mercier to the Zoning Hearing Board to fill the vacancy left by Dan Miller who moved out of town. After some discussion, Mr. Becker motioned to appoint Ken Mercier to the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Robinson seconded and the motion carried

Review Items:

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

Council received for their review, the Inter-Municipal Cooperation Agreement for Support of the Rochester Fire Department with proposed changes from Rochester Township. After some discussion, Council will further review the proposed changes.

Committee Reports:

Public Administration – Ron Becker, Chairperson

The Expense & Revenue report covering January 1, 2021 through October 13, 2021 was presented for Council's review.

Manager Barrett presented the revenue and expense final estimates for 2021 and a preliminary 2022 budget. The Manager recommends scheduling a special meeting to review and discuss the 2022 budget. After some discussion, Council agreed to hold a special budget meeting on November 1st at 6:30 p.m.

Public Safety – Don Brothers, Chairperson

Manager Barrett has submitted the Borough's Letter of Intent and Regional Police Study Questionnaire to be included in the Regional Police Study with Rochester Township and New Sewickley Township. The Governor's Center for Local Government Services has hired Joe Kirschner as the consultant to complete the regional police study. Attached is his resume for Council's information.

Mr. Brothers noted that the Public Safety Committee met with the Fire Chief and Township representatives. The Fire Chief is proposing a part-time paid fireman be hired for standby at the station during daytime working hours. The Chief feels this is the greatest need for the Department. After some discussion, Council agreed to further review the proposal at the budget meeting. There was also discussion emphasizing the need for a regional approach for both fire and police services.

Public Works – Marlin Robinson, Chairperson

Mr. Robinson had nothing to report.

Recreation – Brandy Dietrich, Chairperson

There was nothing to report in Mrs. Dietrich's absence.

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 stated that discussions are still ongoing with Mr. Majors regarding the retaining wall that collapsed on his property.

Mr. Rader noted a new business which opened in the Scriva Dance Studio on New York Avenue called Jack Pot. Code Officer Griffith will review the matter.

Mrs. White asked about the pole in the alley at Mr. Solomon's and when it might be removed. Manager Barrett stated that he spoke with Mr. Solomon and he agreed to remove the pole. His contractor has been unable to schedule the removal at this time. After some discussion, Mr. Robinson motioned to send Mr. Solomon a letter giving him 30 days to remove the pole or the Borough will have it removed and bill Mr. Solomon for this work. Mr. Brother seconded and the motion carried.

Police Chief's Report:

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

Chief Mercier noted his conversation with the Public Safety Committee regarding an LPR (License Plate Reader) and cameras for various intersections in Rochester. The District Attorney's office would provide \$5,000 and has authorized the use of the Drug Fund for the purchase of the LPR and cameras. There is a \$2,200 per year maintenance fee to participate in the LPR program and a \$3,900 bi-annual fee for the cameras. Wi-Fi access would also be needed at the intersection. After some discussion, Council would continue the discussion at the budget meeting.

Fire Chief's Report:

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

Manager's/Treasurer's Report:

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

Old Business/New Business:

Mr. Robinson asked about the diner that was supposed to open up on Adams Street. It was noted that they are still in the process of renovating the space.

There was discussion regarding the garbage service the Borough is getting from Valley Waste. The delays in pick-up are creating confusion and frustrating the residents. Manager Barrett will contact Valley Waste and discuss this issue with them.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

John M. Barrett
Borough Manager