Rochester Borough Council

Regular Meeting in the Municipal Building

March 15, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Vice-President Marjorie White, Mayor Keith Jackson, Fire Chief Mike Mamone III, Code Officer Peggy Griffith

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

Persons in Attendance:

Members of the various Boat Clubs addressed Council regarding access to the boat docks along the Beaver River. Club members were told by the construction workers that access would not be permitted Monday through Thursday until after 5pm. Manager Barrett stated that a meeting was scheduled for tomorrow at 10:30am with the Sewer Authority’s Engineer and Superintendent to get a project update and discuss access to the Beaver River park area. Club members were invited to attend. Mr. Rader stated that Council would work towards the best solution for all parties involved.

Action Items:

Mr. Robinson motioned to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2021 regular meeting and the March 3, 2021 informational meeting of the 3 Rochester’s as presented. Mr. Brothers seconded and the motion carried.

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

BILLS:

Gen. Fund – Ck# 10409–10472 – totaling $105,910.15.

Payroll (2/19, 3/5) – Ck# 4918-4937 plus Dir. Dep. and Elec. Pymts. – totaling $85,235.45.

Resolution 2021-01 – Authorizing the sale of personal property known as the steel pole building. After some discussion, Mr. Hill motioned to approve and adopt Resolution 2021-01 as presented. Mr. Becker seconded and the motion carried.

Bids for the sale of the steel pole building – The Borough received 2 bids; Tim Storm with a bid of $25,200 and Jim Spiker with a bid of $22,100. After some discussion, Mr. Robinson motioned to award the sale of the steel pole building to Tim Storm with the high bid $25,200. Mr. Becker seconded and the motion carried.

Beaver County Regional Council of Governments – A delegate and alternate need to be appointed to attend meetings to represent the Borough and cast votes as needed. Mrs. White, delegate and Mr. Rader, alternate were the appointees in 2020. After some discussion, Mrs. Short motioned to appoint Mrs. White as the delegate and Mr. Rader as the alternate for 2021. Mr. Becker seconded and the motion carried.

Manager Barrett presented a draft agreement between the Borough and applicants requesting consent to purchase property in Rochester from the Beaver County Repository for Council’s review and consideration. After some discussion, it was decided to require a minimum deposit of $3,000 and when the project was completed the Borough would retain $500 of the deposit as an administrative fee. Mr. Brothers motioned to approve the agreement with the minimum $3,000 deposit and $500 administrative fee. Mrs. Short seconded and the motion carried.

Review Items:

Council received for their review, the minutes of the February 11, 2021 Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority meeting.

Council received for their review, the February 25, 2021 agenda and supplemental information for the Beaver County Tax Collection Committee meeting. Manager Barrett noted that the Board approved an assessment of $20,000 to cover the costs of the Committee. Rochester Borough’s share will be $162.63.

Council received for their review, the minutes of the March 2, 2021 and the March 9, 2021 Public Administration and Public Safety Joint Committee meetings.

Council received for their review, the Borough’s current fee schedule and the recommended changes from the Public Administration Committee. After some discussion, Council agreed with the changes recommended by the Committee. Mr. Becker motioned to approve and adopt Resolution 2021-02 establishing fees and charges for various applications, permits, and services incorporating the changes as recommended by the Public Administration Committee. Mr. Hill seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their review, draft Ordinance 01-2021 – regulating false fire alarms and authorizing the Rochester Fire Department to recover costs and/or expenses, on behalf of Rochester Borough, for its services through claims submitted to the insurance carrier of persons requiring emergency services from the Department. The charges for false fire alarms listed in the draft ordinance are the recommendations of the Public Safety Committee. After some discussion, Mr. Hill motioned to approve the ordinance as presented and authorize the Solicitor to advertise it for adoption at the April 19th regular Council meeting. Mr. Robinson seconded and the motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Public Administration – Ron Becker, Chairperson

The Expense & Revenue report covering January 1, 2021 through March 11, 2021 was presented for Council’s review.

Public Safety – Don Brothers, Chairperson

Mr. Brothers had nothing to report. Mr. Rader stated that he was asked by Mrs. White to mention that there have been some open fires in her neighborhood and she wanted to make the police aware so they could check when they are patrolling.

Public Works – Marlin Robinson, Chairperson

Mr. Robinson noted that he, the Manager and Foreman met with a representative from Stephenson Equipment to discuss the new pick-up truck and ask for a quote. Stephenson Equipment is a COSTARS vendor.

Recreation – Brandy Dietrich, Chairperson

Mrs. Dietrich asked about getting the names and contact information of the Township Commissioners who sit on their Recreation Committee so they could start discussing joint opportunities. Manager Barrett stated that he would get that from the Township Secretary and distribute to the Council members.

Mayor’s Report:

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

Solicitor’s Report:

Solicitor Rabik stated that he has passed on Council’s offer to the police union. The issue of health care contribution is one of the outstanding issues that have not been resolved. The police union has not yet responded or made any counter offer.

Code Officer’s Report:

Council received for their review, the January 2021 Code Officer’s Report.

Police Chief’s Report:

Chief Mercier presented the February 2021 Police Department Report and Code Report for Council’s review. Chief Mercier review several items from each report.

There was discussion about the Borough possibly having a community wide clean-up day.

Chief Mercier asked Council if they would consider discussing contracting police services to the Township if the Township had any interest. Council was agreeable to have the Police Chief pursue discussions with Township representatives.

Fire Chief’s Report:

The February 2021 Fire Department Report was presented for Council’s review.

Manager’s/Treasurer’s Report:

Manager Barrett presented the February 2021 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. Brothers brought up for discussion the condition of 313 Deer Lane and the possibility of the Borough purchasing this property from the Beaver County Repository. The Borough could then demolish the house and open up discussions with the adjacent property owners about them purchasing the lot from the Borough. After some discussion, the Manager was asked to get a consent application from the County Assessment Office to purchase 313 Deer Lane from the Repository.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Submitted by,

John M. Barrett

Borough Manager