

Rochester Borough Council
 Regular Meeting in the Municipal Building
 February 19, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Present: President David Alford, Vice-President Toni Bucher, Don Brothers, Jodi Hemer, Renee Simmons, Chad Rape, Rico Elmore, Mayor Keith Jackson, Solicitor Paul Steff, Sergeant Dawn Shane, Fire Chief Mike Mamone III, Manager John Barrett

Absent: Sam Piccinini

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

Persons in Attendance:

John Adkins, Location Manager for the television series Mayor of Kingstown, stated that their upcoming season has a scene where a car is pushed off the side of a bridge. He has been looking at bridges in the area and identified the Rochester/Monaca bridge and the Rochester/Bridgewater bridge as potential sites for this scene. Mr. Adkins stated that they would be acquiring all the necessary approvals and permits from the affected parties (i.e., PennDOT, PADEP, local municipalities, etc.). He is hoping to make a final bridge selection within 2 to 3 weeks. The scene would be shot sometime in April. The bridge would probably be closed for 2 or 3 days. Mr. Adkins asked if Council had any questions or comments. After some discussion, Council was agreeable to work with the production company should one of these bridges be selected.

Anthony Hall, owner of Buzzi's Pizza, asked Council if he and Fritz Barber Shop could have some "Customer Only" parking signs installed in front of their businesses due to the nearby apartment tenants parking on the street and making it difficult for their customers to find parking. Mr. Hall stated that he would be willing to pay for the signs. After some discussion, Council agreed to install the signs and invoice Mr. Adkins for the cost of the signs.

Mrs. Hemer presented a letter from the Little Rams of Rochester football program. They are soliciting donations to support their program. After some discussion, Mr. Elmore motioned to approve a \$250 donation to the Little Rams of Rochester. Mrs. Bucher seconded and the motion carried.

Action Items:

Mrs. Simmons motioned to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2024 reorganization and regular Council meeting as presented. Mrs. Bucher seconded and the motion carried.

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

BILLS:

Gen. Fund – Ck# 12552–12617 – totaling \$190,187.69.

Payroll (1/19, 2/2, 2/16) – Ck# 5568-5592 plus Dir. Dep. and Elec. Pymts. – totaling \$169,754.50.

Council received for their review and consideration, a quote from Smart Signs for a new digital information sign. The cost of the sign, installation and retrofit of existing signage is \$26,415.00. Smart Signs is a COSTAR's vendor and therefore would not need to be bid out. After some discussion, Mrs. Bucher motioned to accept and approve the quote from Smart Signs for \$26,415.00 as presented. Mrs. Hemer seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their review and consideration, a new 5-year agreement for police services to East Rochester Borough. East Rochester has approved the agreement. After some discussion, Mr. Elmore motioned to approve the new 5-year agreement as presented. Mrs. Simmons seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their review and consideration, the bid tabulation for the new pavilion at the Connecticut Avenue Park (ballfields). The low bidder was Shick Contracting with a bid of \$50,905. After some discussion, Mr. Rape motioned to award the contract to Shick Contracting for \$50,905.00. Mr. Alford seconded and the motion carried.

Review Items:

Council received for their review, the 2022 Real Estate Tax Collector Audit Report.

Council received for their review, a letter the Manager sent to the County Commissioners detailing how we are utilizing of the remaining ARPA funds the County Commissioners awarded to Rochester. Mr. Alford brought up for discussion, an email sent out by Mr. Piccinini identifying costs for a floating dock system to be secured to the stage area. Mr. Piccinini would like Council to consider utilizing the remaining ARPA funds for this project. After some discussion, Council tabled for future discussion.

Council received for their review, a paving estimate from the Borough Engineer to have the roads paved curb to curb where Columbia Gas replaced their main and service lines. Manager Barrett stated that the next step was to present this to Columbia Gas to see if they would be in agreement with the Engineer's estimates and to the associated costs. Manager Barrett will report back following the meeting with the Columbia Gas representative.

Council received for their review, the agenda and a list of grant openings from the last meeting with grant writer Deborah Samuels. Mr. Alford discussed the grant writer's thought and asked Council members to review the list and pass on any grant opportunities from the list that could match a project they have in mind. Mr. Alford noted the 175 anniversary of the Borough and a possible celebration event for a grant possibility. Mrs. Simmons noted the need for tables and chairs for the various events that will be planned.

Committee Reports:

Public Administration – Chad Rape, Chairperson

Council received for their review, the Expense and Revenue Report from January 1, 2024 through February 16, 2024.

Public Safety – Rico Elmore, Chairperson

Mr. Elmore had nothing to report.

Chief Mamone discussed the fire department merger talks and offered his thoughts on the direction and position of the study.

Police Department Report – Sergeant Shane gave Council the Police Department’s January report. Sergeant Shane stated that she received 3 quotes, Drumm and Sons, Abbey, and Mazzant for upfitting the kitchen area. The low bidder was Drumm and Sons at \$17,153. Mrs. Bucher motioned to award the contract to Drumm and Sons. Mrs. Simmons seconded and the motion carried. The Sergeant stated that BC Mental Health are having parking issues in front of their building. They need to have space available for a wheelchair van to drop-off and pick-up patients. Delivery trucks and cars continually park in the yellow area they tried to reserve for the van. The Sergeant asked if additional signage could be put up. BC Mental Health has agreed to pay for the additional signage. Council agreed to the additional signage. The Sergeant asked about selling the ford taurus police car now that the new charger has arrived. Mrs. Bucher motioned to authorize the Sergeant to sell the ford taurus. Mr. Elmore seconded and the motion carried.

Public Works – Toni Bucher, Chairperson

Mrs. Bucher had nothing to report.

Recreation – Renee Simmons, Chairperson

Mrs. Simmons stated that her committee is organizing a Music Festival for June 15th. The estimated budget is \$5,595. There will be various bands and vendors. There will also be beer sales. After some discussion, Mrs. Bucher motioned to approve the event and vendor spot fees of \$40 for 10’X10’ and \$60 for 12’X12’ with an additional fee of \$20 if the vendor would like electric. Mrs. Simmons seconded and the motion carried. Council agreed to a vendor spot fee of \$75 for 10’X10’ and \$100 for 12’X12’ for the 2-day event in conjunction with the Beaver County Boom on June 28th and 29th.

Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Jackson asked about the Borough covering his expenses for the upcoming Mayor’s Association Conference. After some discussion, Sergeant Shane will work with the Mayor to charge the necessary items on the credit card.

Solicitor’s Report:

Solicitor Steff had nothing to report.

Code Officer’s Report:

Council received for their review, the monthly report from the Code Officer.

Fire Chief's Report:

Council received for their review, the January 2024 Fire Department report. Chief Mamone stated that the department is moving forward with staffing the fire station during daylight and late-night hours. It will be a flat fee for the assigned firefighter. They are also looking into an EMS/QRS service sometime in the future.

Manager's/Treasurer's Report:

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

Old Business/New Business:

There was discussion regarding possible grant projects. Mr. Rape noted getting a "Santa House" for the Christmas event. He thinks one can be built for \$7,000 to \$8,000. Mr. Alford asked Council members to get him their possible grant projects so he can pass them on to the grant writer.

Council went into an executive session at 9:15 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations.

Council reconvened at 10:35 p.m.

Mr. Elmore motion to pay the Borough Secretary \$23/hr., get 3 weeks' vacation, 6 sick days and 3 personal days with all other benefits remaining the same. Mr. Brothers seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Brothers motioned to approve the police collective bargaining agreement as presented. Mrs. Simmons seconded and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Submitted by,

John M. Barrett
Borough Manager