

Rochester Borough Council
Regular Meeting in Council Chambers
October 21, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

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

Absent: President Benjamin Rader, Martin Knafelc

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

Persons in Attendance:

Emily Palmer, Engineer for the Sewer & Maintenance Authority, was in attendance to give the Council members the required update training on the MS4 Program. Mrs. Palmer distributed a power point presentation of her training material. Mrs. Palmer reviewed various aspects of the MS4 Program and reviewed the planning and budgeting the Authority is developing to comply with the Pollutant Reduction Plan which was submitted to the PA DEP. The plan is to be implemented by March of 2023.

Attorney Greg Douglas, Solicitor for the Joint Sewer Authority, discussed with Council a proposal from the Authority regarding the storage of the regulated fill that will be generated from the Authority's sewer plant and collection system upgrades. The Authority asked to temporarily store this material on Borough property until it could be disposed of. The Authority is now proposing that this fill be permanently distributed throughout the entire property which would bring the property elevation about the 100-year flood plain which would be needed for the construction of any future structures. After some discussion, it was agreed to set up a work group to further discuss this proposal.

William Starkey stated that he was interested in purchasing 411 Jackson Street from the Beaver County Repository. Mr. Starkey presented the Repository Statement with the School District's consent. After some discussion, Mr. Brothers motioned to approve the consent for purchase contingent upon the foundation issue and other various code issues being rectified within 4 weeks making the house habitable. Mrs. Short seconded and the motion carried. Mr. Starkey agreed with the stipulation to make all the necessary repairs within 4 weeks to make the house safe for habitation.

Dr. Vogel-Scibilia, Brighton First, noted to Council the completion of their Children's Garden in New Brighton and asked the Council members to visit this site to see what a project like this might look like should Brighton First approach Council again in the future for such a project.

John Drumm, Assistant Code Officer, presented a report on his activity regarding the rental inspection program. Mr. Drumm discussed various challenges he is encountering, mostly resistance from Landlords, which are causing delays in approvals and increasing his hours due to additional follow-up conversations and inspections. Manager Barrett explained that the rental inspection program had not been adhered to for many years prior to his hiring. It was expected that additional time would be needed to develop a systematic approach for these inspections and to educate the landlords regarding their responsibility to adhere to all the applicable safety codes.

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

Eugenia Priest noted the deplorable condition of 515 Oregon Avenue and asked about the process for demolition. Solicitor Rabik and Code Officer Griffith explained the process and noted that they are working with the owner to get this house demolished as quickly as possible.

Action Items:

Mr. Becker motioned to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2019 stormwater and regular Council meetings as presented. Mr. Howe 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# 9287–9371 – totaling \$464,517.61.

Payroll (9/20, 10/4, 10/18) – Ck# 4485-4523 plus Dir. Dep. and Elec. Pymts. – totaling \$135,253.36.

Manager Barrett presented Resolution 2019-02, designating the Borough Manager as the Chief Administrative Officer for the police pension plan. Manager Barrett stated that he has been signing the various documents, Act 205 Election Form and Actuarial Valuation Report, AG-385 Pension Programs Unit Report, etc. The Auditor General's Office requires the Chief Administrative Officer to sign these documents. After some discussion, Mrs. White motioned to approve and adopt Resolution 2019-02 as presented. Mr. Brothers seconded and the motion carried.

Review Items:

Council received for their review, the minutes of the September 12, 2019 Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority meeting.

Council received for their review, the meeting notes of the September 9, 2019 Rochester Borough Development Corporation meeting.

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

Council received for their review, 2 letters from the Auditor General's office informing the Borough of the upcoming pension plan audit for both the Police Plan and the Municipal Employee's plan for the years 2015-2018 and outlining the scope of this engagement.

Committee Reports:

Public Administration – Ron Becker, Chairperson

The Expense & Revenue report covering January 1, 2019 through October 16, 2019 was presented for Council's review.

Manager Barrett presented the final estimates of revenues and expenses for the year 2019 and a preliminary 2020 Budget. After some discussion, a budget meeting would be scheduled on November 4th at 6:00 p.m. to further review and discuss the preliminary budget.

Public Safety – Martin Knafelc, Chairperson

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

Mrs. White asked if there was any update regarding the clean-up at the old Beaver Valley Bowl building. Manager Barrett had no further updates.

Public Works – Howard Howe, Chairperson

Manager Barrett stated that the new Public Works employee has started and he has been acclimating him to the various properties and equipment the Borough owns. The Manager has also been reviewing work orders and job development with the new employee.

Recreation – Brandy Dietrich, Chairperson

Mrs. Dietrich had nothing to report.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Jackson asked for an alley update. Manager Barrett stated that the contractor would be paving New York Avenue for the Beaver Falls Municipal Authority and when that was completed, he would be moving in to work on the alleys.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Rabik had nothing to report.

Code Officer's Report:

Code Officer Griffith presented the September 2019 Code Report for Council's review. She reviewed several items from the report.

Police Chief's Report:

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

Chief Mercier noted a robbery event that took place recently and that the case has been resolved.

Manager's/Treasurer's Report:

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

Old Business/New Business:

There was no old/new business.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Council went into executive session at 7:58 p.m. to discuss negotiations with the police and municipal employees bargaining units, and the purchase of real estate.

The Executive Session adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Submitted by,

John M. Barrett
Borough Manager