

Rochester Borough Council
Regular Meeting in the Municipal Building
April 18, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Rico Elmore, Brandy Dietrich, 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:

Michael Brdar asked Council for a \$550 credit towards his garbage bill. Mr. Brdar discussed his situation regarding the occupancy of his property at 90 Dewey Avenue. Council advised Mr. Brdar that this was an issue for the Code Officer but that Council would be agreeable to the decision the Code Officer determines.

Action Items:

Mr. Brothers motioned to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2022 regular Council meeting and Stormwater meeting as presented. Mrs. Hemer seconded and the motion carried.

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

BILLS:

Gen. Fund – Ck# 11206–11250 – totaling \$121,487.11.

Payroll (4/1, 4/15) – Ck# 5236-5263 plus Dir. Dep. and Elec. Pymts. – totaling \$97,810.68.

Council received for their review and consideration, the 2022 Road Paving bids. The bid was broken out into 3 parts – base bid, alternate 1 and alternate 2. Based on the bids received, the Manager is recommending Council approve the base bid plus alternate 1. The low bidder is Youngblood Paving with a bid price of \$198,309.97. After some discussion, Mr. Becker motioned to approve the base bid and alternate 1 and award the contract to Youngblood Paving. Mrs. Hemer seconded and the motion carried.

Review Items:

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

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

Council received for their review, a revised resolution/agreement from Rochester Township creating a Regional Emergency Management Agency to utilize a shared Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC). The resolution adopted last month did not adequately address the issue of a shared EMC. Manager Barrett recommended that Council review this draft carefully. There are blanks in yellow highlight that need filled in and there are commitments identified that Council should be aware of.

Committee Reports:

Public Administration – Ron Becker, Chairperson

Council received for their review, the Expense & Revenue report for the period January 1, 2022 through April 12, 2022.

Public Safety – Don Brothers, Chairperson

Mr. Brothers asked if there was an update on the wall issue at 101 Pinney Street. Manager Barrett stated that the Code Officer was in contact with the property owner and advised him of the 60-day order to show progress. There were no other updates at this time.

Public Works – , Chairperson

Mr. Rader asked if any of the Council members would be interested in being the Chairperson for the Public Works Committee. After some discussion, Mrs. Hemer offered to be the chairperson and Mr. Rader accepted.

Recreation – Brandy Dietrich, Chairperson

Council received for their review, the Riverfront Committee's preliminary work list of jobs that would enhance the riverfront park. Mrs. White noted that Bags and Blessings may be interested in planting trees along the riverfront.

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

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Jackson stated that he attended the New Sewickley Township Supervisor's meeting. They had set up a Zoom link to attend their meeting and the Mayor thought this might be something Rochester could consider.

Mayor Jackson asked Chief Mercier what officers were scheduled to work the afternoon of April 14th. Solicitor Rabik stated that discussions regarding attendance, terms of employment and such should be discussed in an executive session. Mayor Jackson asked for an executive session.

Mayor Jackson stated that he wanted to schedule a meeting with the Manager and wanted the date and time set before the end of tonight's meeting. The Mayor and Manager agreed to this Friday. The Solicitor and President of Council were asked if one of them was available Friday and at what time due to the need of a third party being required for such meetings. Mayor Jackson stated that he was not interested in meeting if others were attending.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Rabik noted several issues he has been working on with the Police Chief, Manager and Code Officer.

Code Officer's Report:

Council received for their review, the March 2022 Code Officer's Reports.

Police Chief's Report:

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

Fire Chief's Report:

Council received for their review, the March 2022 Fire Department report.

Manager's/Treasurer's Report:

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

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.

Manager Barrett presented a 5-year projected budget for Council's review. The Manager reviewed the projected deficit for each of the years and noted the increase of the deficit each year. Manager Barrett recommended Council schedule a special meeting to discuss this in depth and consider possible changes to services provided by the Borough. Council agreed and schedule a special meeting for May 9th at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Rader brought up a request from the Martin Luther King Celebration Committee to use the Veteran's Memorial Park for their annual celebration scheduled for August 6th from 12 noon to 7:00 p.m. After some discussion, Council approved their request.

Council went into executive session at 7:40 p.m. to discuss police personnel matters.

Council reconvened at 7:42 p.m.

Mrs. White and Manager Barrett reminded Council to try and attend the Brownfields meeting scheduled for Thursday at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Submitted by,

John M. Barrett
Borough Manager