

Rochester Borough Council
 Regular Meeting in the Municipal Building
 July 15, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Present: President David Alford, Vice-President Toni Bucher, Don Brothers, Renee Simmons, Jodi Hemer, Rico Elmore (left at 7:52pm), Mayor Keith Jackson, Solicitor Paul Steff, Sergeant Dawn Shane, Manager John Barrett

Absent: Chad Rape, Sam Piccinini, Fire Chief Mike Mamone III

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

Persons in Attendance:

Nick Trombetta and Colby Cole, who is with the Trails Ministry, spoke to Council about a pilot program called The Reclaim Project. Working through the Trails Ministry, they help persons who were incarcerated to transition into contributors to society by providing social services, tradesmen training and practical experience. The practical experience comes from deconstructing abandoned buildings. They tear out and recycle all they can from a building to reduce landfill material and resell the recycled material. They have received funding from the Beaver County Commissioners, the State of Pennsylvania and recently received a grant from the Shell Corporation all of which is used to fund this project. They have funds available to deconstruct 4 buildings in Rochester. The only commitment/requirement of the Borough is that they must own the building to be deconstructed. After much discussion, Council was interested in participating in the pilot program and will work on securing 4 building for deconstruction.

Chris Kronk and Mary Acon spoke to Council about overgrown weeds and vegetation throughout the Borough. They offered to help in anyway they could and offered to apply for grants when appropriate. Council thanked them for their interest and willingness to help.

Action Items:

Mr. Elmore motioned to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2024 regular Council meeting as presented. Mrs. Bucher seconded and the motion carried.

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

BILLS:

Gen. Fund – Ck# 12905–13013 – totaling \$216,000.60.

Payroll (6/21, 7/5) – Ck# 5894-5915 plus Dir. Dep. and Elec. Pymts. – totaling \$132,113.88.

The Manager asked Council for approval to solicit gas and electric rates to see if the Borough can lower their current rates and to sign any necessary agreements if lower rates are found. After some discussion, Mr. Alford motioned to approve the request. Mr. Brothers seconded and the motion carried.

Review Items:

Council received for their review, an ARPA fund update from the Manager.

Council received for their review, a summary of the costs for the 3 events held in June. After some discussion, Council authorized the Manager to transfer \$10,000 from the Riverfront Maintenance & Activity fund to the General fund. Council discussed upcoming events on August 10th, September 14th, and October 5th.

Committee Reports:

Public Administration – Chad Rape, Chairperson

Council received for their review, the Expense and Revenue Report from January 1, 2024 through July 12, 2024.

Public Safety – Rico Elmore, Chairperson

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

Police Department Report – Sergeant Shane stated that the Municibid auction is over. The highest bid for the 2014 Ford Taurus was \$7,100. The seconded highest was \$7,000. After some discussion, Mrs. Bucher motioned to authorize the Sergeant to sell the car to the highest bidder. If the highest bidder is unable to buy the car for any reason, then offer it to the second highest bidder and authorize the Manager to prepare and sign all necessary documents. Mr. Brothers seconded and the motion carried.

Public Works – Toni Bucher, Chairperson

Mrs. Bucher brought up for Mr. Elmore, that there is a stop sign missing a bolt at the intersection of Connecticut Avenue and Adams Street. He was also wondering why there was only a 2-way stop at the intersection of Webster Street and Irvin Avenue.

Recreation – Renee Simmons, Chairperson

Ms. Simmons reviewed several activities she is working on.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Jackson discussed an abandoned house on Lloyd Street and issues with the garbage collector at the 1st Presbyterian Church.

There was much discussion regarding the work on the front steps at the Municipal Building. Mr. Brothers motioned to terminate the contract and rebid the job. Mr. Alford seconded and the motion carried.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Steff asked for an executive session to discuss the Public Works collective bargaining agreement.

Code Officer's Report:

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

Fire Chief's Report:

Council received for their review, the June 2024 Fire Department report. Mr. Alford noted that the Public Safety Committee met with representatives from Rochester Township to discuss fire services. The Fire Department may have to start working out of the Borough's fire station due to issues with their building. The Manager was asked to start the process to sell the old ladder truck.

Manager's/Treasurer's Report:

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

Old Business/New Business:

Mr. Alford discussed the proposed design of the garage renovations at the riverfront. After some discussion, Mrs. Bucher motioned to approve the design presented. Mr. Brothers seconded and the motion carried.

Manager Barrett stated that the Rochester Boat Club recently had to remove a large tree that fell during the recent storm. The cost was \$3,000. The Boat Club was asking if Council would consider helping by reducing the remainder of their 2024 fees. Their remaining fee is \$1,687.50. After some discussion, Mr. Alford motioned to reduce their fee by \$500. Mrs. Bucher seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Brothers asked about renovations to the fountain park. Mr. Alford stated that there were no funds available and no projected plans. Council would continue to seek grants to facilitate the renovation in the future.

Council went into an executive session at 8:50 p.m. to discuss the Public Works collective bargaining agreement and the Manager's contract.

Council reconvened at 9:50 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

Submitted by,

John M. Barrett
Borough Manager