

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

Present: President David Alford, Vice-President Toni Bucher, Don Brothers, Renee Simmons, Rico Elmore, Chad Rape, Sam Piccinini, Mayor Keith Jackson, Solicitor Paul Steff, Sergeant Dawn Shane, Manager John Barrett

Absent: Jodi Hemer, Fire Chief Mike Mamone III

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

Council went into an executive session at 6:31 p.m. to discuss police personnel.

Council reconvened at 7:32 p.m.

Persons in Attendance:

Marian Acon, RBDC, encouraged Council to move forward with enacting a vacant building ordinance as proposed by the Rochester Borough Development Corporation. Mrs. Acon also updated Council on the Local Share Account grant application.

Kristy Waldrop, Rochester Baseball, thanked Council for all their support and submitted the final invoice to be covered under the ARPA grant.

Casie Jordan, 370 New York Ave, raise her concern regarding neighborhood safety. In her neighborhood there are unsupervised kids running in and out of the street, playing in the street, swing wood, hitting signs and shooting orby guns. Council advised her to call the police everytime there is an incident occurring.

Action Items:

Mr. Rape motioned to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2024 regular Council meeting and October 30, 2024 special meeting as presented. Mr. Brothers seconded and the motion carried.

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

BILLS:

Gen. Fund – Ck# 13250–13307 – totaling \$741,417.54.

Payroll (10/25, 11/8) – Ck# 5987-6013 plus Dir. Dep. and Elec. Pymts. – totaling \$110,180.63.

Council received 5 resolutions to authorize submission of 5 grant applications under the Local Shares Account Program. Resolution 2024-03 – Rochester Municipal/Community Center Building Improvements for \$646,530.80; Resolution 2024-04 – Equipment Procurement for the Police Department (truck, ATV's, trailers) for \$179,520.49; Resolution 2024-05 – Equipment

Procurement for the Police Department (5 police vehicles) for \$337,964.55; Resolution 2024-06 – Equipment Procurement for the Police Department (firearms, ammunition, flex shields) for \$35,646.66; and Resolution 2024-07 – Alleyways Paving Project for \$194,281.25. Mr. Brothers motioned to approve the resolutions as presented. Mr. Elmore seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their review and consideration, the bid results from the Municibid auction of the 1989 Pierce Ladder Truck. The high bidder was Hernan Arias at \$6,000. Mr. Elmore motioned to accept Mr. Arias's bid for \$6,000 and sell the ladder truck. Mr. Alford seconded and the motion carried.

Review Items:

Council received for their review, information from the Rochester Borough Development Corporation with a request that Council consider moving forward with developing and enacting a vacant building ordinance. The Monaca ordinance is provided as a sample of what the Development Corporation is looking for. After some discussion, Mr. Elmore motioned to authorize the Solicitor to develop a draft ordinance for Council to review and consider. Mr. Piccinini seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their review, a final preliminary 2025 budget with 2 options. Option 1 maintains the police department as is with the Sergeant in charge with an overall total budget of \$3,594,408 and no deficit. Option 2 reflects the Sergeant being promoted to Police Chief and a patrol officer being promoted to sergeant with an overall budget of \$3,734,491 and a deficit of \$140,083. After much discussion, Mr. Elmore motioned to approve option 2 and eliminate the funding for street paving to balance the budget. Mr. Rape seconded and the motion carried. Mr. Rape motioned to authorize the Solicitor to advertise that the tentative 2025 budget is available for public review. Mr. Elmore seconded and the motion carried. Mr. Alford motioned to authorize the Solicitor to prepare and advertise for adoption at the December 16th meeting, the tax ordinance setting the property tax rate at 9 mills for 2025. Mr. Rape seconded and the motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Public Administration – Chad Rape, Chairperson

Council received for their review, the Expense and Revenue Report from January 1, 2024 through November 13, 2024.

Public Safety – Rico Elmore, Chairperson

Mr. Elmore had nothing to report.

Police Department Report – Sergeant Shane stated she would like to have a commitment letter stating the Borough is contributing \$25,000 towards the purchase of the new vehicles in the one Local Shares Account grant application and \$2,500 towards the purchase of the new firearms in the one Local Shares Account grant application.

Public Works – Toni Bucher, Chairperson

Mrs. Bucher had nothing to report.

Recreation – Renee Simmons, Chairperson

Ms. Simmons had nothing to report. Mrs. Bucher noted that there will be a picture day with Santa on December 8th.

Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Jackson had nothing to report.

Solicitor’s Report:

Solicitor Steff had nothing to report.

Code Officer’s Report:

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

Fire Chief’s Report:

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

Manager’s/Treasurer’s Report:

Council received for their review, the October 2024 Treasurer’s Report.

Old Business/New Business:

Mr. Alford noted that the County Commissioners are withdrawing the remaining ARPA funds that the Borough didn’t spend by the October 31st deadline, approximately \$146,000.

Mr. Piccinini motioned to promote Sergeant Shane to Police Chief effective April 1, 2025. Mr. Elmore seconded and the motion carried. Roll Call 6-1 with Mr. Brothers voting no.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Submitted by,

John M. Barrett
Borough Manager