Rochester Borough Council

Regular Meeting in the Municipal Building

April 19, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

Present: President Benjamin Rader, Vice-President Marjorie White, Brandy Dietrich, Don Brothers, Marlin Robinson, Ron Becker, Wes Hill, Mayor Keith Jackson, Solicitor Bernie Rabik, Police Chief Frank Mercier, Fire Chief Mike Mamone III (arrived 6:54pm), Manager John Barrett

Absent: 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:

There were no public comments.

Action Items:

Mr. Becker motioned to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2021 regular and stormwater meetings as presented. Mr. Brothers seconded and the motion carried.

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

BILLS:

Gen. Fund – Ck# 10473–10536 – totaling $85,319.44.

Payroll (3/19, 4/2, 4/16) – Ck# 4938-4968 plus Dir. Dep. and Elec. Pymts. – totaling $133,937.89.

Ordinance 01-2021 – False Fire Alarms and Recovery of Costs for Fire Services. The ordinance has been advertised and is ready for Council’s consideration. After some discussion, Mr. Robinson motioned to approve Ordinance 01-2021 as presented. Mrs. Dietrich seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their review and consideration, a quote from Stephenson Equipment/Laurel Ford for a new pick-up truck for the Public Works Department. Stephenson Equipment is a COSTARS vendor. The quote is for $63,756 – truck, bed, plow and salt spreader. The Manager is asking for Council’s approval for a 3-year lease through FNB Commercial Leasing and to authorize the Manager to sign all appropriate documents. After some discussion, Mr. Becker motioned to approve the purchase of the new truck as presented, authorize the Manager to sign all documents related to the purchase and lease of the truck and to approve the Borough to seek a 3-year lease/purchase agreement with FNB Commercial Leasing. Mr. Brothers seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their review and consideration, a lot consolidation application from John & Elizabeth Lane, 500 E. Washington Street. The Borough and County Planning Commissions have reviewed the plan and the Rochester Planning Commission is recommending that Council approve the application as presented. After some discussion, Mr. Brothers motioned to approve the Lane’s lot consolidation plan as presented. Mrs. Dietrich seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their review and consideration the Repository Settlement Statement for the Borough to purchase 313 Deer Lane, Rochester. The Code Officer received a verbal quote from Tom Sipes of $7,800 for the demolition of the existing house at 313 Deer Lane. After some discussion, Mr. Robinson motioned to approve the purchase of 313 Deer Lane from the Beaver County Repository, authorize the Manager to execute all necessary documents for the purchase, have Mr. Sipes proceed with the demolition of the house at a cost of $7,800, and to have the Manager approach the adjacent property owners to solicit their interest in purchasing the lot from the Borough after demolition is complete. Mr. Brothers seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their review and consideration, the Beaver County Regional COG 2021 winter road materials bid tabulation. The bids will be ratified by the Delegates on April 22, 2021. The low bidder for road salt was Cargill at $80.93 per ton. American Rock Salt was the low bidder last year at $83.75 per ton. The Manager is recommending Council accept the bid of $80.93 from Cargill contingent upon the COG Delegates ratifying the bids. After some discussion, Mrs. White motioned to accept the bid of $80.93 for road salt from Cargill contingent upon the COG Delegates ratifying the bids. Mr. Becker seconded and the motion carried.

Review Items:

Council received for their review, the minutes of the March 11, 2021 Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority meeting.

Council received for their review, the minutes of the March 19, 2021 Rochester Borough Development Corporation meeting.

Council received for their review, the minutes of the January 12, 2021 Rochester Borough Planning Commission meeting.

Council received for their review, the minutes of the March 23, 2021 Rochester Community Heart & Soul meeting.

Committee Reports:

Public Administration – Ron Becker, Chairperson

The Expense & Revenue report covering January 1, 2021 through April 13, 2021 was presented for Council’s review.

Public Safety – Don Brothers, Chairperson

Aerial Ladder Truck – Council received the latest inspection report on the ladder truck. The truck cannot be certified due to the raise control function being inoperable from the turntable. The Fire Department received a quote for $5,491.62 to replace the aerial base cables and a quote for $15,989.55 to replace the aerial electrical cables. Both repairs are needed for the truck to be certified. After much discussion, Mr. Robinson motioned not to repair the ladder truck and to permanently take the truck out of service. Mr. Becker seconded and the motion carried. Roll Call 7-0, all voted yes. The action taken was in consideration of the age of the truck, the cost of the repairs, additional repairs needed and the liability to the Borough for operating an uncertified vehicle. There will be ongoing discussions between the Borough and the Township to develop a long-term plan to address future capital purchases such as an Aerial, Pumper and new fire station.

Council received for their information, Ordinance 04-2015, authorizing the Borough and Township to enter into an Intermunicipal Agreement to provide for emergency fire services and cost sharing for the Rochester Fire Department.

Council received a draft agreement for proving contract police services to Rochester Township. After some discussion, Council will wait to see how the Township wishes to proceed.

Public Works – Marlin Robinson, Chairperson

Mr. Robinson had nothing to report.

Recreation – Brandy Dietrich, Chairperson

Council received for their information, an email from the Rochester Area Baseball and Softball Organization with a breakdown of the number of players per municipality they have playing this year. They also provided a flier advertising their Annual Wing Bash on April 30th at 6:00 p.m.

Mrs. Dietrich noted some damage to the concession stand this past winter. This issue was a result of a change in Board members and the lack of communication in the transition. Mrs. Dietrich and the Manager are recommending an agreement be developed between the Borough and the Baseball Organization that details each party’s responsibilities to the maintenance and upkeep of the ballfield facility. This agreement can then be permanently posted at the concession stand for reference by new Board members in the future. Council agreed and Mrs. Dietrich and the Manager will develop a draft agreement for consideration.

Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Jackson noted an abandoned vehicle at 524 Oregon Avenue. Chief Mercier will have the officers look into this matter.

Mayor Jackson stated that he felt there was a need for a 4-way stop intersection at Virginia Avenue and Pinney Street due to several accidents and near misses over the past few years.

Solicitor’s Report:

Solicitor Rabik had nothing to report.

Code Officer’s Report:

Council received for their review, the March 2021 Code Officer’s Report.

Police Chief’s Report:

Chief Mercier presented the March 2021 Police Department Report and Code Report for Council’s review. Chief Mercier review several items from each report.

Fire Chief’s Report:

The March 2021 Fire Department Report was presented for Council’s review. Chief Mamone reviewed several items from the report.

Manager’s/Treasurer’s Report:

Manager Barrett presented the March 2021 Treasurer’s report for Council’s review.

Manager Barrett noted that he and the Police Chief have been working with Rodney Solomon, 447 Bedford Street. His property abuts an alley and vehicles keep hitting a retaining wall he has on that side of his property. A sign directing traffic to turn left from the alley was put up but is not being followed. A utility truck turning left from the alley still hit his wall. Mr. Solomon would like the alley to be one-way heading east from Bedford Avenue. There was discussion regarding a one-way request from residents on a particular block of Deer Lane. It was noted that the residents were asked to get a petition stating their request and have everyone abutting that block sign the petition agreeing to the change. After some discussion, Council agreed to consider the request following the same procedure of getting a petition signed by all the abutting residents. Mr. Rader stated that he would discuss this with Mr. Solomon.

Mrs. White asked for an update on the boat clubs and their access to the boat docks. Manager Barrett stated that he gave each boat club placards for their vehicles as discussed with the Joint Sewer Authority’s representatives and that 2 contact names and phone numbers were provided to the boat clubs to make prior arrangements for access during working hours.

Old Business/New Business:

Council received the State Ethics Commission’s Statement of Financial Interests form for the year 2020. This form is to be completed and returned to the Borough office by May 1st.

Mr. Rader provided a flier for the upcoming Memorial Day Celebration for Council’s information.

Mrs. White asked about the possibility of the Beaver County Regional Council of Governments holding their monthly meetings in the auditorium. There was no objection. It was noted that there would be a need to coordinate activities with the Center Theater Players to avoid any conflicts.

Council went into an executive session at 8:05 p.m. to discuss the police union contract.

Council reconvened at 8:43 p.m.

Mr. Rader asked for a roll call vote to approve the proposal from the police union as presented. The proposal was approved by a vote of 6-1 with Mr. Brothers voting no.

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Submitted by,

John M. Barrett

Borough Manager