Rochester Borough Council

Regular Meeting in the Municipal Building

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

Present: President Benjamin Rader, Vice-President Marjorie White, Ron Becker, Don Brothers, Marlin Robinson, Wes Hill, Donna Short, Solicitor Bernie Rabik, Police Chief Frank Mercier, Manager John Barrett

Absent: Mayor Keith Jackson, Brandy Dietrich, Code Officer Peggy Griffith, Fire Chief Mike Mamone III

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

Mr. Rader announced that the Borough has received First Place Recognition in the 2020 Borough News Municipal Newsletter Contest that was run by the Borough News, the official magazine of the PA State Association of Boroughs. Mrs. White stated that she had entered the Borough in the contest. Everyone thanked Mrs. White for her efforts and were appreciative of the recognition.

Persons in Attendance:

There were no public comments.

Action Items:

Mrs. Short motioned to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2020 regular and stormwater meetings as presented. Mr. Becker seconded and the motion carried.

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

BILLS:

Gen. Fund – Ck# 10295–10346 – totaling $235,754.21.

Payroll (12/25, 1/8) – Ck# 4874-4898 plus Dir. Dep. and Elec. Pymts. – totaling $108,849.15.

Cody Postlewait is asking for Council’s consent to purchase 313 Deer Lane from the Beaver County Repository. After some discussion, Council took no action and asked the Manager to contact Mr. Postlewait and have him attend the next Council meeting so they could discuss his intentions for the property.

The Beaver County Conservation District (BCCD) is updating their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) they have with all the municipalities in Beaver County. Council received a copy of the updated MOU for their review. After some discussion, Mr. Robinson motioned to accept and approve the MOU as presented. Mr. Brothers seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their review and consideration, a subdivision application from Michael and Karen Lentz. They are consolidating 2 adjacent lots they own, 571 & 573 Lacock Street. The Rochester Planning Commission met January 12th to review the consolidation plan and are recommending that Council approve Mr. & Mrs. Lentz’s application. After some discussion, Mrs. White motioned to approve the consolidation plan as presented. Mr. Robinson seconded and the motion carried.

Review Items:

Council received for their review, the minutes of the December 10, 2020 Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority meeting.

Council received for their review, the minutes of the December 8, 2020 Rochester Borough Development Corporation meeting.

Council received for their review, the 2019 Real Estate Tax Collector’s Audit Report.

Council received for their review, a letter from PennDOT notifying the Borough of traffic counters they will be setting between January and April 2021.

Committee Reports:

Public Administration – Ron Becker, Chairperson

The Expense & Revenue report covering January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 was presented for Council’s review.

Public Safety – Don Brothers, Chairperson

Council received a letter from the Beaver County Emergency Services regarding their requirement to update the B.C. Hazardous Mitigation Plan which municipalities can adopt as their municipal hazardous mitigation plan. They are holding initial meetings on January 20th and 21st to begin this update process. Municipal representatives are asked to attend one of these meetings to provide contact information and review the project schedule. Manager Barrett is planning to attend the January 21st meeting.

Public Works – Marlin Robinson, Chairperson

Mr. Robinson stated that he met with the Foreman to discuss the operations. The Foreman asked if there was a way to have cars move on certain streets during and/or immediately after a snow storm. For example, George Street and Mecklem Avenue are narrow streets and cars can park on both sides. Most times, they can not get the truck through with a plow on and sometimes can barely make it when just spreading salt. Council recognized there are several streets posing this challenge. There was discussion about permitting parking on only one side of these streets, possibly enforcing the street sweeping signs year-round requiring cars to be moved on certain days, and possibly changing street sweeping from doing both sides of the street the same day to sweeping a different day for each side. Council will continue to review this matter.

Recreation – Brandy Dietrich, Chairperson

There was nothing to report in Mrs. Dietrich’s absence.

Mayor’s Report:

There was nothing to report in Mayor Jackson’s absence.

Solicitor’s Report:

Solicitor Rabik had nothing to report.

Code Officer’s Report:

The December 2020 Code Officer’s report was presented for Council’s review.

Police Chief’s Report:

Chief Mercier stated that the December police report would be provided at the next Council meeting. Certain information was not yet available to construct the report.

Fire Chief’s Report:

The December 2020 Fire Department Report was presented for Council’s review.

Council received for their review, the Rochester Fire Department’s list of officers for the years 2021 and 2022.

Council received for their review, an article the Fire Chief provided which discussed the need to have adequate staffing for Fire Departments.

Council received for their review, a draft ordinance amending Ordinance 2-97, Chapter 1, Part 5; FIRE DEPARTMENT: repealing it in its entirety and replacing it with the following amendment including recognition of the Rochester Township Volunteer Fire Department and the Rochester Township Volunteer Firemen’s Relief Association; recovery of costs and the regulation of false fire alarms. After some discussion, The Manager will see if any other municipalities in Beaver County have adopt similar ordinances for recovering costs and regulating false fire alarms.

Manager’s/Treasurer’s Report:

Manager Barrett presented the December 2020 Treasurer’s report for Council’s review.

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. Hill brought up for discussion, the possibility of having regular meetings with the Rochester Township Commissioners and the East Rochester Council to allow for open discussion on how we can better help each other and our residents. Mr. Rader will contact the other 2 municipalities to see if a joint meeting could be set up. He would notify the Manager if an advertisement would be needed. There was discussion regarding workshop meetings and committee meetings and what needed to be advertised and what didn’t need to be advertised.

Council went into executive session to discuss the negotiations with the 2 unions at 7:43 p.m.

Council reconvened at 8:01 p.m. and the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by,

John M. Barrett

Borough Manager