

Rochester Borough Council
Regular Meeting in Council Chambers
May 20, 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:

Albert Ellis, 311 Deer Lane, asked Council to address the abandoned house next to his property; dilapidated, shingles are falling off, overgrown vegetation, trash, etc. He stated that these conditions have persisted for years and wants something done. Chief Mercier stated that he believes Code Officer Griffith has been working on getting this house demolished but didn't know the current status. Solicitor Rabik stated that he will work with the Code Officer to resolve this situation.

Eugenia Priest, 511 Oregon Avenue, asked Council to address the abandoned house next to her property; dilapidated, overgrown vegetation, rodents, etc. Chief Mercier stated that he believes Code Officer Griffith has been working on getting this house demolished but didn't know the current status. Solicitor Rabik stated that he will work with the Code Officer to resolve this situation.

Mrs. Priest also noted that the Martin Luther King Celebration Committee needs to change the date for their annual event from August 3rd to August 10th and asked if the park would still be available that day. The park is available and Council was agreeable to the change.

Rico Elmore, 302 Reno Street, stated that he is interested in how government works and asked what the process was for dealing with abandoned properties. Solicitor Rabik explained the steps the Code Officer takes in dealing with an abandoned property and the procedure for getting Court approval to take action if no property owner can be found or identified.

Tony Perricelli, 451 E. Washington Street, stated that his alley is in terrible condition and asked Council if they could address this situation. Manager Barrett stated that the bid opening for alley work is scheduled for June 6th and Council will review and consider the bids at their June 17th regular meeting. Mr. Perricelli's alley was one of the alleys on this list.

Action Items:

Mr. Becker motioned to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2019 stormwater meeting and regular Council meeting as presented. Mr. Brothers seconded and the motion carried.

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

BILLS:

Gen. Fund – Ck# 8938–9017 – totaling \$104,531.47.

Payroll (4/19, 5/3, 5/17) – Ck# 4353-4382 plus Dir. Dep. and Elec. Pymts. – totaling \$116,801.18.

Operation and Maintenance Agreement for the Boat Clubs – Club members stated their position regarding several items in the agreement; did not want to name Borough as an additional insurer on their policies, wanted the Borough to continue trash pick-up and they would pay the same fee as the residents, and would like the user fee reduced from \$19/ft to \$12/ft. After some discussion, Mr. Becker motioned to reduce the user fee from \$19/ft to \$12/ft. Mr. Howe seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Becker, Mr. Howe, Mrs. Dietrich voted yes, Mrs. White, Mr. Brothers, Mrs. Short, Mr. Rader voted no – the motion failed. Mrs. White motioned to reduce the user fee from \$19/ft to \$15/ft. Mrs. Dietrich seconded. Roll Call: All members voted yes. Mrs. White motioned to have the Borough continue trash collection at the established fee, and that the Clubs must name the Borough as an additional insurer on their policies. Mrs. Short seconded and the motion carried. Council approved the proposed agreement with the fore mentioned changes. The Boat Clubs agreed and the Manager will prepare the agreements for signatures.

The Manager and Code Enforcement Officer are asking Council to appoint Mr. John Drumm as Deputy Code Enforcement Officer for the purposes of conducting property maintenance inspections, issuing notices of violations and non-traffic citations for noncompliance of Borough codes. After some discussion, Mr. Brothers motioned to appoint Mr. Drumm as Deputy Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Becker seconded. Roll Call: All members voted yes.

The Rochester Borough Development Corporation is asking for Council's approval to close Brighton Avenue from New York Avenue to Adams Street on June 15th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for a Beaver County Emergency Services Personnel Appreciation Day. All Beaver County Police, Fire, EMS, etc. will be invited to come and show their equipment and discuss their respective duties with the people of Beaver County and for the residents and businesses to show their appreciation for the responder's dedication and service. Mrs. White motioned to approve the request. Mr. Brothers seconded and the motion carried.

Parks Project (War Memorial Park & History Park) – Council received for their review the Architect's bid tabulation report for the General Construction of the project. The low bid was from W.D. Wright Contracting at \$430,400 with deduct alternates totaling \$79,000. The Architect recommends awarding the contract to W.D. Wright Contracting with Council selecting the appropriate project options at their discretion. After some discussion, Mr. Brothers motioned to accept the lowest bid from W.D. Wright Contracting of \$430,400 with Deduct Alternate 3 –

trees, \$20,000 and Deduct Alternate 4 – shrubs, \$9,000 for a final bid amount of \$401,400. Mr. Becker seconded and the motion carried.

Review Items:

Council received for their review, the minutes of the April 11, 2019 Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority meeting.

Council received for their review, the meeting notes of the April 8, 2019 Rochester Borough Development Corporation meeting.

Council received for their review, the Liquid Fuels audit for January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017.

Council received for their review, the April 2019 Fire Department report.

Council received for their review, 2 letters from Gulisek Construction updating them on PennDOT's Route 65 project.

Council received for their review, a flier from the Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce informing them of their annual Chili Cook-Off on May 22nd.

Council received for their review, a newsletter from the Rochester Library.

Committee Reports:

Public Administration – Ron Becker, Chairperson

Mr. Becker presented the Expense & Revenue report covering January 1, 2019 through May 14, 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

The Manager asked if Council would consider having an appraisal completed for the Martino property on Railroad Street. The appraisal would be used to determine a sale price for Council and the Authority to consider should they wish to pursue this for a new Public Works facility since the bids for erecting a new garage had come in well over the available budget of the Borough and Authority. Several Borough and Authority board members visited the site and determined it was in good condition and large enough to meet our needs. After some discussion, Mrs. White motioned to approve having an appraisal completed with the Borough and Authority sharing the cost 50/50. Mrs. Short seconded and the motion carried.

Recreation – Brandy Dietrich, Chairperson

Mrs. Dietrich noted that playground mulch was dropped off by the Borough employees at the ballfields. The Baseball Organization has spread the mulch and the playground is looking good.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Jackson expressed his disappointment in not allowing Brighton First to construct a Community Garden in the Borough. He also expressed his concerns about the condition of the stage area and the heavy equipment being placed on it. After some discussion, it was noted that the Beaver County Chamber of Commerce and the Beaver County Regional Council of Governments would be hosting an event on July 31st at the docking area near the stage area and Marion Hill would be asked to get this area cleaned up and presentable prior to this date.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Rabik discussed high grass complaints and the process entailed by the Code Officer and the review and determinations of the local Magisterial Judge. Solicitor Rabik also encourage everyone to get out and vote in tomorrow's primary elections.

Code Officer's Report:

The April 2019 code report was presented for Council's review.

Police Chief's Report:

Chief Mercier distributed the April 2019 Police Department report and the Code Enforcement report for Council's review. The Chief reviewed several items in the reports. The Chief also noted that there was a serial burglar in town and to secure your homes and be aware of anyone suspicious and report them to the police.

Manager's/Treasurer's Report:

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

Manager Barrett informed Council that the 2 union contracts are set to expire December 31st of this year. He reviewed the process for past negotiations and asked Council how they would like to approach this year's negotiations. The Manager also noted that he had received a letter that the Beaver Valley Lodge #4 FOP would be handling the negotiations for the Police Officers' Association. After some discussion, Council was generally in favor of the Manager beginning the process but a final determination would be made once the unions' initial requests are received.

Manager Barrett stated that he had received a proposed police services contract from East Rochester in advance of the expiration of the current contract which is set to expire December 31st of this year. The current contract was for 5 years and the proposed contract is for 5 years as well. The proposed contract is exactly the same as the current contract except for the annual fee for service. There would be a 1% annual increase for 2020, 2021 and 2022 and a 2% annual increase in 2023 and 2024. After some discussion, Council asked Solicitor Rabik to review the contract and provide his feedback at the June regular meeting for Council to discuss and consider.

Manager Barrett presented a letter from Cheri Griff, 475 Park Street, Rochester expressing her interest in filling the vacancy on the Sewer & Maintenance Authority board. The vacancy was created with the resignation of Sonny Harvey. After some discussion, Mrs. White motioned to appoint Mrs. Griff to the Sewer & Maintenance Authority board to fill the remaining term of Mr. Harvey. Mr. Brothers seconded and the motion carried.

Manager Barrett asked for an executive session to discuss terms and conditions for renewing the Police Chief's contract.

Old Business/New Business:

Mr. Rader asked about the status of 267 Reno Street which caught fire sometime ago. Manager Barrett stated that Code Officer Griffith was in the process of securing the owner's authorization to demolish. The Borough did receive \$4,000 under the Fire Insurance Escrow ordinance which would be used to demolish the house once consent is received.

Council went into executive session at 8:34 p.m.

Council reconvened at 8:50 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Submitted by,

John M. Barrett
Borough Manager