

Rochester Borough Council  
 Regular Meeting in the Municipal Building  
 September 18, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Present: Vice-President David Alford, Sam Piccinini, Renee Simmons, Rico Elmore, Jodi Hemer, Mayor Keith Jackson, Solicitor Paul Steff, Sergeant Dawn Shane, Manager John Barrett

Absent: President Don Brothers, Chad Rape, Toni Bucher, Fire Chief Mike Mamone III

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

Persons in Attendance:

John Gropp, 252 Jefferson Street, stated that 286 Jefferson Street had been condemned by the Code Officer and he wanted to know what the status of this property was. It is in disrepair and the grass and weeds are overgrown. The Solicitor explained the process and stated that he would keep in touch with the Code Officer to ensure the Borough is doing all it can do in addressing this situation.

Kristy Waldroup, Rochester Baseball, informed Council that the field work has begun and she will keep Council up to date as the project moves forward. There was discussion about some additional improvements at the ballfields. Mr. Piccinini motioned to get quotes for a new picnic shelter, bleachers and lighting for one of the ballfields. Mr. Elmore seconded and the motion carried.

Action Items:

Mr. Piccinini motioned to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2023 regular Council meeting as presented. Mr. Elmore seconded and the motion carried.

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

**BILLS:**

Gen. Fund – Ck# 12156–12226 – totaling \$171,741.15.

Payroll (9/1, 9/15) – Ck# 5741-5764 plus Dir. Dep. and Elec. Pymts. – totaling \$96,978.37.

Council received for their review and consideration, the 2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the Rochester Borough Pension Plan (non-police), in the amount of \$15,437.00. After some discussion, Mr. Piccinini motioned to approve the 2024 MMO as presented. Mrs. Simmons seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their review and consideration, the bid tabulation for fence work at the stage area under project 4 of the County ARPA funds. The low bidder is Fye Fencing with the base bid price of \$49,000 and the base bid plus alternate #1 price of \$52,920. After some discussion, Mr. Piccinini motioned to award the bid to Fye Fencing for the base bid and alternate #1 in the amount of \$52,920 contingent upon the anti-climb barrier on top was not barb wire. If the bid was for barb wire, then award the bid to Fye Fencing for the base bid only in the amount \$49,000. Mrs. Simmons seconded and the motion carried.

Review Items:

Council received for their review, the 2023 final estimates of revenue and expenses from the Manager. After some discussion, it was decided to set up a special meeting in the near future to specifically discuss the final estimates and the 2024 budget.

Committee Reports:Public Administration – Chad Rape, Chairperson

Council received for their review, the Expense and Revenue Report from January 1, 2023 through September 14, 2023.

Public Safety – Rico Elmore, Chairperson

The Manager received positive responses from New Brighton Borough, Monaca Borough, Fallston Borough, Daugherty Township and Pulaski Township with regards to opening up discussions for a regional police department. Bridgewater Borough has not responded. The kick-off meeting is scheduled for Wednesday September 27 at 6:00 p.m. in the Rochester Council Chambers.

Police Department Report – Sergeant Shane informed Council that trick or treat will be held October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6-8 p.m. The Department will again this year, set up a station to conduct inspections of the treats collected for those interested.

Sergeant Shane stated that the County is purchasing computers and printers for all the police cars in the County. She asked Council if they would be interested in purchasing software that will allow the officers to fill out citations and print them from the new computers that will be installed. There is a free 6-month period then there would be a charge of \$1,350 for the next 6 months. There would then be an annual fee for maintaining the software thereafter. After some discussion, Mr. Piccinini motioned to approve getting the software for the first year. Mrs. Simmons seconded and the motion carried. 4-1 with Mr. Alford voting no.

There was discussion about the police officers carrying Narcan. The officers currently do not. After some discussion, the Sergeant was asked to see if the Narcan is still being distributed for free to the police departments and see if there is a policy that Council would need to adopt in order to administer the drug.

There was discussion about whether the additional work in the police department would be eligible to be paid for using the ARPA funds. The Manager will find out.

Public Works – Toni Bucher, Chairperson

There was nothing to report.

Recreation – Renee Simmons, Chairperson

Mrs. Simmons discussed her plans for an Octoberfest event. She would like to schedule it for October 29<sup>th</sup> from 2-8 p.m. at the riverfront park. There was discussion about vendors and having them complete an application to participate in the event. There was discussion about insurance coverage for the vendors and the Borough. The Manager will contact the Borough's insurance broker for any special requirements the Borough may have with their carrier. It was decided to hold a special meeting to further discuss the planning and requirements for the event. A meeting will be scheduled for September 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Jackson stated his concerns about grass and weeds overgrown on E. Washington Street east of Virginia Avenue, broken windows at 190 Brighton Avenue and the condition of Liberty way.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Steff had nothing to report.

Code Officer's Report:

Council received for their review, the August 2023 Code Officer's report.

Fire Chief's Report:

Council received for their review, the August 2023 Fire Department report.

Manager's/Treasurer's Report:

Council received for their review, the August 2023 Treasurer's Report.

Old Business/New Business:

Mr. Alford asked about the status of the proposed development project for the old St. Cecilia school. The Manager will find out and report back to Council.

Mr. Piccinini stated that he contacted the owner of the 2 lots on Brighton Avenue where the buildings burnt down. The owner is interested in selling the lots but was asking for \$200,000 per lot. Mr. Piccinini stated that he told the owner that the Borough would be interested in purchasing these lots but would need a more reasonable price before the Borough would consider it.

Mr. Alford noted a meeting he would be attending September 20<sup>th</sup> with the Library Board. He will report back regarding any pertinent discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Submitted by,

John M. Barrett  
Borough Manager