

Rochester Borough Council
Regular Meeting in Council Chambers
March 16, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Martin Knafelc, Vice-President Marjorie White, Mayor Keith Jackson

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

Persons in Attendance:

Wes Hill, Rochester Borough Emergency Management Coordinator, updated Council on the coronavirus pandemic. Mr. Hill reviewed the nature of the virus and preventative measures that should be considered. Mr. Hill reviewed the Federal and State restrictions imposed and various actions Beaver County is implementing. After some discussion, Council thanked Mr. Hill for the update.

Albert Ellis, 311 Deer Lane, expressed his ongoing concerns with the condition of 313 Deer Lane. After some discussion, the Solicitor and Code Officer will look into the appropriate action that can be taken.

Action Items:

Mr. Brothers motioned to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2020 regular meeting as presented. Mr. Becker 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# 9630–9690 – totaling \$86,824.48.

Payroll (2/21, 3/6) – Ck# 4620-4645 plus Dir. Dep. and Elec. Pymts. – totaling \$81,671.66.

Ordinance 01-2020 – amending the Non-Uniform Pension Plan administered by the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System (PMRS). The ordinance is a restatement of the plan with a few administrative details amended. After some discussion, Mr. Howe motioned to approve and adopt Ordinance 01-2020 as presented. Mr. Brothers seconded and the motion carried.

Ordinance 02-2020 – vacating a portion of Franklin Way. After some discussion, Mr. Becker motioned to approve and adopt Ordinance 02-2020 as presented. Mr. Brothers seconded and the motion carried.

Request from Mrs. White to attend the PSAB Annual Conference. It is scheduled for June 7-10 at the Hershey Lodge, PA. The estimated costs are: Conference Registration - \$280, lodging - \$750, meals - \$150, mileage - \$278 for a total cost of \$1,458. After some discussion, Mr. Howe motioned to approve the costs associated with Mrs. White attending the PSAB Annual Conference in Hershey. Mrs. Short seconded and the motion carried.

FY 2020 CDBG Applications – (1) 190 Brighton Ave Demolition, (2) Community-Wide Handicap Ramps. Discuss priority for projects and approve. After some discussion, Mr. Brothers motioned to approve the 2 projects with the 190 Brighton Ave Demolition as priority 1 and the Community-Wide Handicap Ramps as priority 2. Mr. Becker seconded and the motion carried. Manager Barrett had the attending members complete the certification of compliance required for submission of the application.

The Beaver County YMCA is seeking donations to support their programs that promote healthy living and youth development as well as providing meals to those in need. Solicitor Rabik stated that he would donate \$100 on the Borough's behalf. Council thanked Solicitor Rabik for his generous offer.

Stella Duncan is asking for consent to purchase 323 Lloyd Street off of the Beaver County Repository. Mrs. Duncan's son discussed their intentions on her behalf. After some discussion, the Solicitor will draft an agreement between the Borough and Mrs. Duncan defining certain parameters that Mrs. Duncan would have to agree to before the Borough would consent to the sale. The matter was tabled until the next meeting.

Mr. Rader noted that he received information for the Beaver County Boom. The Borough has donated in the past. This will be considered at the next meeting.

Review Items:

Council received for their review, the minutes of the February 13, 2020 Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority meeting.

Council received for their review, the meeting notes of the February 11, 2020 Rochester Borough Development Corporation meeting.

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

Council received for their review, the 2018 Real Estate Tax Collector Audit Report.

Committee Reports:

Public Administration – Ron Becker, Chairperson

Heart & Soul Program – the first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday March 17th at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. We will be meeting with Jeff Siegler. He is the Coach assigned to us by the PA Humanities Council. This is an important and sizable undertaking. Mr. Becker

asked all members to make every effort to attend and support this initiative. Attached is a current Team Member list. If you are not on the list and would like to be included, please let the Manager know. Also, please feel free to solicit residents and others to become Team Members as well.

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.

Public Safety – Don Brothers, Chairperson

Mr. Brothers presented a sample ordinance establishing a program to charge mitigation rates for the deployment of emergency and non-emergency services by the Fire Department for services rendered. The Fire Department is asking the Council to consider adopting an ordinance that would allow the Department to bill for service calls. After some discussion, Council asked the Solicitor to review the ordinance and it would be discussed in greater detail at the next meeting.

Mr. Brothers brought up the need for a police car to replace the current unmarked vehicle. Manager Barrett noted that Council started a replacement program purchasing a new car every 2 years. It was also noted for the need to purchase an additional car periodically when there was an opportunity. Only replacing a car every 2 years would mean the oldest car would be 12 years old before it got replaced. After some discussion, Mr. Brothers motioned to purchase an additional 2020 police vehicle under a 2-year lease agreement paid from the debt service account. Mr. Becker seconded and the motion carried.

Public Works – Howard Howe, Chairperson

The Manager noted that he hired a student from Rochester as a part-time employee for the Public Works Department while the school is closed.

Recreation – Brandy Dietrich, Chairperson

Mrs. Dietrich asked what the process would be if the little Rochester Rams football program wanted to use area at the ballfields for their practices. It was noted that they would have to approach Council with a request, then Council would consider to approve or deny the request.

Mayor's Report:

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

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Rabik stated that there is a tentative agreement with the police union for a 1-year contract. Once all the language has been developed, he would present it for Council's consideration. The Chief's contract would be addressed at that time as well.

Code Officer's Report:

Code Officer Griffith presented the February 2020 Code Officer's Report for Council's review.

Police Chief's Report:

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

Manager's/Treasurer's Report:

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

Old Business/New Business:

Manager Barrett stated that an informal meeting of representatives from the 3 Rochester's was held last Thursday. The purpose was to see if there was any interest in the 3 communities to look at a possible merger of the 3 communities or possibly consolidating services. There was positive interest to further study both possibilities. The representatives from each community were now to go back to their respective boards to poll their interest in pursuing either or both of the topics discussed. After some discussion, all the members in attendance were in agreement to further study both possibilities.

Mr. Howe stated that he was against consenting to any more Repository Sales unless all past due garbage fees are paid. After some discussion, Council agreed to look at past due garbage fees when considering consent for a Repository Sale.

Due to the current coronavirus pandemic, Council discussed the effect this might have on the services and facilities provided by the Borough. Council considered the Federal and State restrictions that were recently implemented. After reviewing all the relevant information, Mrs. Dietrich motioned to close, immediately and indefinitely, all the Borough facilities to non-essential personnel and activities and to restrict services as may be needed to limit the exposure to and spread of this virus. Mr. Howe seconded and the motion carried.

No executive session was needed.

The meeting adjourned 8:12 p.m.

Submitted by,

John M. Barrett

Borough Manager