

Rochester Borough Council  
Regular Meeting in the Municipal Building  
May 15, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Present: Vice-President David Alford, Sam Piccinini, Chad Rape, Jodi Hemer, Toni Bucher, Rico Elmore (arrived 6:42pm), Mayor Keith Jackson, Solicitor Paul Steff, Sergeant Dawn Shane, Manager John Barrett

Absent: President Don Brothers, Renee Simmons, Fire Chief Mike Mamone III

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

Persons in Attendance:

Peggy Denardo, asked about planting a tree on the riverfront near the flag plaza. Mrs. Denardo was asked to come back with the type of tree and size and Council would consider it.

Harry and Susan Dierdorf, stated that they are trying to sell their property at 299 Adams Street. Mr. Dierdorf stated the zoning officer has not been very responsive to their inquiries but were finally told by the zoning officer that there might be an issue with the off-street parking requirements. Mrs. Dierdorf stated that there are 8 parking spaces and they never had a problem with parking. After some discussion, The Dierdorfs were told they need to have the prospective buyers provide specific details for their use of the property to get a proper ruling from the zoning officer.

Pam Coratto stated that she had recently opened a beauty salon at 420 Adams Street and she experienced the same difficulties with the zoning officer.

Essex Law stated that he had submitted an employment application to the Borough office. He noticed some new employees working and inquired about the status of his application. Mr. Law stated that he was told to fill out another application and wondered why his original application was missing. Mr. Law submitted a completed application to Council.

James Lassiter, 440 Virginia Ave, stated that the alley behind his property was in bad shape. This alley was on the 2023 paving list but was removed for lack of funding. The Manager and Street Foreman will look at the alley.

Beverly McCombs, 405 E. Washington St, stated the drug activity is getting worse in her area. People are coming and going all hours from the apartment building that faces Pinney St. Sergeant Shane stated that she would get in contact with Mrs. McCombs and address her concerns. Mr. Piccinini stated that we should look into upgrading the street light in the alley between them with a brighter LED light which may help deter some of the activity.

Bristol Ellefson stated that she owns the Dairy Queen in town and she has been having the same issues with the zoning officer. She is trying to get a drive-thru window installed. She understands Council is looking to appoint a new zoning officer and she asked that her project be given a priority since she has been working on this since last September.

Action Items:

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

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

**BILLS:**

Gen. Fund – Ck# 11904–11971 – totaling \$169,284.05.

Payroll (4/28, 5/12) – Ck# 5600-5622 plus Dir. Dep. and Elec. Pymts. – totaling \$106,623.59.

Council received for their review and consideration, the bid results for road salt and a contract with American Rock Salt for the purchase of road salt at the price of \$91.50 per ton for the 2023-2024 winter season. After some discussion, Mr. Piccinini motioned to award the salt contract to the lowest bidder, American Rock Salt, for the price of \$91.50 per ton. Mr. Elmore seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their review and consideration, a contract with Hancock Architecture to provide professional services in bidding and managing the park project. After some discussion, Mr. Elmore motioned to table this item. Mr. Piccinini seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their review, a letter from Owen Pella resigning his position as Zoning Officer effective May 31<sup>st</sup>. Manager Barrett is recommending that Council appoint Patrick McGuire as the Zoning/Code Officer. Mr. McGuire is currently providing code enforcement services to the Borough. Mr. Piccinini motioned to accept Mr. Pella's letter of resignation. Mr. Rape seconded and the motion carried. Mr. Rape motioned to appoint Patrick McGuire as the Zoning Officer effective immediately. Mr. Elmore seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their review and consideration, a letter from the Beaver County Corporation for Economic Development seeking donations for their organization. Council took no action.

Review Items:

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

Committee Reports:Public Administration – Chad Rape, Chairperson

Council received for their review, the Expense and Revenue Report from January 1, 2023 through May 10, 2023.

Public Safety – Rico Elmore, Chairperson

Mr. Elmore stated that talks with Rochester Township regarding fire services are ongoing. Mr. Elmore noted that the grant workshop is scheduled for this Friday. Mr. Elmore brought up placement of political signs and felt an ordinance might be needed. After some discussion, Mr. Lucci was given direction on sign location and maintenance of the grass areas. Mr. Elmore stated that the Borough should look at possibly finding cheaper medical and worker's compensation insurance. Manager Barrett stated that the Borough uses a broker who shops around each year for the best available cost for these insurances. Mr. Elmore raised a concern about a number of half electric poles in town. Mr. Lucci stated that these poles cannot be removed until the phone and cable lines have been relocated onto the new poles.

Police Department Report – Sergeant Shane stated that Officer Lizzi will be off most likely until the end of the year due to the injury he sustained on duty. Sergeant Shane noted that the COPS grant application was submitted and we should hear some time in September if the Borough is awarded the grant. Sergeant Shane stated that the new file room door has been replace but still need the security alarm installed. The Borough office security system is not working and the Manager will be contacting Knight Hawks for a quote. Knight Hawks will be asked to look at the police security system as well. Sergeant Shane stated that the condition of 379 Ohio Avenue is horrible. After some discussion, the Manager will have the Code Officer look at the property. Sergeant Shane stated that the committee is still waiting on the pension study to determine if we should move forward in reviewing a possible regional police force with Rochester Township. The Manager will follow-up with the Actuary regarding the status of the study. Sergeant Shane noted the condition of the police department entrance way and lobby. She feels some new flooring and painting is needed as well as painting the entire department. Council asked the Sergeant to get quotes for the work.

Public Works – Toni Bucher, Chairperson

Council discussed the need for an additional full-time public works employee. Mr. Piccinini motioned to authorize the Manager and Street Foreman to hire a full-time public works employee and up to 2 additional part-time employees for the summer. The Manager and Street Foreman can make the selections at their discretion. Mr. Rape seconded and the motion carried. Roll Call – 6-0 all in favor.

Recreation – Renee Simmons, Chairperson

There was nothing to report in Mrs. Simmons' absence.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Jackson stated the back door of the Borough Building is missing the lock and is unsecured. The Street Foreman will look at the door and get it secured. Mayor Jackson stated that the alley behind the Dairy Queen is in bad shape. It was noted that this alley is scheduled to be paved this year. Mayor Jackson asked if Hind Street was completed. Manager Barrett stated that he met with a Columbia Gas representative and asked them to pave the whole street. The representative will get back to the Manager with an answer.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Steff had distributed the draft amendment to the ordinance creating the position of Borough Manager for Council's review. After some discussion, Mr. Piccinini motioned to authorize the Solicitor to prepare and advertise this amendment for Council's consideration. Mr. Rape seconded and the motion carried.

Code Officer's Report:

Council received for their review, the April 2023 Code Officer's reports.

Fire Chief's Report:

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

Manager's/Treasurer's Report:

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

Old Business/New Business:

There was no new or old business.

Council went into an executive session at 9:18 p.m. to discuss union contracts.

Council reconvened at 11:14 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

Submitted by,

John M. Barrett  
Borough Manager