

McKees Rocks Borough
Public Meeting
March 10, 2020
7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by President of Council, Mr. Paul Krisby. President Krisby requested a roll call. Present were Council Elizabeth Delgado, Council Charles Maritz, Council Craig Myers, Council Sarah Harvey, and Council Joe Mixter. Also present were Mayor John “Jack” Muhr, Borough Manager Ruth A. Pompey, Assistant Borough Secretary LeeAnn Wozniak, Controller Julia Chambers, Borough Engineer Mr. Douglas Evans, of NIRA Consulting Engineers and Borough Solicitor Ms. Megan Turnbull, of Weiss Burkhardt Kramer, LLC was present. Vice-President Kathy Evich participated via phone. Council Brinza and Council Walker were absent.

Agenda Comments/Changes: None

New Employee Introduction: Ms. Jennifer Slavicek – Administrative Clerk – Borough Office

Guest Speaker:

- Ms. Gabrielle Slaughaupt, of Mockenhaupt Benefits Group was present to address Council regarding the 2019 Actuarial Valuation Report for the McKees Rocks Police Pension Plan, which is done every odd year and reported to the state. Ms. Slaughaupt briefly referenced page 3 for Council to review the chart and mentioned the projected amount for year 2021 MMO (Minimum Municipal Obligation) is set for \$150,000.00, an increase of approximately \$20,000.00.
 - Dr. Simone Taubenberger, of Magee Women’s Research Institute and Allegheny County Health Department was present to address the Council regarding Allegheny County’s opioid project. Dr. Taubenberger discussed interviewing over 130 people of different backgrounds in a wide variety of settings regarding the overdose crisis. Dr. Taubenberger commented that one of the biggest obstacles for people with opioid addiction is lack of transportation to receive substance abuse treatment (to prevent use and overdose). She also commented that speaking to many drug users, the reason for use isn’t because they want to, it’s a way to cope while in “bad space.”
 - Ms. JoEllen March, of CONNECT, who also works with Dr. Taubenberger at Allegheny County Health Department was present to address the Council regarding a community -based program called LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion). The goal of this program is to take low level offenders (such as possession, petty theft) who typically get caught up in the criminal justice system and refer them into trauma informed intensive care programs for treatment. Ms. March states that law enforcement officers participating in the diversion process for these low level offense charges takes approximately thirty minutes, instead of the two to three hours it takes for an arrest. Chief Deliman thinks this would be a great option for the community once the early stages of planning are worked out, and the LEAD program is in place for implementation within the municipality.
- Ms. Michelle DeFade was present to give Council an update regarding feral cats in the community. Ms. DeFade announced she is now part of a new group called “Cat Ears Revolution”, focusing on full mass trappings. The group’s goal is to spay and neuter everything. Ms. DeFade’s goal for McKees Rocks is 150 cats -- 80 % McKees Rocks/20 % Windgap Bridge area. Ms. DeFade confirmed two trapping dates are set for McKees Rocks April 27th and August 3rd, and the 1st mass trapping is fully funded at \$30/cat. Animal

Friends has also been contacted for a future TNR date, as well as HAR East. Ms. DeFade noted Kitty Queen is still in the area, but concentrating on rescue only and smaller TNR clinics.

Reading of the Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Maritz and seconded by Councilman Mixer to accept the public meeting minutes from the January 14, 2020 meeting. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

A motion was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Mixer to accept the public meeting minutes from the February 17, 2020 meeting. Councilwoman Delgado motioned to amend the meeting minutes as follows: Guest Speaker Section: Mr. Sean Gibson is Founder/President of Josh Gibson Foundation, proposing a miracle field (not park), that would have a particular covering over the field that would allow wheelchair accessible use, and Mr. Gibson never indicated he was getting Ranger's Field for free, joking in nature.. President Krisby responded to Councilwoman Delgado stating he was initially approached by Mr. Gibson that it would be a miracle park, but requested the roll call for the minutes as amended. Roll call requested in 7 Yes, 0 No. Motion passes.

Committee Reports:

- McKees Rocks Police Department February 2020 Activity Report (Attached)
- McKees Rocks Independent Volunteer Fire Department February 2020 Activity Report (Attached)
- Council Committees – No Report
- Council of Government (COG) – No Report

Borough Manager's Report: No report

Borough Engineer Report: Borough Engineer Capsule Report provided to Council for review at 3/09/2020 Caucus meeting and action items are included on voting agenda.

Borough Solicitor Report: Borough Solicitor stated for meeting minutes purposes that Ms. Kim Turnley, CPA will be present at the April 14, 2020 public meeting to present the borough's 2018 financial audit report, and Borough Solicitor is currently gathering information on three (3) parcels of residential land and will be making recommendations to Council on how to get properties back on tax rolls.

Public Affairs Report: Dentons Cohen & Grigsby, P.C Public Affairs Update March 2020 (Attached)

Controllers Report: As of February 29, 2020, General Fund, both income and expenses have an annual budget of \$ 4,648,048.00. Expenses totaled \$ 733,066.44 or approximately 15.77 % of annual budget. Balance remaining of the annual budget is \$ 3,914,981.56.
Balance remaining in the General Fund Checking Account is \$ 298,264.51 as of February 29, 2020.

As of February 29, 2020, Sewer Fund, both income and expenses have an annual budget of \$ 1,958,446.00. Expenses totaled \$ 203, 575.76 or approximately 10.4 % of the annual budget. Balance remaining of the annual budget is \$ 1,754,870.33.
Balance remaining in the Sewer Fund Savings Account is \$ 765,933.72 as of February 29, 2020.

A motion was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Maritz to accept the Controllers Report. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

Bills:

A motion was made by Councilman Maritz and seconded by Councilman Mixer to accept the bills. Motion was adopted by acclamation

Agenda:

1. A motion was made by Councilwoman Harvey and seconded by Councilman Myers to accept the Char West COG UCC Board of Appeal Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement, by Resolution. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
2. A motion was made by Councilman Maritz and seconded by Councilwoman Delgado to accept Borough Resolution No 6108 Waste Management Sanitation Fee, effective April 1, 2020. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
3. A motion was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Maritz to approve Payment Application No 1 in the amount of \$47,750.77 to State Pipe Services, Inc. for 2109 Sewer Cleaning & Televising. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
4. A motion was made by Vice-President Evich and seconded by Councilwoman Harvey to approve payment of CSO renewal fee of \$100.00 due 3/31/2020 along with renewal forms to DEP. The motion was adopted by acclamation.
5. A motion was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Maritz to approve the NPDES permit application for Phase I & 2 of West Carson St. Ext. with three (3) check payments as follows: \$500.00 administrative filing fee payable to Allegheny County Conservation District Clean Water Fund, \$400.00 disturbed acreage fee payable to Commonwealth of PA Clean Water Fund, and \$2,900.00 ACCD review fee payable to Allegheny County Conservation District. Motion adopted by acclamation.

New Business:

Councilman Myers attended a Boroughs Association meeting last week and members discussed how to cut the cost of advertising fees for municipalities, as it is costly. Councilman Myers mentioned the members were questioning what's considered legit general circulation as many newspapers are now becoming online versions only, and no longer producing actual printable circulation.

Old Business:

Councilwoman Harvey referred back to the December 2019 meeting minutes regarding a letter being sent to transfer the bus shelter to the Rite Aid location and wanted to know follow-up status. Borough Solicitor commented she has received no response at this time and will follow-up.

Councilwoman Harvey also commented that she was notified by residents a few weeks ago that the drug tip line is not working and wanted to know what is going on, if it is being looked into with the phone company. President Krisby replied he has been notified of the issue and in contact with Chief Deliman to work on resolving the issue. Mayor Muhr commented that residents need to contact 911 in any event of a drug tip emergency, not to rely on the drug tip line number. Councilwoman Harvey feels the tip line needs to work at all times so callers can remain anonymous and feel safe, especially the elderly.

President Krisby requested Council to consider passing a Resolution to keep Ranger's Field a green space and protect the Indian Mound, that would prevent from any future building. A motion was made by

Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Mixer. Councilwoman Delgado opposed, referencing that Council did not give Mr. Gibson enough time to bring back his proposal for the community sports complex that Council initially asked him to do at the February 2020 meeting, and passing this Resolution is just prematurely shutting him down, bypassing proper planning and zoning procedures. President Krisby asked all Councilmembers for comment regarding Mr. Gibson's proposal for use of Ranger's Field space for the sports complex, as follows: Council Mixer – No space for parking, lose pavilion rental, Council Harvey – Council didn't allow enough time to bring back proposal, Council Myers – great idea, but not enough space/no parking, President Krisby – not right fit in Bottoms, Council Maritz – great idea, not enough parking, Council Delgado – hasn't seen plans, not convinced not enough space (can't assume). Borough Solicitor again clarified the motion to be voted on: Motion to place a covenant on parcel(s) restricting subdivision, sale, or building of open space. Councilwoman Delgado thinks Council should really rethink this motion and wants to know how much longer will the Seneca Nation wait for the covenant of the land. Borough Solicitor stated for sunshine law requirement that since this is a new agenda action item involving passing a Resolution, public comment is permitted as well. Public comment included Father Ryan, Mr. David Flick, Mr. Paul Bradis, Ms. Tracey Pedersen, Mr. Kenneth Perl, Ms. Barb Godfrey, Mr. Craig Rippole. Mr. Gibson was present in the audience as well to give public comment. Mr. Gibson responded to President Krisby's request for a Resolution to protect Ranger's Field as a green space stating "It's "not fair" to vote it (proposal) down without even giving time to bring back to Council for review, as discussed at last month's meeting. Mr. Gibson asked Council "Are you going to refund the money already spent?" Borough Solicitor indicated to Mr. Gibson that the Borough received no contact, no email, no type of engagement from Mr. Gibson since last meeting. Mr. Gibson also was asking Borough Solicitor questions regarding conversations that occurred between the Borough and the Seneca Nation, trying to gauge the Borough's interest with the Seneca Nation. Borough Solicitor responded that Council's intent to move forward with voting on the Resolution would suggest that the Borough's interest would be to protect the land, restricting building and preserving the Indian Mound. Mr. Gibson's final comments to Council included "that from the beginning, the whole process has been a disaster and a joke." Roll Call requested resulting in 4 Yes (Mixer, Myers., Krisby, Maritz), 2 No (Harvey, Delgado) to pass the Resolution. Motion carries.

A motion was made by Councilman Maritz and seconded by Councilman Myers to adjourn the business portion of the public meeting. Meeting was adjourned, by President Krisby.