

Rochester Borough Council  
 Regular Meeting in the Municipal Building  
 March 18, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Present: President David Alford, Don Brothers, Jodi Hemer, Renee Simmons, Chad Rape (arrived 6:39pm), Rico Elmore, Sam Piccinini, Mayor Keith Jackson, Solicitor Paul Steff, Sergeant Dawn Shane, Manager John Barrett

Absent: Vice-President Toni Bucher, Fire Chief Mike Mamone III

The meeting was called to order with the pledge of allegiance.

Persons in Attendance:

Anthony Hall, owner of Buzzi's Pizza, asked Council if he could close part of Brighton Avenue again this year for the same type of event he held last year. After some discussion, Mr. Piccinini motioned to approve the closure on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Elmore seconded and the motion carried.

Kristy Waldrop, Rochester Baseball/Softball, updated Council on their renovation work at the ballfields: painting, new picnic tables, new windows for the concession stand, and adding 2 10' box sheds.

Carlton Vreen, Make It Home Safe, updated Council on their progress in implementing their new safety app. They are getting into the testing phase and asked if 5 or 6 persons in attendance would be willing to participate. Sergeant Shane will collect the information for interested participants and forward them to Mr. Vreen.

Action Items:

Mrs. Hemer motioned to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2024 regular Council meeting as presented. Mr. Rape seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Elmore motioned to pay all approved bills as submitted. Ms. Simmons seconded and the motion carried.

**BILLS:**

Gen. Fund – Ck# 12618–12657 – totaling \$102,245.94.

Payroll (3/1, 3/15) – Ck# 5799-5816 plus Dir. Dep. and Elec. Pymts. – totaling \$101,628.33.

Dock System – after some discussion, this was tabled until the next meeting when Marion Hill Associates can be present.

Council received for their review and consideration, a proposed upgrade to the new digital information sign. The sign Council approved last meeting has a 9.5mm pixel pitch. The upgrade would go to a 6.0mm pixel pitch. This would provide for greater resolution for lettering and graphics and make it easier to read for cars driving by. The upgrade would cost an additional \$2,725. After some discussion, Mr. Elmore motioned to approve the upgrade. Ms. Simmons seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their review and consideration, a list of roads to be paved where Columbia Gas and the Borough will share the paving costs. The total estimate from the Engineer is \$598,609.23 with Columbia Gas's share at \$479,657.11 and the Borough's share at \$118,952.12. After some discussion, Mr. Elmore motioned to authorize the Engineer to put the road paving out for bid as presented. Mr. Brothers seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their review and consideration, an email from PennDOT regarding upcoming work. They will be repaving Virginia Ave from Batchelor St to Adams St and Adams St from Virginia Ave to the round-a-bout. They are asking the following: can they work at night, can they use Borough streets for detours, can they close the parking lanes on Adams St to keep 2-way traffic flowing. After some discussion, Mr. Rape motioned to approve the night time work, using Borough streets for detours and closing parking lanes as needed. Mr. Piccinini seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their review and consideration, an email from Emma Harrison, PA Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, advising the Borough of a violation to the terms and agreement for a grant the Borough received in 1987. Manager Barrett explained that a piece of property was purchased with these grant funds for a neighborhood playground. The property was later sold to the adjacent church. The State is offering to do a conversion for replacement land. The Borough would be obligated to have an appraisal completed to get the fair market value of the land. Otherwise, the Borough would have to find another piece of property to purchase and replace the playground at the Borough's expense. After some discussion, Mrs. Hemer motioned to accept the State's offer for conversion and authorize the appraisal to be completed. Ms. Simmon seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their review and consideration, a grant application for \$50,000 from Tony Caltry, Beaver County Tourism. The grant is to be used for any project at the riverfront park that will further enhance and promote tourism in Beaver County. After some discussion, Council agreed to include some outdoor exercise equipment, lighting repairs at the Flag Plaza and new roofs on 3 pavilions.

Council discussed possible repairs or replacement of sewer line to the Municipal Building. The Engineer provided some recommendations to Council. Mr. Brothers motioned to follow the Engineer's option 2, to complete a more detailed review including a video with measurements to joints and connections. Mr. Rape seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their review and consideration the results of the Civil Service exam recently given. Sergeant Shane discussed the results and recommended Council hire Kail Davidson. If for some reason Mr. Davidson does not accept the position then make the offer to Payne Nairn. After some discussion, Mr. Piccinini motioned to offer the full-time position to Kail Davidson with Payne Nairn to be the second choice if needed. Mr. Elmore seconded and the motion carried.

Ms. Simmons will discuss with Council the possibility of purchasing equipment for an outdoor adult exercise/fitness area. Ms. Simmons passed around a magazine showing various pieces of equipment. Ms. Simmons is asking to purchase \$16,000 to \$17,000 worth of equipment plus shipping for an area at the riverfront. Council agreed to include this in the B.C. Tourism grant application.

Mr. Piccinini discussed with Council the possibility of purchasing some equipment for the Public Works Department that Martino Construction is selling. After some discussion, Mr. Piccinini motioned to approve up to \$5,000 the Foreman can use to purchase items that will benefit his department. Mr. Rape seconded and the motion carried.

#### Review Items:

Council received for their review, the 2022 Real Estate Tax Collector Audit Report.

Council received for their review, an updated letter the Manager gave to the County Commissioners at a meeting they requested on March 11, 2024. The letter detailed how the Borough is utilizing the remaining ARPA funds the County Commissioners awarded as well as the status of each project.

Committee Reports:Public Administration – Chad Rape, Chairperson

Council received for their review, the Expense and Revenue Report from January 1, 2024 through March 14, 2024.

Public Safety – Rico Elmore, Chairperson

Mr. Elmore discussed various ongoing operations and needs for the fire department. He is also reviewing some grant opportunities with the grant writer the Borough hired.

Police Department Report – Sergeant Shane updated Council on the proposed movie production. April 18-19 are the projected dates for the movie shoot. Sergeant Shane stated that under the COPS grant the Borough was awarded there would be opportunities to increase community policing by holding events whereby the officers can interact with the residents. The Sergeant has been soliciting donations for these activities and asked if Council could make a donation as well. Ms. Simmons motioned to donate \$500 towards these activities. Mr. Elmore seconded and the motion carried.

Public Works – Toni Bucher, Chairperson

There was nothing to report in Mrs. Bucher's absence.

Recreation – Renee Simmons, Chairperson

Mrs. Simmons continued ongoing discussion regarding the music festival on June 15<sup>th</sup> and the Beaver County Boom event on June 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Piccinini noted that a local restaurant was holding an auction to sell all their equipment. There might be an opportunity to get a walk-in cooler at a very reasonable price. After some discussion, Ms. Simmons motioned to authorize Mr. Piccinini and Mr. Alford to spend up to \$2,000 for the purchase of a walk-in cooler at the auction. Mr. Rape seconded and the motion carried.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Jackson noted various nuisance items around town.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Steff presented Resolution 2024-01 supporting the 250-year anniversary of the U.S.A. The Beaver County Regional Council of Governments is asking all their members to adopt this resolution in support of our nation. Mr. Piccinini motioned to approve Resolution 2024-01 as presented. Mr. Brothers seconded and the motion carried.

Code Officer's Report:

Council received for their review, the monthly report from the Code Officer.

Fire Chief's Report:

Council received for their review, the February 2024 Fire Department report.

Manager's/Treasurer's Report:

Council received for their review, the February 2024 Treasurer's Report.

Old Business/New Business:

Mr. Piccinini brought up for discussion, the need to install additional gates in the fencing around the stage. He met with Dr. Zambelli and the Kopsack brothers in regard to the off-loading of the fireworks for the Beaver County Boom display. Loading the barges is labor intensive and only having one gate will increase the laboring. They would like to have 2 more gates. The Boom is willing to cover the cost of 1 gate if the Borough would cover the cost of the 2<sup>nd</sup> gate. Mr. Piccinini stated that each gate would cost between \$2,000 and \$2,500. After some discussion, Mrs. Hemer motioned to approve the purchase and installation of 2 gates at a cost not to exceed \$5,000 contingent upon the Beaver County Boom paying half the cost. Mr. Piccinini seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Piccinini discussed the possibility of hiring a consultant part-time to assist the Manager. A few members met with Dean Galitsis and feel he would be a good fit. There was discussion regarding the specific individual, a job description and the amount of time. It was decided to have Mr. Galitsis come and interview with all the members of Council at the next meeting.

Council went into an executive session at 9:40 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations.

Council reconvened at 10:49 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Submitted by,

John M. Barrett  
Borough Manager