

McKees Rocks Borough
Public Meeting
February 13, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President of Council, Mr. Paul Krisby. President Krisby requested roll call. Present were Council Shallegra Moye, Council Elizabeth Delgado, Council Maribeth Taylor, Council Leslie Gee, Council Craig Myers, Council Sarah Harvey, and Council Joe Mixer. Also present were Mayor John "Jack" Muhr, Controller Kimberly Bosetti, Borough Manager Ruth A. Pompey and Administrative Assistant LeeAnn Wozniak. Ms. Rachel Smart from NIRA Consulting Engineers and Borough Solicitor Ms. Megan Turnbull, of Goehring Rutter & Boehm was present. Vice-President Kathy Evich was absent, but participated by phone conference.

Agenda Comments/Changes: None

Guest Speaker: Ms. Hannah Hardy of Allegheny County Health Department and Ms. Ann Ogueruc of Allegheny County Economic Development were present to update the Borough on county projects currently being incorporated, to strengthen county residents' health and wellness and also provide multiple modes of transportation for active residents. Two main projects discussed this evening called "Live Well Allegheny" and "Active Allegheny" was explained briefly, providing ways the Borough could incorporate these projects in our community. Flyers were also provided for review.

Ms. Kate O'Brien was present to discuss how to make our community more beneficial, as she feels the Borough has everything it needs to be successful. Ms. O'Brien feels that keeping residents informed on community changes would be beneficial and mainly suggested posting planning and zoning hearing notices in the building for public notification. She also feels that the Borough is on the edge of emerging into something great again, as we have hard working people, we are close to the city, and have many other great things to offer.

Last Month's Minutes:

A motion was made by Council Taylor and seconded by Council Delgado to dispense the reading of January 9, 2018 Public Meeting minutes. The motion was adopted by acclamation.

Committee Reports:

- Council Delgado read the January 2018 activity report from the McKees Rocks Independent Volunteer Fire Department. The Fire Department received a total of 27 calls. There were 6 false alarms, 1 at Hays Manor in Buildings 17 & 18. Response also included 3 motor vehicle accidents and 6 haz mat calls. 3 of the haz mat calls were a gas leak, 2 were carbon monoxide calls and 1 meth lab. The meth lab was people making meth in a 2 liter soda bottle. There were 2 lift assists for EMS, 3 water leaks, 1 car fire, 1 diesel engine fire at the railroad and 5 structure fires. 2 structure fires were 5 alarm, and 2 were rekindles of the 5 alarm fires. No reported injuries on any calls.

Engine 189 responded to 16 incidents. Engine 189-2 responded 2 times. Truck 189 response – 4 times, Rescue 189 - 4 times, Utility 189 – 4 times. Persons in private vehicles responded directly to scene 24 times, canceled in route 4 times. Mutual aid provided by Preston Station 277 on all calls. We received mutual aid from Stowe Station 275, Kennedy Station 181, Seville Station 251, Emsworth Station 148 and Crafton Station 129 at both structure fires. The fire in the railroad also required 3 additional mutual aid stations for a possible tanker shuttle due to possible water problems. Total person response from Station 189 to calls in January was 175, averaging 6.4 persons. The loss from the 2 major fires was over \$250,000.00. Both are being investigated by the county fire marshal's office, with no ruling at this time.

- Council Delgado read the monthly Activity Report from the McKees Rocks Police Department for January 2018. Chief Deliman reported a total of 701 events. There were 119 cases reported, 32 arrests, 91 citations (84 traffic, 5 non-traffic), and 6 impounded vehicles. Total mileage on patrol vehicles 5,031. Total money submitted to the Borough Manager was \$8,323.32.

Mayors Report: Mayor Muhr asked Fire Chief Radoycis if there was a way to dismantle the fire siren during fire calls, as it's been a community disturbance during office meetings, etc. Chief Radoycis stated this alarm is a community warning, that alerts the residents that fire trucks will be leaving the station for fire calls. Chief Radoycis feels the siren is necessary to keep the community on alert and give proper warning, and also alert the responders as cell phones/beepers aren't always heard.

Mayor Muhr asked President Krisby the status of turning Furnace Street back into a 2 way road, as trucks are using the municipal lot as a short cut and destroying the lot with pot holes. President Krisby commented that the Street Department will do the repair and change Furnace Street back into a 2 way road, as soon as the weather breaks (no later than April). Council Taylor questioned if an ordinance needed drafted and advertised before making any changes of traffic flow. Borough Solicitor commented that at this time, the current traffic ordinance is not an ordinance that she has recently reviewed, but dependent on if the change of Furnace Street into a 2 way requires stop signs or traffic lights, a new ordinance would most likely be drafted which allows the 2 way street enforceable for police.

Mayor Muhr commented that Representative Dan Deasy stopped in the office today and discussed that Representative Deasy is going to try getting the City of Pittsburgh to accept responsibility of repairing the bridge with a concrete surface and appropriate under surface structures, if the Borough agrees to accept ownership of the bridge after repair.

Mayor Muhr reported that residents are complaining about conditions of abandon/vacant houses in area. 708 Chartiers Avenue is scheduled for a magistrate hearing regarding demolition of the building, as it's a major safety concern in the poor condition it's in from the structure fire in December 2017. Residents are also complaining recently of flooding along Hickory Street/College

Avenue. The Borough will continue to investigate the situation, as a resident on Hickory Street previously filled a pipe line in his backyard, possibly causing the water flow into neighboring properties.

Mayor Muhr requested an update regarding C&D Auto from the Borough Solicitor. Borough Solicitor stated that she has not received any action plan/response from C&D Auto to clean up the junk cars. Borough Solicitor sent another email to request follow up earlier today, prior to attending this meeting. The Borough will start the citation process if there is no response from C&D Auto by end of this month.

Borough Manager's Report: Ms. Ruth Pompey reported that ComDoc installed new Xerox copiers on January 29, 2018, and office staff are learning how to use the copier/scanning functions effectively.

Engineer's Report:

Mr. Douglas Evans provided a written capsule report last evening to Council and there are no additional action items to discuss this evening.

Solicitor's Report: Ms. Turnbull reported that the two ordinances previously requested by Council are listed as actions items on the agenda and any questions regarding the advertising process can be discussed at voting time.

Controller's Report:

As of January 31, 2018 General Fund, both income and expenses have annual budget of \$3,781,218.00. Expenses totaled \$194,828.13 approximately 5.15% of annual budget. Balance remaining in annual budget is \$3,586,389.87. Balance in the General Fund Checking Account is \$207,083.32.

As of January 31, 2018 Sewer Fund, both income and expenses have an annual budget of \$1,694,243.00. Expenses totaled \$14,018.17 approximately 0.83 % of the annual budget. Balance remaining in the annual budget is \$1,680,024.83. Balance in the Sewer Fund Checking Account is \$408,996.17

A motion was made by Council Myers and seconded by Council Mixter to accept the Controller's Report. The motion was adopted by acclamation.

Bills:

President Krisby requested for a motion to pay bills. Council Taylor questioned payment line item 26813 Cohen & Grigsby, P.C., lobbying fee amount \$10,000.00. Council Taylor stated that she and a few other Council members were supposed to meet with Cohen & Grigsby in December 2017, but Mrs. Hileman called saying that there was nothing going on so she would not be going to Harrisburg during that month. Council Taylor is questioning "what work" has been done recently and feels that she has not seen much production from Cohen & Grigsby regarding grants, etc.

Council Taylor suggested that Council rethink continuing the contract with Cohen & Grigsby because she does not feel comfortable paying monthly, seeing no return. There was some discussion between Council regarding the contract and language, if Cohen & Grigsby is in breach of contract for not providing the work that Borough is paying for. Borough Solicitor suggested reviewing the contract language to determine continuation or non-continuation with Cohen & Grigsby. Council Taylor made a motion to pay bills with exception of Cohen & Grigsby until confirmation of what work was done by Cohen & Grigsby for month of December 2017. Council Harvey seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by acclamation.

Agenda:

1. A motion was made by Council Taylor and seconded by Council Harvey to accept the McKees Rocks Event Committee 2018 schedule of community events. The motion was adopted by acclamation.
2. A motion was made by Council Moye and seconded by Council Gee to authorize Borough Engineer to send a letter to Silver Star requesting payment on services rendered by Insight Pipe Cleaning on 1/12/18 and 1/16/18 for emergency grease buildup service at Cherry Alley. The motion was adopted by acclamation.
3. A motion was made by Council Taylor and seconded by Council Myers to accept Borough Engineer's suggestion of pipe repair on Cherry Alley, with an estimate of \$6,000.00 to line the sewer and \$1,000.00 for cleaning. The motion was adopted by acclamation.
4. A motion was made by President Krisby and seconded by Council Taylor to accept the Communication Committees' suggestion to accept OnFire Media as Borough's website designer. The motion was adopted by acclamation.
5. A motion was made by Council Delgado and seconded by Council Gee to authorize Borough Solicitor to advertise a regulation of fireworks ordinance. The motion was adopted by acclamation.
6. A motion was made by Council Mixter and seconded by Council Delgado to authorize Borough Solicitor to advertise an ordinance that requires property owners to obtain property and fire insurance on rental dwellings. The motion was adopted by acclamation.
7. A motion was made by Council Myers and seconded by Council Gee to authorize Borough Manager to hire a part-time office clerk for 20 hours/week at \$10.00/hour. The motion was adopted by acclamation.
8. A motion was made by Council Mixter and seconded by Council Myers accept Mr. Patrick Benzing's letter of retirement from the Street Department effective 2/28/18. The motion was adopted by acclamation.
9. A motion was made by Council Myers and seconded by Council Gee to authorize Borough Manager to hire a temporary Street Department employee. The motion was adopted by acclamation.
10. A motion was made by Council Myers and seconded by Council Moye to authorize Borough Manager to hire 2 fulltime Street Department employees. The motion was adopted by acclamation.

11. A motion was made by Council Taylor and seconded by Council Gee to accept the 2012 Chevy Impala's highest sealed bid of \$1,851.00, as in condition. The motion was adopted by acclamation.

New Business: Council Harvey, Grants Committee member commented that the Grants Committee met on January 24, 2018. The committee is asking all council members to provide one to three community projects they would like to see funded in 2018-2019, and submit their requests by March 3, 2018. The Grants Committee will review the requests and prioritize which projects they will research first for funding and provide an update at the March 2018 meeting. Council Harvey also commented that Christ Community Church located at 900 Chartiers Avenue provides free dinner every Wednesday 5pm-7pm to the community.

Council Taylor, Real Estate Committee member commented that the Real Estate Committee met on January 17, 2018. The Real Estate Committee discussed ways to get vacant/abandon houses back on the tax bracket. A few ideas included land banking, Allegheny County vacant property program, home donation, a program done in the past called RENEW ROCKS plan, among other ideas. A few actions items will be attending a meeting on February 21, 2018 that Ms. Ann Lewis, Executive Director of Tri-COG Land Bank will be speaking, drafting a hand-out for residents discussing how to obtain vacant/abandon properties, and possibly utilizing Loveland Site Control for property surveys. Council Taylor also mentioned the importance of having a Code Enforcement Officer, suggesting using a compliance connection data base that tracks non-compliance issues. The Real Estate Committee is asking all council members to pick three to five properties in their ward that they would like to see recovered, and submit addresses by March 3, 2018.

Mayor Muhr commented that he contacted the owner of the new pizza place on Helen Street requesting the owner to move the trucks constantly parked on the street, causing lane restriction of passing vehicles. The owner agreed to move the trucks.

Mayor Muhr also commented that all property owners, including business owner need to keep their properties and sidewalks clean. Many of our residents are walkers and even a few use scooters/wheelchairs, and clean sidewalks are a must for safety.

Old Business: None

A motion was made by Council Taylor and seconded by President Krisby to adjourn the public meeting and break for an executive session to discuss personnel issues. Meeting adjourned.

