

Rochester Borough Council
 Regular Meeting in the Municipal Building
 May 18, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Mayor Keith Jackson

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 16, 2020 regular meeting as presented. Mr. Brothers seconded and the motion carried. Note: There was no regular meeting in April due to the coronavirus pandemic and the Governor's "stay at home" order.

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

BILLS:

Gen. Fund – Ck# 9691–9855 – totaling \$538,525.75.

Payroll (3/20, 4/3, 4/17, 5/1, 5/15) – Ck# 4646-4694 plus Dir. Dep. and Elec. Pymts. – totaling \$204,108.16.

Mrs. White motioned to ratify Council's action taken on March 19, 2020 when Council enacted a Local Disaster Emergency Declaration due to the immediate threat by the COVID-19 Pandemic Virus. This action was recommended by the Beaver County Emergency Services Department in conjunction with the Federal, State and County's Emergency Declarations. Mr. Becker seconded and the motion carried.

2020-2021 bid tabulation for road salt. This was bid through the Beaver County Regional Council of Governments. American Rock Salt was the low bidder at \$83.75 per ton. After some discussion, Mrs. White motioned to award the salt contract to American Rock Salt as the low bidder. Mrs. Dietrich seconded and the motion carried.

Review Items:

Council received for their review, the minutes of the March 12, 2020, April 3, 2020 and April 9, 2020 Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority meetings.

Council received for their review, the meeting notes of the April 14, 2020 Rochester Borough Development Corporation meeting.

Council received for their review, the April 2020 Fire Department report.

Council received for their review, a thank you letter from the Beaver County YMCA for the donation from Council.

Council received for their review, a letter from Senator Toomey acknowledging the receipt of the Borough's resolution opposing any legislation that would increase the length or weight of tractor trailers permitted on Federal or State highways.

Council received for their review, a note and information from the Rochester Library about available services while under the closure order issued by the Governor during the coronavirus pandemic.

Committee Reports:

Public Administration – Ron Becker, Chairperson

The Expense & Revenue report covering January 1, 2020 through May 5, 2020 was presented for Council's review.

Heart & Soul Program – the Team is holding virtual meetings every two weeks. Council members are asked to join these meetings when available. A link will be sent via email to join the next meeting. Those who may not have internet access or the ability to join the meeting can let the Manager know and arrangements can be made if possible.

Statement of Financial Interest – All members have received the form and are required to complete it and return it to the Borough Office before May 1st. The form is to represent your interests for the year 2019. Mrs. White noted that the filing deadline has been extended to July 15, 2020.

Public Safety – Don Brothers, Chairperson

Mr. Brothers had nothing to report.

Public Works – Howard Howe, Chairperson

The Manager reported that the purchase of the Martino property for a new maintenance garage is now complete. The Public Works employee has moved approximately 95% of the equipment and supplies to the new garage. If any Council person would like to walk through the new facility please let the Manager know and he will schedule a visit that fits your availability.

The Manager reported that he has hired 3 part-time summer workers for the Public Works Department. They have been working very well and have been extremely beneficial in supporting the move to the new garage.

The Manager spoke with Bob Goehring, who has been maintaining the riverfront park, and he will not be returning this year. He has faithfully and exceptionally maintained the riverfront area for many years. The Manager would like to ask Council to consider passing a resolution acknowledging Mr. Goehring's many years of service in managing and maintaining the riverfront area. After some discussion, Council agreed that Mr. Goehring needs to be acknowledged for his work and dedication and asked the Manager to look into a plaque that Council can present to Mr. Goehring at a future Council meeting.

Recreation – Brandy Dietrich, Chairperson

Mrs. Dietrich had nothing to report.

Mayor's Report:

There was nothing to report in the Mayor's absence.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Rabik asked for an executive session to discuss the Police union's contract and the Police Chief's contract.

Code Officer's Report:

Code Officer Griffith presented the March 2020 and April 2020 Code Officer's Report for Council's review.

Police Chief's Report:

Chief Mercier presented the March 2020 and April 2020 Police Department report and code enforcement reports for Council's review. Chief Mercier reviewed several items from the reports.

Manager's/Treasurer's Report:

Manager Barrett presented the April 2020 Treasurer's reports for Council's review.

Manager Barrett reported that he has had several discussions with the Boat Clubs regarding access to their boat docks on the Beaver River. The Joint Sewer Authority's project is requiring the roadway to be closed while they are laying a new pipeline from their pump station to their sewer plant. The pipeline installation is now complete and access should be available. The Boat Clubs have stated that they would like a reduction in their annual payments due to this delay in accessing their docks. After some discussion, Council agreed to review their requests but expressed the fact that any delays that may have resulted were caused by Rochester Borough.

Manager Barrett presented a letter from Frank Dodson, Chairman of the Borough's Sewer & Maintenance Authority. He states in his letter that the Authority would like to rent the old Borough maintenance garage. He notes several items the Authority would be agreeable to; rent, utilities, etc. The Authority's Solicitor is drafting an agreement for Council's consideration.

Manager Barrett brought up for discussion, the possibility of opening up the Municipal Building once the Governor moves Beaver County into the yellow phase. The Center Theater Players and the Heritage Society would like access for a few of their members to continue work at the facility. No events would be scheduled at this time. After some discussion, Council agreed to open the Municipal Building once the Governor declares Beaver County to be in the yellow phase.

Old Business/New Business:

There was discussion regarding Duquesne Light's pole replacement project and the restoration of the curbs, sidewalks and roadway. Manager Barrett will review their activities.

Council went into executive session at 7:12 p.m.

Council reconvened at 7:45 p.m.

Mr. Becker motioned to approve a 4-year contract with Chief Mercier for the years 2020-2023. He would receive; a 4% wage increase in 2020 and a 3% wage increase in each of the following 3 years with all the other benefits and conditions remaining as they are for each of the 4 years. Mr. Brothers seconded and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned 7:47 p.m.

Submitted by,

John M. Barrett
Borough Manager