

Rochester Borough Council  
 Regular Meeting in the Municipal Building  
 August 21, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Present: President Don Brothers, Vice-President David Alford, Sam Piccinini, Renee Simmons, Chad Rape, Rico Elmore, Toni Bucher, Mayor Keith Jackson, Solicitor Paul Steff, Sergeant Dawn Shane, Zoning Officer Patrick McGuire, Engineer Tony Sadaka, Administrative Assistant Toni Celeste, Manager John Barrett

Absent: Jodi Hemer, Fire Chief Mike Mamone III

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

Persons in Attendance:

Essex Law distributed a copy of his right-to-know request with copies of employment applications. Mr. Law was told that this could not be discussed due to his pending claim with the EEOC.

Anthony Hall stated that he had purchased Buzzi's Pizza, 220 Brighton Avenue. They would like to have a grand re-opening event which would entail closing Brighton Ave from the round-a-bout to West Washington Street. The event would be Saturday September 17<sup>th</sup>. Council was agreeable and told Mr. Hall to work with the Police Department on the road closure.

Action Items:

Mrs. Bucher motioned to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2023 regular Council meeting as presented. Mr. Piccinini seconded and the motion carried.

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

**BILLS:**

Gen. Fund – Ck# 12088–12155 – totaling \$259,655.49.

Payroll (7/21, 8/4, 8/18) – Ck# 5695-5740 plus Dir. Dep. and Elec. Pymts. – totaling \$115,315.39.

Council discussed the paving completed at the riverfront with the Borough Engineer. They also discussed additional paving around the old Public Works garage and fencing around the stage area. After some discussion, Mr. Rape motioned to approve the additional paving estimated at \$36,330 and authorize the Engineer to advertise for bids for new fencing around the stage area. Mrs. Simmons seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their review and consideration, the bid tabulation for concrete work under project 3 of the County ARPA funds. The low bidder is CTM Construction with the bid price of \$77,979. After some discussion, Mr. Piccinini motioned to award the contract to CTM Construction. Mr. Alford seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their review and consideration, the 2024 Police Pension Plan, Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) calculated by Feaster Pension Consulting, in the amount of \$337,516. After some discussion, Mr. Alford motioned to approve the 2024 MMO as presented. Mrs. Bucher seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their review and consideration, a request from Zackery & Nicole Cinicola to purchase 2 properties from the Beaver County Repository. 524 & 530 Lincoln Street; abutting vacant lots. After some discussion, Mr. Elmore motioned to approve the repository request as presented. Mr. Piccinini seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their review and consideration, a request from Sam and Tina Laure to purchase 359 Reno Street from the Beaver County Repository. This is a vacant lot. The Laures live at 381 Ohio Avenue which abuts the vacant lot. After some discussion, Mr. Elmore motioned to approve the repository request as presented contingent upon payment of the \$500 fee. Mrs. Bucher seconded and the motion carried.

#### Review Items:

Council received for their review, the minutes of the July 13, 2023 meeting of the Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority.

Council received for their review and discussion, three different proposals from ADP to provide payroll services. Mrs. Bucher to discuss. After much discussion, Mrs. Bucher motioned to approve the second proposal from ADP for payroll services. Mr. Piccinini seconded and the motion carried. Mrs. Celeste brought up for discussion, the need for a billing software for garbage billing. Mrs. Celeste presented a proposal from Muni-Link. Mrs. Celeste stated that she used this software at her last job and is recommending this software for Council's consideration. After some discussion, Mr. Piccinini motioned to approve the proposal from Muni-Link as presented. Mr. Elmore seconded and the motion carried.

Manager Barrett brought up the need for additional signers on the Borough's accounts with First Commonwealth Bank. Mrs. Hemer got a new job which makes it difficult for her to be available to sign checks. After some discussion, Mr. Piccinini motioned to add Toni Bucher and Dave Alford as signers to the Borough's accounts as well as keeping Don Brothers, Renee Simmons and Jodi Hemer. Mr. Elmore seconded and the motion carried.

Council discussed the possibility of contacting Bridgewater Borough, Fallston Borough, Pulaski Township and Daugherty Township with regards to starting a regional police department. The Manager was asked to send a letter to the mentioned municipalities soliciting their interest in discussing the possibility of forming a regional police department.

Council received for their review, a notice from PennDOT informing Council of their upcoming Rochester-Monaca Bridge Preservation Project with their tentative work schedule and the detour that will be implemented.

Council received for their review, the 2021-2022 Liquid Fuels audit completed by the PA Dept. of the Auditor General.

Council received for their review, an email from Beaver County Recreation and Tourism inviting Council to the kick-off meeting for the preparation of the 2024 Beaver County Boom on the Bridge. The meeting is set for August 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. to be held at 121 Brady's Run Road, Recreation and Tourism office.

Council received for their review, a letter from the Beaver County Commissioner's office informing Council of available funding to off-set costs associated with merging police and/or fire departments.

Committee Reports:Public Administration – Chad Rape, Chairperson

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

Public Safety – Rico Elmore, Chairperson

Mr. Elmore asked interested Council members to attend the next Sewer & Maintenance Authority meeting to discuss some outstanding issues regarding stormwater. Mr. Elmore also noted that the Fire Department received a letter from FEMA notifying them that their grant application was approved in the amount of \$226,714.28

Police Department Report – Sergeant Shane informed Council she needed to hire a replacement crossing guard and an alternate. She has 2 applicants and once their background checks have cleared then they will be ready to go for the upcoming school year. Mr. Piccinini motioned to approve the 2 hirings. Mr. Elmore seconded and the motion carried.

Sergeant Shane noted that Officer Roach has successfully completed his field training and will start working his own shift on September 1<sup>st</sup>. The Sergeant also noted that the School District has approached her about having some of our police officers work their events such as football and basketball games. Mr. Piccinini motioned to approve the officers working these special details. Mr. Rape seconded and the motion carried.

Sergeant Shane reviewed several grants that are available. After some discussion, several Council members, the Engineer, the Sergeant and the Manager will meet tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. to discuss these grants in more detail.

Sergeant Shane stated that Knighthawk did reduce their original quote for a security system and will begin the change over once the material has arrived.

Public Works – Toni Bucher, Chairperson

Mrs. Bucher had nothing to report.

Recreation – Renee Simmons, Chairperson

Mrs. Simmons noted that she is working on several ideas for events such as a band and cheerleader competition and an RC Racers competition. She will keep Council informed.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Jackson stated his concerns about grass and weeds growing in sidewalks around town.

Mayor Jackson stated in June he received the Borough credit card with Mr. Barrett's name on it to use for his hotel and car rental for the Mayor's Conference he was attending. When he went to rent the car, the dealer would not take the Borough credit card since it had a different name. He tried to get Mr. Barrett to come down and sign for the car but he was not around. The Mayor felt this was intentional and was not happy. Some Council members stated that they use a corporate card with another individual's name on it with out any problems. This was a vendor issue and not some hidden agenda.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Steff had nothing to report.

Code Officer's Report:

Council received for their review, the June 2023 Code Officer's report. Zoning Officer McGuire discussed several condemnations he recently issued and noted an increase in zoning applications that he is working through.

Fire Chief's Report:

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

Manager's/Treasurer's Report:

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

Old Business/New Business:

There was discussion about purchasing the old Beaver Valley Bowl building from an upcoming Sheriff Sale. The Manager was asked to see if the ARPA funds could be used for this purchase and demolition. Council also received a letter from the Beaver County Commissioners about unused ARPA funds and the need to have shovel in the ground projects by December or unused moneys may be withdrawn by the County.

Council went into an executive session at 9:52 p.m.

Council reconvened at 10:56 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 p.m.

Submitted by,

John M. Barrett  
Borough Manager