

Rochester Borough Council
Regular Meeting in the Municipal Building
January 20, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

Present: President David Alford, Vice-President Toni Bucher, Renee Simmons, Jodi Hemer (arrived 6:45pm), Chad Rape, Sam Piccinini, Mayor Keith Jackson, Solicitor Paul Steff, Sergeant Dawn Shane, Secretary Toni Celeste

Absent: Don Brothers, Rico Elmore, Manager John Barrett, Fire Chief Mike Mamone III

The meeting was called to order with the pledge of allegiance.

Persons in Attendance:

Sandra Klezia discussed an event she would like to hold in the Rochester Borough auditorium on April 26th from 11:30 a.m. to approximately 11:30 p.m. for a County wide karaoke contest. Ms. Klezia asked for permission to use the auditorium April 25th and 26th for the event. After some discussion, Mrs. Bucher motioned to approve the use of the auditorium for April 25th and 26th. Mr. Rape seconded and the motion carried.

Laura Wilson stated that she was looking to purchase 130 Hinds Street from the Beaver County Repository. Council has received her application for review. After some discussion, Mrs. Bucher motioned to approve Ms. Wilson's application for the purchase of 130 Hinds Street. Mr. Piccinini seconded and the motion carried.

Marian Acon, Rochester Borough Development Corporation (RBDC), reported the success of the "Meet and Greet" event the RBDC hosted on January 11th at the Rochester Hotel. There were approximately 40 business owners and resident who attended. Mrs. Acon wished more Council members would have attended and ask that they try to attend future events. Mrs. Acon inquired about the status of the vacant building ordinance. Solicitor Steff stated that he would have a draft available for Council's review at their February regular meeting.

Mike Lucci, Road Foreman, addressed Council about the need for a vehicle replacement program. The 2 dump trucks and the skid steer are getting older and replacements will be needed. Mr. Lucci stated that there used to be a payment plan in the budget for replacements and asked why it was removed. Council will review the matter and consider their options.

Matt Jenkins, United Energy Services, spoke with Council about the service his company would like to offer. They would review the Borough's current electric use and propose options where the Borough could realize savings. After some discussion, Mr. Jenkins will send a contract over for the Solicitor to review.

Action Items:

Mr. Rape motioned to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2024 regular Council meeting as presented. Mr. Alford seconded and the motion carried.

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

BILLS:

Gen. Fund – Ck# 13365–13432 – totaling \$274,696.49.

Payroll (12/20, 1/3, 1/17) – Ck# 6033-6056 plus Dir. Dep. and Elec. Pymts. – totaling \$182,166.77.

Review Items:

Council received for their review, the Revenue & Expense Report – January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

Council received for their review, the 2023 Liquid Fuels Audit Report.

Committee Reports:

Public Administration – Chad Rape, Chairperson

Mr. Rape had nothing to report.

Public Safety – Rico Elmore, Chairperson

There was nothing to report in Mr. Elmore's absence.

Police Department Report – Sergeant Shane discussed offering a civil service exam to have a list of eligible candidates for a full-time police officer in anticipation of Officer Farmer retiring this July. After some discussion, no action was taken.

Public Works – Toni Bucher, Chairperson

Mrs. Bucher had nothing to report.

Recreation – Renee Simmons, Chairperson

Ms. Simmons had nothing to report.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Jackson thanked the road crew for doing a great job in keeping the roads cleared and salted.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Steff had nothing to report.

Code Officer's Report:

There was nothing to report.

Fire Chief's Report:

Council received for their review, the December 2024 Fire Department report.

Manager's/Treasurer's Report:

Council received for their review, the December 2024 Treasurer's Report.

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 2024 and returned to the Manager's office by May 1, 2025.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m. and Council went into executive session to discuss non-union employees wage increases for 2025.

Submitted by,

John M. Barrett
Borough Manager