

Rochester Borough Council
Reorganization & Regular Meeting in the Municipal Building
January 15, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

Present: Don Brothers, David Alford, Renee Simmons, Toni Bucher, Jodi Hemer, Sam Piccinini, Rico Elmore (via phone), Mayor Keith Jackson, Solicitor Paul Steff, Sergeant Dawn Shane, Manager John Barrett

Absent: Chad Rape, Fire Chief Mike Mamone III

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

Mayor Jackson swore in the newly elected Council members.

Mayor Jackson asked for nominations for Council President. Mrs. Bucher nominated Dave Alford. There were no other nominations. Roll call vote 7-0, all yes, Mr. Alford was elected President of Council.

Mayor Jackson asked for nominations for Council Vice-President. Mrs. Hemer nominated Toni Bucher. There were no other nominations. Roll call vote 7-0, all yes, Mrs. Bucher was elected Vice-President of Council.

Mr. Alford presided over the meeting and asked for the following appointments:

Borough Solicitor – Mr. Brothers motioned to re-appoint Mr. Steff as the Borough Solicitor. Roll call vote 7-0, all yes.

Borough Engineer – Mr. Piccinini motioned to re-appoint Widmer Engineering as the Borough Engineer. Roll call vote 7-0, all yes.

Borough Manager/Secretary – Mr. Brothers motioned to re-appoint Mr. Barrett as the Borough Manager/Secretary. Roll call vote 7-0, all yes.

Borough Treasurer – Mr. Brothers motioned to re-appoint Mr. Barrett as the Borough Treasurer. Roll call vote 7-0, all yes.

Beaver County Regional Council of Governments Delegates – Mrs. Bucher motioned to appoint Mr. Elmore as the delegate and Mrs. Simmons as the alternate. Roll call vote 7-0, all yes.

Civil Service Commission – Mrs. Hemer motioned to re-appoint Barry Howe as the alternate member. Roll call vote 7-0, all yes.

Zoning Hearing Board – Mrs. Hemer motioned to re-appoint Pauline Gaffney as a board member. Roll call vote 7-0, all yes.

Mayor Jackson recognized Mrs. Eugenia Priest for her many contributions to the community and as the founding member of the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee. Mayor Jackson presented Mrs. Priest with a plaque and thanked her for her dedication and commitment to making Rochester Borough a better place.

Persons in Attendance:

Devin Mosley made a request to purchase 130 Hinds Street from the Beaver County Repository. Mr. Mosley briefly discussed his plans. Mr. Mosley was asked to follow the guidelines in the Borough's agreement for repository property purchases and submit the required information and deposit.

Action Items:

Mrs. Hemer motioned to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2023 regular Council meeting as presented. Mrs. Simmons seconded and the motion carried.

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

BILLS:

Gen. Fund – Ck# 12485–12551 – totaling \$294,732.84.

Payroll (11/24, 12/8) – Ck# 5549-5567 plus Dir. Dep. and Elec. Pymts. – totaling \$109,954.59.

Council received for their review and consideration, the Guide Rail Project bid from Green Acres Contracting for \$44,020.00. After some discussion, Mr. Piccinini motioned to award the bid to Green Acres Contracting contingent upon an affirmative review by the Borough Engineer. Mrs. Simmons seconded and the motion carried.

Review Items:

There were no review items.

Committee Reports:

Public Administration – Chad Rape, Chairperson

Council received for their review, the Expense and Revenue Report from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

Public Safety – Rico Elmore, Chairperson

Mr. Elmore updated Council on the fire department regionalization study. There was discussion regarding the timeline for the study and funding from the other participants. Mr. Elmore felt there was no need to continue with the study. Mr. Piccinini stated that the Borough already agreed to participate, there was no cost to the Borough for the study, and we should continue with our participation. Council agreed to continue with the study.

Police Department Report – Sergeant Shane gave Council the Police Department’s December and 2023 Annual reports. There was discussion regarding the East Rochester police service contract. Council gave the Sergeant some parameters and asked her to negotiate a contract renewal with East Rochester for Council to consider.

Public Works – Toni Bucher, Chairperson

Mrs. Bucher had nothing to report.

Recreation – Renee Simmons, Chairperson

Mrs. Simmons and Mr. Piccinini discussed some upcoming meetings and future events.

Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Jackson asked about the Borough’s digital information sign. Manager Barrett stated that it is no longer functional and can not be repaired. Mr. Piccinini stated that he had received a quote from Smart Signs for a new LED information sign and a new “Police – Handicap Entrance” sign. After some discussion, the Manager was asked to see if this could be purchased with the County ARPA funds.

There was discussion regarding Hinds Street and street restoration with Columbia Gas. The Manager was asked to contact Columbia Gas to get a final resolution on the restoration work.

Solicitor’s Report:

Solicitor Steff had nothing to report.

Code Officer’s Report:

Council received for their review, the 2023 Year-End report from the Zoning Officer and the December report from the Code Officer.

Fire Chief’s Report:

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

Manager’s/Treasurer’s Report:

Council received for their review, the December 2023 Treasurer’s Report.

Old Business/New Business:

Council, and Mayor received the State Ethics Commission Statement of Financial Interests form which is to be completed for the year 2023 and returned to the Manager's office by May 1, 2024.

Mr. Alford stated that he would be calling the grant writer tomorrow to discuss possible grant projects: ideas were; streetscape, road paving, dredging along the Beaver River, and recreation. The Manager stated that he would be speaking with the grant writer this week as well.

Mr. Piccinini asked the Manager to get the additional lighting installed at the War Memorial Park that was taken out of the project. Mr. Piccinini discussed zoning regarding regulations for gas regulators, a business development consultant and a letter he wrote to the Liquor Control Board regarding the bar on Deer Lane.

Council went into an executive session at 8:16 p.m. to discuss the Public Works union contract negotiations.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Submitted by,

John M. Barrett
Borough Manager