

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

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

Absent: Toni Bucher, Fire Chief Mike Mamone III

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

Council did meet in an executive session at 5:30 p.m. before this regular meeting to discuss personnel and contract matters.

Persons in Attendance:

Ron Bogolea, Legacies Alive, spoke to Council about his organization. Legacies Alive is bringing awareness to our military men and women who gave their lives in service of our country. They have constructed memorials in the past but are now creating story panels to honor and remember those who have fallen. They would like to place several story panels in Riverfront Park. After some discussion, Mr. Elmore motioned to approve placing the panels in Riverfront Park. Mr. Piccinini seconded and the motion carried.

Kristy Waldroup, President of the Rochester Area Baseball & Softball Association, stated that her organization did receive a grant from the Pittsburgh Pirates for \$17,000. They have received estimates to re-construct the upper ballfield which totaled \$31,000. The organization wanted to inform Council of the grant and ask if Council would be willing to help cover some of the outstanding balance of \$14,000. Mr. Piccinini raised the possibility of contributing \$10,000. This would be discussed further under item 4(b) on the agenda.

Action Items:

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

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

**BILLS:**

Gen. Fund – Ck# 11745–11811 – totaling \$220,761.64.

Payroll (1/20, 2/3, 2/17) – Ck# 5533-5560 plus Dir. Dep. and Elec. Pymts. – totaling \$169,069.42.

Council received for their review and consideration, a list of 4 projects (1-Neighborhood Blight Removal Project, 2-Bolster Public Sector Capacity Project, 3-Municipal Building & Library Project, 4-Outdoor Recreation Improvement Project) the Manager prepared for the use of the ARPA funds awarded to Rochester by the Beaver County Commissioners. After some discussion,

Mr. Piccinini motioned to approve projects 1 and 2, table project 3 and modify project 4 to add an additional \$10,000 for the reconstruction of the upper ballfield. Mr. Alford seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their review and consideration, a Public Body Resolution from First Commonwealth Bank, one for each of the Borough's eight accounts. The resolutions identify the Council representatives authorized as signatures on the Borough's accounts. Mrs. Hemer motioned to approve the resolutions and signature cards as presented. Mr. Alford seconded and the motion carried.

#### Review Items:

Council received for their review, the January 12, 2023 minutes of the Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority meeting.

#### Committee Reports:

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

Mr. Rape had nothing to report.

##### Public Safety – Rico Elmore, Chairperson

Mr. Elmore stated that the committee has been meeting with representatives from the Township to discuss fire services. A 2023 budget and new agreement are being worked out.

Mr. Piccinini brought up for discussion, the 2021 Fire Department Incentive Program payment which the Borough has not approved. After some discussion, Mr. Piccinini motioned to approve the payment of the 2021 Incentive Program. Mr. Rape seconded and the motion carried.

There was discussion regarding code enforcement. The Manager has reached out to Monaca Borough about using their Code Officer for several items which Mr. Pella nor MDIA currently are enforcing.

Mr. Piccinini brought up the need for additional lighting on Ohio Avenue at the Municipal Building and for improved lighting at the intersections of Deer Lane and New York Avenue and Liberty Way and New York Avenue.

There was discussion regarding the condition of sidewalks on Adams Street. The Solicitor and Manager will discuss this with the Code Officer.

##### Public Works – Jodi Hemer, Chairperson

The 2023 Road Paving Program was put out to bid. Bid results will be presented at the March meeting for Council's consideration.

Mrs. Hemer asked Mr. Brothers that she be removed as chairperson on the Public Works Committee.

Recreation – Renee Simmons, Chairperson

Mrs. Simmons noted that she was going to begin some outreach with local organizations to try and create some recreational opportunities for the residents and visitors.

Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Jackson asked about the work on Hinds Street. Manager Barrett stated that Columbia Gas was replacing their main line. He is working to try and get them to resurface the entire roadway when they complete their line work. Mayor Jackson noted the hole in the sidewalk at the intersection of Deer Lane and Ohio Avenue. The Manager was asked to get a price from the Beaver Falls Municipal Authority to replace the fire hydrant that was there in the past. Mayor Jackson stated that the Borough should do something with the road around the Riverview Apartments since the new owner is making a significant financial investment to upgrade the apartments. The Manager stated that this road was in the 2023 Road Paving Program and Council will have the bid results at the March meeting.

Solicitor’s Report:

Solicitor Steff had nothing to report.

Code Officer’s Report:

Council received for their review, the January 2023 Zoning Officer’s report.

Police Report:

Council received for their review, the January 2023 Police Department report.

Sergeant Shane reported on the alarm system, remodeling bids and the Civil Service exam. Sergeant Shane also discussed the need for a server backup. The IT company the police are currently using offers a service for \$40 per month to provide backup for the police server. After some discussion, Mrs. Hemer motioned to approve the backup service for \$40 per month. Mr. Piccinini seconded and the motion carried.

After some discussion, Mr. Piccinini motioned to approve project 3 for the ARPA money the County is providing to Rochester with the addition of the remodeling needs for the police department. Mr. Elmore seconded and the motion carried.

Fire Chief’s Report:

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

Manager's/Treasurer's Report:

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

Old Business/New Business:

Council, the Mayor, and the Solicitor received the State Ethics Commission Statement of Financial Interests form which is to be completed for the year 2022 and returned to the Manager's office by May 1, 2023.

Council received for their review, information related to the Central Business District Initiative the Beaver County Corporation for Economic Development is undertaking.

Council received for their review and consideration, information on the Beaver County Sports Hall of Fame and a request for a donation. After some discussion, Mr. Elmore motioned to approve a \$250 donation. Mr. Rape seconded and the motion carried.

Council went into an executive session to discuss employee matters and union and non-union employment agreements for 2023 at 9:03 p.m. Council would not be reconvening after the executive session.

The meeting adjourned at 10:23 p.m.

Submitted by,

John M. Barrett  
Borough Manager