

Rochester Borough Council  
Regular Meeting in the Municipal Building  
April 17, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Present: President Don Brothers, Vice-President David Alford, Rico Elmore, Sam Piccinini, Renee Simmons, Chad Rape, Jodi Hemer, Mayor Keith Jackson, Solicitor Paul Steff, Sergeant Dawn Shane, Manager John Barrett

Absent: Toni Bucher, Fire Chief Mike Mamone III

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

Persons in Attendance:

Albert Ellis, 311 Deer Lane, asked for an update regarding his purchase of 313 Deer Lane from the Borough in 2021. Solicitor Steff stated that the Borough records show a purchase price of \$2,000 and a \$700 payment towards closing costs. This accounted for the \$2,700 Mr. Ellis paid the Borough. The Borough paid for the demolition of the existing structure. The Borough had all existing liens and delinquent taxes exonerated through the sale of the property. Solicitor Steff stated that if the structure was still listed on his 2022 tax bills then it was his responsibility to address this with the Beaver County Tax Assessment office.

Ken Majors, Rochester Hotel, discussed his project at the Rochester Hotel. He has nearly completed all the work to begin using the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors. In order to obtain the occupancy permit he still needed to address the parking requirements. Mr. Majors asked Council to extend the use of satellite parking from 600 feet to 700 feet so that he could secure the needed off-street parking. After some discussion, Mrs. Hemer motioned to authorize the Zoning Officer to approve satellite parking greater than 600 feet provided that all other zoning requirements and inspections are met. Mr. Piccinini seconded and the motion carried. Mr. Majors was tolled he must keep Council updated regarding his progress to fix the fallen wall and sidewalk he owns at the corner of Jackson Street and Connecticut Avenue.

Wes Hill stated that he was trying to address his collapsed sidewalk at the corner of New York Avenue and E. Washington Street. The base under the sidewalk is being washed away but the cause is unknown. Mr. Hill, his contractors and Borough officials have looked at the problem and have not been able to determine what has cause this to happen. He will keep working on resolving this problem.

Action Items:

Mr. Alford motioned to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2023 regular Council meeting and stormwater meeting as presented. Mr. Rape seconded and the motion carried.

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

**BILLS:**

Gen. Fund – Ck# 11858–11903 – totaling \$51,164.97.

Payroll (3/31, 4/14) – Ck# 5580-5599 plus Dir. Dep. and Elec. Pymts. – totaling \$92,455.44.

Council received for their review and consideration, a letter from the Sewer & Maintenance Authority asking that Council appoint Lou Ann Buckenheimer to fill the vacant seat left by the resignation of Chuck Mignanelli. After some discussion, Mr. Piccinini motioned to appoint Lou Ann Buckenheimer to fill the vacant seat on the Rochester Borough Sewer & Maintenance Authority. Mr. Alford seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their review and consideration, a letter from the Rochester Little Rams seeking donations for their organization. After some discussion, Mr. Elmore motioned to donate \$250 to the Rochester Little Rams. Mrs. Simmons seconded and the motion carried.

Review Items:

Council received for their review, the 2022 Municipal Annual Audit and Financial Report.

Committee Reports:

Public Administration – Chad Rape, Chairperson

Council received for their review, the Expense and Revenue Report from January 1, 2023 through April 11, 2023.

Public Safety – Rico Elmore, Chairperson

Mr. Elmore stated that his committee is still in discussion with the Township Commissioners regarding the 2023 Fire Department budget.

There was discussion regarding grant training, the COPS grant, lighting at New York Avenue and Deer Lane, and light at the side door off of Ohio Avenue.

Public Works – Toni Bucher, Chairperson

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

Recreation – Renee Simmons, Chairperson

Mrs. Simmons stated that she is looking at organizing some events. She is also looking to see if there is any available space that could be converted into a dog park. Mr. Simmons will look at costs and report back to Council if a suitable location is found.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Jackson stated that cars are parking on the sidewalk along Brown Street. Sergeant Shane noted that this was an issue in several areas. Mr. Rape stated that if he parks his truck on his street, George Street, he has to put his passenger side wheels on the sidewalk or his truck would get side-swiped due to how narrow the street is. After some discussion, Council agreed to let the police use their discretion in determining whether a citation is warranted or not.

Mayor Jackson stated that he would like Resolution 2021-04 repealed. After some discussion, Mr. Piccinini motioned to repeal Resolution 2021-04. Mr. Elmore seconded and the motion carried. Roll Call 5-1-1 in favor with Mr. Brothers voting no and Mr. Rape abstaining. Manager Barrett raised an objection to repealing this resolution due to his current situation with the Mayor.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Steff stated that he is working on a number of items that were referred to him for his review. Solicitor Steff did state that he felt the Borough's Street Opening ordinance was adequate and consistent with others he has seen. There was discussion regarding the street opening fee. Solicitor Steff will draft a resolution for next meeting if Council wanted to consider changing the fee.

Code Officer's Report:

Council received for their review, the March 2023 Code Officer's reports.

Police Report:

Council received for their review, the March 2023 Police Department report.

Sargent Shane noted that Officer Stone started full-time on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Roberts has turned down the offer for a full-time position. Mr. Roach did accept the offer but is still in the process of graduating from the police academy and obtaining his Act 120 certification. He will be put on full-time once he has met all the requirements. There was discussion regarding the installation of the CrimeStar software, the bullet-proof vest program, and the pension study for the merger of the Borough and Township police departments. Sargent Shane stated that the School District had agreed on a purchase price for the old Ford Taurus. Council agreed to sell the old Ford Taurus to the School District for the negotiated price agreed to by Sargent Shane.

Mr. Piccinini brought up for consideration, that Sergeant Shane be permitted to take home an unmarked police car. After some discussion, Mr. Piccinini motioned to approve Sergeant Shane taking home an unmarked police car to use in her capacity as the Police Sergeant for Rochester Borough. Mr. Rape seconded and the motion carried.

Fire Chief's Report:

Council received for their review, the March 2023 Fire Department report.

Manager's/Treasurer's Report:

Council received for their review, the March 2023 Treasurer's Report.

Manager Barrett stated that he spoke with the Beaver Falls Municipal Authority about installing a fire hydrant at the intersection of Ohio Street and Deer Lane. The Authority removed the hydrant from this location due to the hydrant freezing in the winter time and will not re-install a hydrant at this location due to freezing and maintenance issues.

Old Business/New Business:

Council, the Mayor, and the Solicitor received the State Ethics Commission Statement of Financial Interests form which is to be completed for the year 2022 and returned to the Manager's office by May 1, 2023.

Council went into an executive session at 10:00 p.m. to discuss union contracts.

Council reconvened at 10:47 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 10:48 p.m.

Submitted by,

John M. Barrett  
Borough Manager