

Rochester Borough Council  
 Regular Meeting in the Municipal Building  
 October 21, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Present: President David Alford, Vice-President Toni Bucher, Don Brothers, Jodi Hemer, Renee Simmons, Rico Elmore, Chad Rape (arrived at 7:10pm), Mayor Keith Jackson, Solicitor Paul Steff, Sergeant Dawn Shane, Manager John Barrett

Absent: Sam Piccinini, Fire Chief Mike Mamone III

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

Persons in Attendance:

Jared Hart, Engineer for the Rochester Borough Sewer & Maintenance Authority, presented Council with updates and training on the MS4 Program.

Albert Simoni, Our Lady of the Valley Parish, discussed an outreach program his parish has established. They look for community needs their group can support and offered their services to Rochester.

Wes Hill, 338 Deer Lane, noted that Duquesne Light broke out a piece of his sidewalk to replace a pole and never repaired the sidewalk. The Manager was asked to reach out to Duquesne Light. Mr. Hill also discussed his situation at the corner of E. Washington St. and New York Ave regarding his sidewalk and stormwater. Mr. Alford stated that the Public Works employees will be milling down the street around his corner to gain more curb reveal in order to reduce the possibility of water jumping the curb.

Members of the Rochester Saxon Club addressed Council regarding complaints Council received from residents at the last meeting. They will discuss issues with their members and work with the Police to address resident's concerns.

Chris Kronk noted the dilapidated building on Brighton Avenue and presented her complaint.

Action Items:

Mrs. Bucher motioned to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2024 regular Council meeting as presented. Mr. Brothers seconded and the motion carried.

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

**BILLS:**

Gen. Fund – Ck# 13169–13249 – totaling \$217,255.89.

Payroll (9/27, 10/11) – Ck# 5964-5986 plus Dir. Dep. and Elec. Pymts. – totaling \$111,613.69.

Council received for their review and consideration, a letter of interest from Anthony Whitted, 458 New York Avenue, for an appointment to the Rochester Borough Planning Commission. Mr. Elmore motioned to appoint Mr. Whitted to the Rochester Borough Planning Commission. Mrs. Bucher seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their review and consideration, a renewal Consulting Services Agreement from Steve Feaster, Feaster Pension Consulting, Mr. Feaster has been the Borough's pension consultant for over 12 years. Mr. Feaster provides retiree's pension calculations, completes the annual AG385 report, assists with proposed amendments to the plan document, and provides assistance in other areas related to the pension plan. Mr. Elmore motioned to accept and approve the agreement as presented. Mrs. Bucher seconded and the motion carried. Roll Call; 7-0 all members voted yes.

The Manager requested that Council exonerate the Borough's 2024 property tax for 551 Connecticut Avenue since the Borough recently purchased this property. He is also asking Council to request the Rochester School District and County Commissioners to exonerate their respective 2024 property taxes as well. Mr. Alford motioned to exonerate the 2024 property tax on 551 Connecticut Avenue which the Borough now owns. Mr. Rape seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their review and consideration, a request for tax exoneration for the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit on 423 Adams Street. Solicitor Steff briefed Council on the law regarding taxation of school property. After some discussion, Mrs. Bucher motioned to exonerate the 2025 property tax and all ensuing years unless or until the property is conveyed to a taxable entity for 423 Adams Street, tax parcels 49-001-0304 and 49-001-0305. Mr. Elmore seconded and the motion carried.

#### Review Items:

Council received for their review, an event proposal for a river music festival in 2025. Mrs. Bucher stated the proposal was submitted by Bill Evanochko. Mr. Evanochko would promote the event and coordinate the lineup of bands and sound system. The total cost to the Borough would be \$8,000. Council reviewed the proposal and will continue discussion at a future date.

Council received for their review, a final estimate of revenues and expenses for 2024 and a preliminary 2025 Budget. Council also received information from the Fire Chief regarding the fire services budget for 2025. After some discussion, Council agreed to hold a special meeting on October 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. to further review and discuss the 2025 budget.

#### Committee Reports:

##### Public Administration – Chad Rape, Chairperson

Council received for their review, the Expense and Revenue Report from January 1, 2024 through October 18, 2024.

Public Safety – Rico Elmore, Chairperson

Mr. Elmore brought up for discussion, 2 intersections that were only 2-way stops and thought 4-ways stops might be warranted. Irvin Street and Webster Street, Council determined no change was needed. Monroe Street and Bedford Avenue, Council determined a 4-way stop would be problematic but asked the Manager to review the parking at the intersection to see if that could be modified to improve sightlines for crossing traffic.

Police Department Report – Sergeant Shane stated that Officer Zarillo is anticipating a return sometime mid-January and now Officer Lizzi will be off for a significant amount of time for an injury sustained on duty. There was discussion regarding part-time officers. Mr. Elmore motioned to authorize the Sergeant to hire up to 3 additional part-time officers. Ms. Simmons seconded and the motion carried. Sergeant Shane noted that the oral exam for the Sergeant’s test has been postponed due to Officer Lizzi’s injury. There was discussion regarding the date street sweeping ticketing would be stopped. The Sewer Authority collects the leaves and has asked to maintain ticketing up to Thanksgiving. A few years ago, Council established November 1<sup>st</sup> as the stop date. After some discussion, Council approved extending ticketing to Thanksgiving. Roll Call 4-3 Hemer, Bucher, Simmons, Rape – Yes; Elmore, Alford, Brothers – No.

Public Works – Toni Bucher, Chairperson

Mrs. Bucher had nothing to report.

Recreation – Renee Simmons, Chairperson

Ms. Simmons asked if Council was going to establish a rental fee for private use of the stage. Council agreed to discuss at a future date.

Ms. Simmons noted the possibility of providing dog bag stations along the riverfront and a project for a rainbow bridge crossing McKinnley Run.

Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Jackson asked if the paving work was completed for this year. Manager Barrett stated that it was. The Mayor asked what roads were on the list for paving next year. The Manager stated that no list has been establish. He was waiting to see if any funds would be allocated for paving next year before developing a list.

Solicitor’s Report:

Solicitor Steff had nothing to report.

Code Officer’s Report:

Council received for their review, the September 2024 Code Officer Report.

Fire Chief's Report:

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

Manager's/Treasurer's Report:

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

Old Business/New Business:

Mr. Alford asked if there was going to be hand railings on the new steps. Manager Barrett stated that there will be. They are still being fabricated for installation.

Council went into an executive session to discuss police personnel matters at 8:36 p.m.

Council reconvened at 8:58 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Submitted by,

John M. Barrett  
Borough Manager