

Rochester Borough Council
 Regular Meeting in Council Chambers
 November 18, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

Present: President Benjamin Rader, Vice-President Brandy Dietrich, Howard Howe, Don Brothers, Ron Becker, Martin Knafelc, Mayor Keith Jackson, Solicitor Bernie Rabik, Police Chief Frank Mercier, Manager John Barrett

Absent: Marjorie White, Donna Short, Code Officer Peggy Griffith

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

Persons in Attendance:

William Starkey, 2012 Duss Avenue, stated that he was interested in purchasing 420 E. Washington Street from the Beaver County Repository. Mr. Starkey presented the Repository Statement with the School District's consent. There was discussion regarding his previous request to purchase 411 Jackson Street as well as his interest in 420 E. Washington Street. After deliberation, Mr. Knafelc motioned to approve the consent for purchase of 420 E. Washington Street. Mrs. Dietrich seconded and the motion carried.

Doug Lochard, Enterprise Bank, stated that he was present to answer any questions regarding the Bank's application for a lot consolidation. Mr. Rader stated this item was on the agenda and that Council would call on him if needed.

Robbie Robinson noted a pot holes near the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and Deer Lane. Manager Barrett will pass that on to Public Works.

Action Items:

Mr. Brothers motioned to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2019 stormwater and regular Council meetings and the minutes of the November 4, 2019 special meeting as presented. Mr. Becker seconded and the motion carried.

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

BILLS:

Gen. Fund – Ck# 9372–9432 – totaling \$105,533.72.

Payroll (11/1, 11/15) – Ck# 4524-4544 plus Dir. Dep. and Elec. Pymts. – totaling \$82,359.64.

Lot Consolidation Plan by Enterprise Bank – consolidation of lot parcel numbers: 49-002-0532-000-1, 49-002-0533-000-1, 49-002-0534-000-1, 49-002-0535-000-1, 49-002-0504-000-1, and 49-002-0502-000-1 comprising 264 and 270 Connecticut Avenue, 239 Adams Street and 211 and 225 Brighton Avenue. The Rochester Borough Planning Commission reviewed the proposed consolidation plan at their meeting held on November 12, 2019 and recommend to

Council approving the lot consolidation plan submitted by Enterprise Bank. Council received the subdivision/consolidation application for their review. After some discussion, Mr. Becker motioned to approve Enterprise Bank's application for subdivision/consolidation as presented. Mrs. Dietrich seconded and the motion carried.

2020 Tentative Budget – after some discussion, Mr. Howe motioned to approve the 2020 Tentative Budget as presented and authorize the Manager and Solicitor to advertise the budget for public inspection and prepare the resolution fixing the 2020 property tax rate the same as the 2019 property tax rate, 29 mills general purpose and 5.5 mills for debt service. Mr. Knafelc seconded and the motion carried. Roll Call: all voted yes, 6-0.

Manager Barrett noted discussions over the past several meetings regarding a special earned income tax to be used solely for additional funding for the police pension fund and asked Council to consider a motion to authorize the Solicitor and Manager to draft and advertise the necessary ordinance to create a special tax increasing the earned income tax rate from .005 to .01 with the additional .005 tax revenue dedicated to the police pension fund. After some discussion, Mr. Brothers motioned to authorize the Solicitor and Manager to prepare and advertise the necessary ordinance enacting the additional earned income tax to fund the police pension fund. Mr. Becker seconded and the motion carried. Roll Call: all voted yes, 6-0.

Council received a letter from Randall Bacon, Supervisor for Adelphoi Village, asking if Adelphoi Village could use the parking lot at the Municipal Building as a staging area to evacuate their students should an emergency arise requiring the evacuation of their facility. After some discussion, Mrs. Dietrich motioned to approve the request as presented. Mr. Becker seconded and the motion carried.

Light up night celebration Sunday December 8, 2019. The Manager asked Council to consider a donation to support the event which may be used for replacing the announcement banner which was destroyed due to heavy wind conditions last year. After some discussion, Solicitor Rabik stated that he would donate \$250 on the Borough's behalf. Council thanked Solicitor Rabik. Mr. Becker motioned to match Solicitor Rabik's donation for a total donation of \$500. Mrs. Dietrich seconded and the motion carried.

Council received a letter from the Rochester Lil Lady Rams Basketball organization asking for a monetary donation to help meet their annual costs. After some discussion, Mr. Becker motioned to authorize a \$200 donation to the organization. Mrs. Dietrich seconded and the motion carried.

Review Items:

Council received for their review, the minutes of the October 10, 2019 and October 24, 2019 Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority meetings.

Council received for their review, the meeting notes of the October 14, 2019 Rochester Borough Development Corporation meeting.

Council received for their review, the October 2019 Fire Department report. Mr. Rader noted that the Fire Department would be taking Santa Claus around town on December 21st at 3:00 p.m.

Committee Reports:

Public Administration – Ron Becker, Chairperson

The Expense & Revenue report covering January 1, 2019 through November 12, 2019 was presented for Council's review.

Public Safety – Martin Knafelc, Chairperson

Mr. Knafelc brought up the utility pole replacement project going on in town and asked about liability concerns. Manager Barrett stated that Duquesne Light and their contractor would be liable for any damages or injuries that may result from their utility pole replacement program.

Public Works – Howard Howe, Chairperson

Manager Barrett updated Council on the Martino property acquisition and the 2019 paving program. The acquisition process is ongoing and the 2019 paving program has been completed. Council thanked the Manager and were very pleased with the paving of the alleys.

Recreation – Brandy Dietrich, Chairperson

Mrs. Dietrich asked about the park project. Manager Barrett stated that work is stopping for the winter and will resume in the spring.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Jackson asked about an abandoned boat along the Borough's property on the Beaver River. No one had any information on this boat. The Manager and Police Chief will review the matter. Mayor Jackson also asked what zoning district Paula Scriva's Dance Studio was in. Manager Barrett provided the Mayor with a zoning map for his review.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Rabik stated that negotiations with the police union are ongoing and asked for an executive session to review several items with Council.

Solicitor Rabik distributed talking points from Attorney Douglas, Solicitor for the RAJSA. The points addressed the disposal of the regulated fill that will be generated from their treatment plant project and an amendment to the Service Agreement extending the term to coincide with the 30-year term they are seeking for their PennVest loan. There was discussion regarding the permanent disposal of the regulated soil on the Borough's Public Works property and the possible consideration of \$150,000 from the RAJSA for the Borough accepting the soil.

Code Officer's Report:

The October 2019 Code Report was presented for Council's review.

Police Chief's Report:

Chief Mercier presented the October 2019 Police Department report and code report for Council's review. Chief Mercier reviewed several items from the report.

Chief Mercier brought up a concern regarding Clay Street between Virginia Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue. The street is very narrow and when cars are parked, there are times when an emergency vehicle would not be able to get through. Manager Barrett shared his concern with other streets as well noting the plow truck being unable to pass due to the narrowness of the street and cars being parked. The Police Chief and Manager will continue to monitor these streets and make a recommendation if possible.

Chief Mercier asked Council if he could add an additional reserved parking spot on Adams Street for police cars. Council agreed and noted that moving the handicapped parking space towards Ohio Street was permitted if necessary.

Manager's/Treasurer's Report:

Manager Barrett presented the October 2019 Treasurer's report for Council's review.

Old Business/New Business:

There was no old/new business.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Council went into executive session at 7:46 p.m. to discuss negotiations with the police bargaining unit.

The Executive Session adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by,

John M. Barrett
Borough Manager