

Rochester Borough Council
Regular Meeting in Council Chambers
June 17, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Martin Knafelc, Code Officer Peggy Griffith

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

Persons in Attendance:

Katie Hildman, Rochester Library, informed Council of several leaks that have developed. It appears that they have occurred due to a faulty roof. Several Council members will try to attend the next Library Board meeting to discuss the future of the facility and how to fund the needed repairs. Ms. Hildman also noted the grass contractor the Borough hired is not trimming the grass at the Library. Manager Barrett will contact Mr. Zajac and discuss this with him.

James Law, 512 Oregon Avenue, expressed his concerns regarding high grass at several properties in his neighborhood. Chief Mercier noted that the Code Officer is in the process of having one of the homes demolished and he is working to locate current owners of several other properties to get these conditions addressed.

Action Items:

Mr. Becker motioned to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2019 stormwater meeting and regular Council meeting as presented. Mr. Brothers seconded and the motion carried.

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

BILLS:

Gen. Fund – Ck# 9018–9079 – totaling \$65,476.46.

Payroll (5/31, 6/14) – Ck# 4383-4407 plus Dir. Dep. and Elec. Pymts. – totaling \$91,955.08.

Municipal Agreement with the Beaver County Community Development Program for which Rochester Borough agrees to provide the additional \$303,004.60 for the construction phase of the Rochester Area Parks Rehabilitation Project. After some discussion, Mrs. White motioned to approve and sign the agreement as presented. Mr. Becker seconded and the motion carried.

Mayor Jackson renewed his request for the purchase and use of a time clock for the employees. Mr. Rader asked for a motion. There was no motion and no action taken.

2019 Paving Program – attached is the bid tabulation report from the Borough Engineer. He is recommending awarding the contract to the lowest bidder, Youngblood Paving, in the amount of \$155,095.03. After some discussion, Mr. Howe motioned to award the 2019 Paving contract to Youngblood Paving in the amount of \$155,095.03. Mrs. Dietrich seconded and the motion carried.

Manager Barrett presented 2 quotes for tree work along the Beaver River. The Manager noted that he solicited additional bids from 2 other contractors but never received a quote from them. The work included cleaning up 3 trees that have fallen, 11 trees to be cut down and 11 trees to receive a light pruning. All wood and debris are to be hauled away. Given the prices provided, Council asked the Manager to get at least one additional bid to meet the 3 bid requirement for contracts in this price range.

Review Items:

Council received for their review, the minutes of the May 9, 2019 Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority meeting.

Council received for their review, the meeting notes of the May 13, 2019 Rochester Borough Development Corporation meeting.

Council received for their review, the Borough's 2018 Annual Audit Report.

Council received for their review, the May 2019 Fire Department report along with an article from the Fire Chief which discusses volunteer fire and ems services.

Committee Reports:

Public Administration – Ron Becker, Chairperson

Mr. Becker presented the Expense & Revenue report covering January 1, 2019 through June 10, 2019 for Council's review.

Public Safety – Martin Knafelc, Chairperson

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

Public Works – Howard Howe, Chairperson

Manager Barrett noted that the Sewer Authority agreed to pay half of the cost for the appraisal of the Martino property. Dan McCown & Company have been engaged to provide this appraisal for the sum of \$2,000. It will take 3 to 4 weeks to be completed.

Recreation – Brandy Dietrich, Chairperson

Mrs. Dietrich had nothing to report.

Mayor's Report:

Manager Barrett informed Council that the Mayor was interested in attending this years Mayor's Association Conference as he did last year. The Manager wanted clarification as to what expenses the Borough would cover for this trip. The Mayor is requesting a rental car which Council did not approve last year. There was discussion about what was paid last year. Council agreed to reimburse the Mayor for the same expenses as paid last year, registration, hotel, mileage, tolls and meals but no rental car. The Manager stated that his office will send in the Conference registration fee but asked that the Mayor make all the other arrangements (room reservations, session reservations, etc.) to meet his schedule and needs. Council agreed. Mrs. White motioned to authorize and approve reimbursing the Mayor for the above noted expenses incurred for attending the 2019 Mayor's Association Conference at State College. Mr. Howe seconded and the motion carried.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Rabik recommended that Council asked the Manager to have the Engineer look at the Library to determine if there is any structural damage that may need addressed to ensure the safety of those working at and visiting the Library. Council agreed and so asked the Manager.

Code Officer's Report:

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

Police Chief's Report:

Chief Mercier noted the 2 events that took place this past Saturday, the Car Show and the Emergency Responders Appreciation Day. He felt both events were successful and well attended. He thanked the Manager for all his efforts in putting together the Appreciation Day event.

Chief Mercier distributed the May 2019 Police Department report and the Code Enforcement report for Council's review. The Chief reviewed several items in the reports.

Manager's/Treasurer's Report:

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

Manager Barrett stated that HAP Enterprises located at 351 Rhode Island Avenue would like to construct a garage for needed additional space. There is no room on their lot so they are interested in purchasing 220 Jefferson Street. This parcel is directly behind them crossing

Franklin Way. The Borough's zoning ordinance will not permit a garage (accessory structure) to be built as the primary structure on a stand-alone lot. HAP Enterprises is willing to consolidate the 2 lots which would then make the new garage an accessory structure to their main building. However, the County Planning Commission informed them that the 2 lots must be abutting in order to consolidate them. Franklin Way currently bi-sects the 2 lots. HAP Enterprises would like to know if Council would be willing to consider vacating the one block of Franklin Way which bi-sects the 2 lots in question. By doing this the 2 lots would then abut each other and could then be consolidated. After some discussion, Council was willing to consider vacating Franklin Way. Council asked the Manager to contact HAP Enterprises and ask them to have a representative(s) attend the next Council meeting to present their proposal in greater detail so Council could better determine if they would be willing to proceed with vacating Franklin Way.

Manager Barrett asked for an executive session to discuss a personnel matter involving the Chief of Police.

Old Business/New Business:

Mr. Brothers asked for clarification regarding the ownership of the docks located on the Beaver River which were part of the discussion last month with the Boat Clubs. He got the impression that the Borough owned the docks and that the Boat Clubs were maintaining them on the Borough's behalf. It was noted that the water rights and the boat docks did not belong to the Borough. The agreements discussed last month with the Boat Clubs only pertained to the land which was adjacent to the river's edge which the Borough does own. Mr. Brothers stated that he may not have voted in favor of reducing the usage fees had he been aware of this.

Council adjourned the regular meeting and went into executive session at 7:33 p.m.

Mayor Jackson left the executive session at 7:45 p.m.

The executive session adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Submitted by,

John M. Barrett
Borough Manager