

Rochester Borough Council
Regular Meeting in the Municipal Building
October 16, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Present: President Don Brothers, Vice-President David Alford, Sam Piccinini, Renee Simmons, Chad Rape, Rico Elmore, Jodi Hemer, Mayor Keith Jackson, Solicitor Paul Steff, Sergeant Dawn Shane, Zoning Officer Patrick McGuire, 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.

Persons in Attendance:

Kristy Waldroup, Rochester Baseball, informed Council that the field work is almost completed. She thanked Council for their support and efforts to improve the facility.

Emily Palmer, Engineer for the Rochester Borough Sewer & Maintenance Authority, provided training for the MS4 Program. Ms. Palmer reviewed the program requirements and updated Council on the Authorities activities to comply with the MS4 Program.

Two individuals were present with requests to purchase property from the Beaver County Repository. The individuals were given the instructions they would need to follow in order to be put on the agenda for Council's consideration.

Ken Majors, Rochester Hotel, updated Council on the hotel progress and the fallen wall on the vacant lot he owns. At this time, Mr. Majors has no intention of fixing the wall because he feels there is a stormwater issue that needs addressed in order to prevent this from happening again.

Council held a Conditional Use Hearing on the application from Tim Edris, Kristie & Keith Martel. Zoning Officer McGuire explained that Mr. Edris would like to put in an "axe throwing venue" at 145 Brighton Avenue which is permitted under a conditional use in a Commercial Zoning District. Mr. Edris presented some operational notes he prepared and explained his plans for opening an axe throwing venue. After some discussion, Mr. Piccinini motioned to approve the conditional use application as presented. Mr. Elmore seconded and the motion carried. Zoning Officer McGuire will send the approval notice to the applicants.

Mr. Piccinini brought up for discussion, the need for security cameras at the Riverfront Park. Representatives from Secure Technical Solutions presented a proposal for a security system at the Riverfront Park. The proposal included 24 cameras, DVR/NVR, wireless network, outdoor enclosure, miscellaneous materials, installation costs and associated license and subscription fees totaling \$49,699.00. After some discussion, Mr. Rape motioned to accept and approve the proposal from Secure Technical Solutions as presented contingent upon approval to use the ARPA funds to cover the cost. Mr. Piccinini seconded and the motion carried.

Action Items:

Mrs. Hemer motioned to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2023 regular Council meeting and the September 28, 2023 special Council meeting as presented. Mr. Elmore seconded and the motion carried.

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

BILLS:

Gen. Fund – Ck# 12156–12226 – totaling \$171,741.15.

Payroll (9/1, 9/15) – Ck# 5741-5764 plus Dir. Dep. and Elec. Pymts. – totaling \$96,978.37.

Council received for their review and consideration, a proposed agreement for a merger/consolidation study of the fire departments for Rochester Borough, Rochester Township, New Brighton Borough, Daugherty Township, and Fallston Borough. After some discussion, Mr. Piccinini motioned to approved joining in on the study contingent upon no cost to the Borough. Mr. Alford seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Piccinini motioned to ratify the purchase of the Riverfront Park sign. Mrs. Simmons seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their review and consideration, a letter from the Rochester Borough Sewer & Maintenance Authority requesting that John Farmer be appointed to the Board to fill the remaining term of Louann Buckenheimer who had recently resigned. Mrs. Simmons motioned to appoint John Farmer to the Authority Board. Mr. Rape seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Piccinini motioned to ratify additional paving and guardrail work at the Riverfront Park by Youngblood Paving in the amount of \$79,535.85. Mr. Elmore seconded and the motion carried.

Review Items:

Council received for their review, the minutes of the September 12, 2023 Rochester Borough Sewer & Maintenance Authority meeting.

Council received for their review, the minutes of the September 14, 2023 Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority meeting.

Solicitor Steff discussed a draft ordinance to vacate a portion of Garfield Way; from Pennsylvania Avenue heading east approximately 160 feet. After some discussion, Mr. Piccinini motioned to authorize the Solicitor to move forward with the proper advertisements and notifications to vacate this portion of Garfield Way. Mrs. Hemer seconded and the motion carried.

Council received for their review, a letter from the Rochester Lady Rams Varsity Girls Basketball team soliciting sponsors. After some discussion, Mr. Rape motioned to donate \$250. Mr. Alford seconded and the motion carried.

Manager Barrett discussed the use of the parks at the round-a-bout for various events such as the MLK Annual event and the Bags & Blessing's interest in using the park this spring. In the past, Council had permitted the Manager to work with the organizers and approve the use when appropriate. There was usually no application or fee. Council agreed to continue letting the Manager handle those requests.

Council received for their review, various quotes for proposed projects.

Committee Reports:Public Administration – Chad Rape, Chairperson

Council received for their review, the Expense and Revenue Report from January 1, 2023 through October 6, 2023.

Public Safety – Rico Elmore, Chairperson

Mr. Elmore stated that the Manager's, Police Chief's and Seargent are meeting tomorrow to develop preliminary data for the proposed regional police department comprised of New Brighton Borough, Monaca Borough, Rochester Borough, Fallston Borough, Daugherty Township and Pulaski Township. A meeting of the municipal representative will be scheduled once the preliminary data is collected.

Mr. Elmore had resumes from 2 grant writers. He will discuss this at the budget meeting.

There was discussion regarding the late fee on garbage bills. The late fee had been stopped since COVID. After some discussion, Mr. Piccinini motioned to reinstate the late fee on garbage bills. Mr. Elmore seconded and the motion carried.

Police Department Report – Sergeant Shane discussed a Domestic Violence Program that the Police Department could participate in to try and help domestic violence victims. There is a 2-hour training class the officers would have to attend. The Borough would be reimbursed \$60 towards the training and \$60 per domestic event. The Sergeant will get more information on this program.

Sergeant Shane stated that the chairs in the Police Department are getting worn and should be replaced in the near future. Sergeant Shane also stated that the County is still giving out the Narcan drug for free. After some discussion, Mr. Rape motioned to move forward with developing the necessary policy and having the officers complete the required training and begin administering the drug after both have been completed. Mrs. Hemer seconded and the motion carried.

Public Works – Toni Bucher, Chairperson

There was nothing to report.

Recreation – Renee Simmons, Chairperson

Mrs. Simmons stated that she is looking at upgrading some of the playgrounds and recreation areas. She will provide details for Council to consider.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Jackson had nothing to report.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Steff had nothing to report.

Code Officer's Report:

Council received for their review, the September 2023 Code Officer's report.

Fire Chief's Report:

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

Manager's/Treasurer's Report:

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

Old Business/New Business:

Mr. Alford asked about the status of repairing the handicapped push buttons at the police door. The Manager stated that the Public Works employees have been to complete the jobs at the riverfront park and once done will look at the buttons. Mr. Alford also mentioned that the library was in need of 2 new computers and maybe the Borough could help out with that.

Mr. Piccinini discussed the idea of putting in a docking system at the stage area. He discussed this with Marion Hill Associates who estimated a cost of approximately \$200,000.

Reminder, there is a budget meeting scheduled for Wednesday October 25th at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

Submitted by,

John M. Barrett
Borough Manager