

Rochester Borough Council
Regular Meeting in Council Chambers
April 15, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

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

Absent: President Benjamin Rader, Martin Knafelc, Donna Short

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

Persons in Attendance:

Shelly Scassa, Knotical Haven Boat Club, stated that the Boat Clubs had some objections to the proposed maintenance agreement. They would like the Borough to continue collecting the trash and they do not want to add the Borough as an additional insurer to their liability policy. After some discussion, Mrs. Scassa was asked to send the Boat Club's objections to the Solicitor. A meeting was set up for April 22nd at 6:30pm to further discuss the issues.

Dr. Suzanne Vogel-Scibilia, Brighton First, Inc., stated that the alternate location on Kossuth Street was not a viable location for their Community Garden. She asked about the possibility of using the Borough's property at the corner of Ohio Street and Reno Street. They would need a water service and yard hydrant. They would manage and maintain the garden. A fence, small shelter and benches would be erected. Mrs. White motioned to approve the concept and use for this location and work towards developing a lease agreement between the Borough and Brighton First. There was no second to the motion. Concerns were raised about how this project might affect the neighborhood. The vacant lot is currently used by the neighborhood children as open space for play activities. Would the neighbors be opposed to this use? Mr. Howe suggested a survey of the neighbors be taken and if there were no objections to the garden, he would be willing to reconsider the matter. Chief Mercier volunteered to do a neighborhood survey if Council would like one. Mrs. Dietrich thanked Brighton First for their interest in the community and stated that this topic would be further discussed later in the meeting.

Barbara Foster, 167 George Street, stated that she received a ticket for parking her car on the sidewalk. She is concerned about her car being hit because the street is so narrow. Also, she feels that others in this block park on the sidewalk but don't receive tickets. Mrs. Foster was told that it is illegal to park her car on the sidewalk and the Officers ticket all illegally parked cars when observed.

Action Items:

Mrs. White motioned to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2019 stormwater meeting and regular Council meeting as presented. Mr. Becker seconded and the motion carried.

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

BILLS:

Gen. Fund – Ck# 8884–8937 – totaling \$47,544.53.

Payroll (3/22, 4/5) – Ck# 4328-4352 plus Dir. Dep. and Elec. Pymts. – totaling \$87,129.00.

The Manager presented the final draft Operation and Maintenance Agreement for the Boat Clubs. This was tabled pending the outcome of the meeting set for April 22nd.

Council received a letter and proposed right-of-way agreement from the Joint Sewer Authority's Solicitor requesting an easement and right-of-way to construct 3 separate sewer lines down Railroad Street and through 2 parcels owned by Rochester Borough. An agreement and drawing are attached for Council's consideration. Solicitor Rabik stated that he had no objections with the right-of-way agreement. He recommended that Council approve executing the agreement pending a review and with no objections from the Borough Engineer. Mrs. White motioned to approve and authorize the execution of the proposed right-of-way agreement following an affirmative review by the Borough Engineer. Mr. Becker seconded and the motion carried.

The Manager presented a request from Linsey Keefer to purchase 411 Jackson Street from the Beaver County Repository. After some discussion, Council took no action and asked the Manager to have Ms. Keefer attend the next Council meeting so they could have the opportunity to ask her some questions.

The Manager presented a letter from the Martin Luther King Celebration Committee requesting the use of the park next to the Dollar General Store for their annual celebration event on August 3, 2019. After some discussion, Mr. Howe motioned to approve the use of the park for their event with the stipulation the event would have to relocate if the Borough's park rehabilitation project was ongoing on that day. Mrs. White seconded and the motion carried.

Council received a letter from the Beaver County Boom soliciting sponsors for their annual fireworks event on June 22, 2019. After some discussion, Mrs. White motioned to approve a \$500 donation towards their event. Mr. Becker seconded and the motion carried.

The Manager presented a proposed bench and trash receptacle to be considered as the standard for the Borough to provide a consistent design element throughout the community. The cost of the bench is \$1,020. The cost of the trash receptacle is \$1,330. The Manager is also asking to purchase 2 benches and a trash receptacle for Girard Park and 4 additional trash receptacles for Brighton Avenue. After some discussion, Mrs. White motioned to accept the proposed bench and trash receptacle as the Borough's standard and approve the purchase of 2 benches and 5 trash receptacles. Mr. Becker seconded and the motion carried.

The Manager stated that New Brighton Borough is selling their used Bobcat skid steer. The Manager asked if Council would consider purchasing this piece of equipment. It is a very versatile piece of equipment that would aid the Public Works in completing various tasks as well as provide a backup to the backhoe for loading salt and other materials should the backhoe be unavailable or out of service. New Brighton Council would probably expect \$13,000 or \$14,000.

After some discussion, Mr. Becker motioned to purchase the skid steer from New Brighton Borough not to exceed \$14,000. Mr. Howe seconded and the motion carried.

Review Items:

Council received for their review, the minutes of the March 14, 2019 Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority meeting.

Council received for their review, the meeting notes of the March 11, 2019 Rochester Borough Development Corporation meeting.

Council received from the Rochester VFW Post 128, an invitation to attend their 90th Anniversary event scheduled for April 27th at 6:00pm. The Post would like to pay for the board members' dinners as their guests. You are free to bring a guest and their cost would be \$12. Please RSVP by April 23rd as directed on the invitation.

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

Council received a thank you from the Rochester Bantam Basketball Program for supporting their program.

Committee Reports:

Public Administration – Ron Becker, Chairperson

Mr. Becker presented the Expense & Revenue report covering January 1, 2019 through April 10, 2019 for Council's review.

Public Safety – Martin Knafelc, Chairperson

There was nothing to report in Mr. Knafelc's absence. There was further discussion regarding the parking issue on George Street.

Public Works – Howard Howe, Chairperson

Mr. Howe had nothing to report.

Recreation – Brandy Dietrich, Chairperson

Manager Barrett stated that the Parks Project re-bid opening will be on April 30th. A bid tabulation should be available for the May meeting.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Jackson noted that the alleys in town are in bad shape. He also noted that residents at the end of Oregon Avenue received street sweeping tickets but that part of Oregon Avenue is in Rochester Township. Chief Mercier stated that he was aware of this and those resident's tickets were voided.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Rabik commended Council for their willingness to allow the earlier groups to speak at length on their particular issues and not limit their time. Most other municipalities limit participants time to speak.

Code Officer's Report:

The March 2019 code report was presented for Council's review. Code Officer Griffith was asked about the status of the 267 Reno Street. Code Officer Griffith stated that she is working with the owner to have the house demolished.

Police Chief's Report:

Chief Mercier distributed the March 2019 Police Department report and the Code Enforcement report for Council's review.

Manager's/Treasurer's Report:

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

Manager Barrett informed Council that the Rochester Borough Development Corporation is planning a Beaver County Emergency Service Personnel Appreciation Day on June 15th. It will be on Brighton Avenue.

Old Business/New Business:

Council further discussed the community garden proposal from Brighton First. The Manager will get more details on the construction material they intend to use and inform them of possible zoning restrictions that may impact the available space for fencing. Chief Mercier will conduct a neighborhood survey of the residents to see if they would be objectionable to a community garden at this location.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Submitted by,

John M. Barrett
Borough Manager