

Rochester Borough Council  
Regular Meeting in the Municipal Building  
September 16, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Jodi Hemer, Rico Elmore, Fire Chief Mike Mamone III

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

Persons in Attendance:

Justin Kislock and numerous residents from Pinney Street and New York Avenue expressed concerns of loud noise, speeding, public indecency, and drug activity at the Saxon Club on Pinney Street. After much discussion, the residents were asked to call 911 every time an incident occurs so a pattern and record of behavior can be established. Sergeant Shane stated she would have the officers patrol the area more often as time permits.

Catherine Fennell expressed her concern regarding “no parking” signs along Coolidge Way which restrict her ability to park near her home at 410 Coolidge Way. She also noted the poor condition of Utah Way which runs beside her home. Virginia Wagner, 480 Heller Street, also noted the poor condition of Grant Avenue from Heller Street to Clay Street. After some discussion Council agreed to remove the “no parking” signs.

Chris Kronk inquired about the flier and abandoned properties discussed last month. Mr. Alford stated that the flier was incorporated into the garbage bill and sent out last week. The abandoned properties are still an ongoing discussion.

Action Items:

Mr. Brothers motioned to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2024 regular Council meeting as presented. Mr. Rape seconded and the motion carried.

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

**BILLS:**

Gen. Fund – Ck# 13106–13168 – totaling \$601,043.98.

Payroll (8/30, 9/13) – Ck# 5948-5966 plus Dir. Dep. and Elec. Pymts. – totaling \$132,490.39.

Council received for their review and consideration, a five-year Winter Maintenance Services Agreement between PennDOT and Rochester Borough. In summary, PennDOT agrees to pay Rochester Borough an annual sum for the Borough to help maintain the State roads during the winter. If approved, Resolution 2024-03 would need approve and adopted. After some discussion, Mr. Brothers motioned to approve the agreement as presented and approve Resolution 2024-03 as presented. Mr. Rape seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their review and consideration, a letter from Bags & Blessings requesting the use of the riverfront parking lot for their event scheduled for October 26<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 p.m. After some discussion, Mr. Brothers motioned to approve the request. Mr. Rape seconded and the motion carried. The Manager asked Council to open up the parking lot permanently as it was intended to be a public parking area. Council agreed.

Appointments to the Rochester Borough Planning Commission: Council received a letter of interest from Deana Law-Henderson. Mrs. Bucher motioned to appoint Mrs. Law-Henderson to the Borough's Planning Commission. Mr. Rape seconded and the motion carried. Council asked the Manager to have Mr. Daman submit a letter of interest if he would like to be considered for seat on the Planning Commission.

#### Review Items:

Mr. Piccinini discussed code enforcement and possibly partnering with Rochester Township for a joint full-time code officer. After some discussion, the Manager was asked to develop a job description for the position and send it to the Township for their review.

Council received for their review, a letter and resolution from the Rochester Area School District notifying the Borough that they are assuming the hiring and oversight of the school crossing guard with the Borough responsible for half the cost. After some discussion, Council was agreeable to this arrangement.

Council received for the review, a letter from the Monaca American Legion announcing that they will be hosting this years' annual Veterans Day parade. They are seeking donations to cover the costs associated with hosting this event. After some discussion, no action was taken.

Council received for their review, a flier from the Rochester Quarterback Club soliciting donations to help in their efforts to support the Rochester Football Program. After some discussion, Mr. Brothers motioned to approve a \$250 donation. 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 September 9, 2024.

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

There was nothing to report in Mr. Elmore's absence.

Police Department Report – Sergeant Shane stated that Officer Zarillo was injured at home and will be off work for an estimated 3-6 months. Sergeant Shane noted that the 2014 Ford Taurus has been sold several times but the buyers keep backing out. She was told to sell the vehicle by any means since the public has had an opportunity to purchase the vehicle through the Municibid public auction.

Public Works – Toni Bucher, Chairperson

There was discussion regarding the condition of Grant Avenue and Utah Way the public had discussed earlier. The Manager was asked to get an estimated cost from the Engineer to pave these 2 areas. The Manager was also asked to have 25 MPH speed limit signs installed on Pinney Street before and after the Saxon Club.

Recreation – Renee Simmons, Chairperson

Ms. Simmons had nothing to report.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Jackson stated he feels the Theater group should start paying to use the Borough's facility. After some discussion, the Manager was asked to discuss this with the Theater group.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Steff had nothing to report.

Code Officer's Report:

Council received for their review, the August 2024 reports from the Code Officer and Zoning Officer.

Fire Chief's Report:

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

Manager's/Treasurer's Report:

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

Old Business/New Business:

The PA Dept. of Community & Economic Development has partnered with a graduate program at the University of Pittsburgh. They are offering to have graduate students complete a financial review of the Borough as part of their graduate program and provide a report outlining short- and long-term financial, managerial and economic development strategies the Municipality can consider implementing to strengthen their financial capacity. The Manager distributed a Strategic Management Planning Program summary he received from Dr. Dougherty who oversees the graduate program at the University of Pittsburgh. After some discussion, Mr. Piccinini motioned to approve entering this program and have the review completed. Mrs. Bucher seconded and the motion carried.

Mrs. Bucher noted that she did speak with the Beaver County Humane Society about their voucher program. The Borough could purchase additional vouchers at the following: 5 vouchers for \$250, 10 vouchers for \$300, 15 vouchers for \$450 and 20 vouchers for \$500. No action was taken.

Mr. Alford discussed the Local Share Account grant, the Tourism grant, and utilizing the Café in the Borough Building. The Sergeant noted some damage to their restroom. The Manager was asked to review the matter.

Council went into an executive session to discuss the acquisition of real estate and personnel matters at 9:36 p.m. Mr. Brothers left the meeting.

Council reconvened at 9:55 p.m.

Mr. Piccinini motioned to purchase 551 Connecticut Avenue for \$454.85 from the Beaver County Repository and authorize the Manager to execute all the necessary paperwork to complete the transaction. Mrs. Bucher seconded and the motion carried.

Mrs. Bucher motioned to exonerate all delinquent taxes on 551 Connecticut Avenue from 2023 and prior. Mr. Rape seconded and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

Submitted by,

John M. Barrett  
Borough Manager