

McKees Rocks Borough
Virtual Public Meeting
April 13, 2021

5:30 PM Executive Session – Litigation Updates and Personnel Matters

7:00 PM Public Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Councilmembers Present: President Archie Brinza, Councilman Joe Mixter, Vice-President Leslie Walker, Councilwoman Elizabeth Delgado, Councilman Charles Maritz, Councilman John Malesnick, Jr, Councilman Nicholas Radoycis, Jr., Councilwoman Sarah Harvey, and Councilman Craig Myers

Also present for this meeting were Mayor John R. Muhr, Borough Manager Ruth A. Pompey, Assistant Borough Secretary LeeAnn Wozniak, Controller William Beck, Borough Solicitor Megan Turnbull, and Assistant Solicitor Danielle Guaraschio, of Weiss Burkhardt Kramer, LLC, and Borough Engineer Mr. Douglas Evans, of NIRA Consulting Engineers, Inc.

Agenda Comments/Changes:

President Brinza reminded all in attendance that all communications must remain respectful and professional as the public meetings are being recorded.

President Brinza introduced new borough employee Mr. Zac Cummings as the new Code Enforcement Officer.

Guest Speaker:

Ms. Samantha Levitzki-Wright was present to address Council for numerous reasons. She wanted to first point out that the Sto-Rox High School held a Summit recently regarding gun violence and all borough and township officials were invited to attend. Only the Police Chiefs participated. She will continue to keep open communication with the municipalities, in hopes of better participation of officials. Secondly, Ms. Levitzski-Wright commented that when residents/guest speakers are talking they shouldn't be interrupted and dismissed/cut-off during their presentation and is glad Councilwoman Delgado has discussed this with Council earlier as an issue. Lastly, Ms. Levitzki-Wright advised there will be meeting(s) at the end of month regarding blight properties and tax relief discussion and would like borough officials to be involved in the conversations.

Ms. Maribeth Taylor was present to address Council for numerous reasons. Ms. Taylor began her presentation by commenting on the media release on March 16, 2021 regarding the ALCOSAN filing. She was glad to see the word got out to the residents, but questioned Council when they voted to hire a Public Relations Consultant because looking back at previous meeting minutes shows no documentation.

She then advised there was a payment on the March transaction list to Premo Consultants, LLC. She also wants to know if the borough hired Premo Consultants, LLC, why is Ms. Joanna Doven, Founding CEO of Premo Consultants, LLC emailing Mr. Craig Rippole directly, not Borough Officials. She also mentioned that an email from Ms. Doven sent directly to Mr. Rippole was forwarded the morning of March 16, 2021 by Mr. Rippole to only certain Borough officials, employees, and other external contacts. Ms. Taylor proceeded with her concerns regarding agenda items being considered tonight for Council vote commenting that she hopes Council votes to approve the 1220 Grant Way Vacant Property Recovery Application, not table for continued discussion and Council should consider looking into the county's Learn n Earn Work Program for summer help before hiring part-time help for the Street Department which would cost the borough more money. Lastly, Ms. Taylor also commented that she feels residents/guest speakers being cut-off during presentations and directed to be moved on is disrespectful, that everyone has a right to be heard and know what's going on.

Ms. Tocarra Stanley and Mr Randall Williams was present to originally address Council regarding a recent tax assessment (increase) notification from Sto-Rox District on a property recently purchased at 300 Catherine Street. Ms. Stanley also indicated having trouble with the children at the school bus stop in front of the building, asking if the bus stop could be moved. President Brinza responded to Ms. Stanley that both concerns need to be addressed directly with Sto-Rox School District and to follow up with Ms. Samantha Levitzki-Wright for additional assistance.

Mr. Richard Ashby, Jr. Sto-Rox Library Director was present to request Council approval to close a portion of Bell Avenue on May 15, 2021 for a community event 10AM-3PM between the library and resource center. Mr. Ashby, Jr. understands the street needs to be clear of any set-up/tables in case of an emergency situation where the VFD would need to access the road.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Harvey and seconded by Vice-President to approve the road closure of Bell Avenue at the indicated portion between the two buildings discussed. A motion was adopted by acclamation.

Mr. Lance Harrell, a local resident of Sheridan was present to address Council regarding his working relationship to the McKees CDC in regard to the conservatorship request of 115 Helen Street. Mr. Harrell explained he would be taking over this blight property and restore the property with plans to rent out in future. He has other properties that he has recently renovated that he has a PowerPoint available to send Council for examples of his work.

Reading of the Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Mixer and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve the meeting minutes from March 9, 2021 public meeting. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

Reports:

- McKees Rocks Police Department March 2021 Activity Report (on file at the Borough Manager Office)

- McKees Rocks Independent Volunteer Fire Department March 2021 Activity Report (on file at the Borough Manager Office)
- Mayors Report: Mayor Muhr discussed dealing with numerous properties in poor condition that owners/tenants do not care to resolve regarding violations such as garbage pile up. He also mentioned about vehicles parked on the street with no insurance/stickers that the Police Department are actively tagging. Mayor Muhr mentioned the magistrate is not supporting the Borough with citations, and defendants are getting off with minimal fines.
- Borough Manager: Borough Manager Pompey provided Council with a print-out of the 1st quarter activity of the 2021 general fund and sewer budget. Borough Manager commented that we have not yet moved forward with securing the TAN Loan, but we have made it through 1st quarter without the funds. Controller Beck commented he feels the Borough may not need the TAN Loan at this point, but President Brinza indicated he has instructed Borough Manager Pompey to continue to move forward in securing the TAN Loan.
- Borough Solicitor: Borough Solicitor Turnbull advised the 2020 Financial Interest Statements Forms are due back to the Borough Manager by May 1, 2021 and Council should receive these form(s) from the borough office.
- Building Code Official: A written March 2021 activity report was provided to Council for review by Mr. John Stahl, and on file at the Borough Manager's office.
- Code Enforcement Officer: A written March 2021 activity report was provided to Council for review by Mr. Zac Cummings, and on file at the Borough Manager's office.
- Borough Engineer: Capsule Report was discussed at Caucus Meeting on 4-12-2021.

A motion was made by Vice-President Walker and seconded by Councilman Maritz to award Minniefield Demolition Services, LLC for the demolition of 840 Frank Street in the amount of \$40,726.00 which includes Alternate of working with Salvage PGH at \$0.00. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

A motion was made by Councilman Maritz and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve the Slum and Blight Resolution and Concurring Resolution for Act 152 Allegheny County Blight Removal Grant. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Delgado and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve Pay Application No. 1 to Baiano Construction for Phase 2 Island Avenue Sidewalks, in the amount of \$15,836.70. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

Dentons Cohen & Grigsby, P.C.: No report

Controllers Report: As of March 31, 2021, General Fund, both income and expenses have an annual budget of \$4,503,377.00. Income was \$860,989.27 or 19.12 % of the budgeted income. Expenses totaled \$905,007.92 or approximately 20.1% of the budgeted expenses.

Balance in the General Fund Checking Account as of March 31, 2021 was \$485,883.73.

As of March 31, 2021, Sewer Fund, both income and expenses have an annual budget of \$1,976,085.00. Income was \$464,604.42 or 23.51% of the budgeted income. Expenses totaled \$416,440.14 or 21.07% of the budgeted expenses. Balance remaining in the Sewer Fund as of March 31, 2021 was \$358,761.13

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

Bills: A motion was made by Councilman Mixter and seconded by Vice-President Walker to pay the bills. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

Agenda Voting:

1. Public Safety Committee (Chas Maritz, Chair)

- a.) A motion was made by Councilman Maritz and seconded by Councilman Mixter to accept Mr. Bobby Thompson as a new member of the Civil Service Commission. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
- b.) A motion was made by Councilman Maritz and seconded by Councilman Myers to accept Ms. Samantha Levitzki-Wright as an Alternate member of the Civil Service Commission. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
- c.) A motion was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Mixter to extend acceptance of Letters of Interest for 2 additional Alternate seats of the Civil Service Commission for additional 30 days. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
- d.) A motion was made by Councilman Radoycis and seconded by Vice-President Walker to table the approval of purchasing tactical vests for the Code Enforcement Officer and Building Code Official until Council discusses the total cost of not only buying vests, but sending the employees to gun safety training as well. Council also wants to talk to Solicitor. Motion to table carries.

2. Finance and Administration Committee (Nick Radoycis, Chair)

- a.) A motion was made by Vice-President Walker and seconded by Councilman Maritz to hire Mr. Zachary Cummings as Code Enforcement Officer, effective March 22, 2021 hire date. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

3. Parks and Recreation Committee (Leslie Walker)

- a.) A motion was made by Vice-President Walker and seconded by Councilwoman Harvey to approve the request to use Ranger's Field for April 24th Candidate Meet n Greet by Mr. Tristan Yoder. After additional Council discussion regarding the reason for request and Council never approved use of borough property for political events in past, President Brinza requested roll call. Roll Call resulted in 4 Yes (Harvey, Myers, Delgado, Walker) and 5 No (Radoycis, Malesnick, Mixter, Maritz, Brinza). Motion carries to deny Mr. Yoder's request.

4. Real Estate Committee (Nick Radoycis, Chair)

- a.) A motion was made by Councilman Maritz and seconded by Councilman Radoycis to require applicant of 1220 Grant Way Vacant Property Program Application complete a survey of the property, at applicant cost in order to confirm where exactly the property line ends. Councilwoman Delgado opposed. Roll Call requested resulting in 6 Yes (Radoycis, Malesnick, Mixter, Myers, Maritz, Brinza) and 3 No (Harvey, Delgado, Walker). Motion carries to require applicant to complete a property survey, at his/her expense.

5. Public Works Committee (Archie Brinza, Chair)

- a.) A motion was made by President Brinza to table hiring any part-time summer help for Street Department until Mr. Dorian Glenn, of Focus On Renewal information is received regarding Learn n Earn Work Program, which is free of charge to the borough. Councilman Maritz seconded the motion to table. Motion tabled.
- b.) A motion was made by Councilman Maritz and seconded by Councilman Malesnick to accept the sealed bid offer of \$5,000.00 submitted by McKees Rocks Industrial Enterprises, Inc for the 2001 Chevy C6500 dump truck. A motion was adopted by acclamation.

6. Borough Association (Craig Myers, Chair) Councilman Myers shared with Council Borough Association meetings will pick back up in the Fall month.

7. Char-West COG (Elizabeth Delgado, Chair)

- a.) A motion was made by President Brinza and seconded by Councilwoman Delgado to table the approval of Borough Resolution adding McKees Rocks to the UCC Board of Appeals (Agreement) until Solicitor drafts Resolution for Council review. Motion tabled.

8. Borough Development (Craig Myers, Chair)

- a.) A motion was made by Councilwoman Harvey and seconded by Vice-President Walker to approve the McKees Rocks Level 3241 Development Agreement contingent upon Appendix A. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

9. Codification Committee (Elizabeth Delgado, Chair) – No report

10. Other Communications/Motions

- a.) A motion was made by Councilman Radoycis and seconded by Councilman Maritz to deny Mr. Hollowood's request to forgive his penalty and interest amount of \$4,394.46 and direct Mr. Hollowood contact Jordan Tax Service to set up a payment plan. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
- b.) A motion was made by Councilman Radoycis and seconded by Councilwoman Harvey to approve the Allegheny County 2020 Hazard Plan Resolution. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
- c.) A motion was made by Councilman Maritz and seconded by Councilman Malesnick to deny the vendor application submitted by Ms. Victoria Green to sell sports merchandise, clothing, logo products, etc on borough property. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
- d.) A motion was made by Councilman Radoycis and seconded by Councilwoman Harvey to table the approval of amending Ordinance No. 1409 Gaming Device License until further Council discussion. Motion carries.

New Business

- a.) A motion was made by Councilwoman Harvey and seconded by Councilwoman Delgado to create borough emails for all Council members and elected officials. President Brinza requested a roll call, based on individual request(s) of the borough email. Roll Call requested, resulting in 8 Yes, 1 No (Myers). Motion carries.
- b.) A motion was made by Councilman Maritz and seconded by Vice-President Walker to approve the WalkWorks walking routes, as presented by Ms. Rauscher and Ms. King during April 12, 2021 Caucus meeting. Roll call requested, resulting in 7 Yes, 2 Abstain (Radoycis, Mixer). Motion carries.

Old Business

- a.) A motion was made by Councilman Malesnick and seconded by Councilman Mixer to create a Parking Authority Committee. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
- b.) Councilman Radoycis briefly addressed Council regarding a fire truck that was purchased by the VFD in the past and the transferring of the paperwork and plate was executed incorrectly. The truck has been out of service for at least eight months due to no current registration and/or inspection. Councilman Radoycis suggested the resolution to this problem would be to request a new plate and obtain a copy of the title from PennDOT.
- c.) Councilman Radoycis also addressed the parking issue near Robinson Street, where patrons of Club Erotica are parking in residential area taking up parking of homeowners. Councilman Radoycis suggested reviewing parking Ordinance(s) and reestablishing permit parking only. If permit parking is reestablished, the Police Department and/or Code Enforcement would be able to identify who should be parking in that specific residential area. Chief Deliman commented that Robinson Street as well as other surrounding streets were issued parking permit stickers in the past from the borough office where streets (signs) indicated “permit parking only”. A motion was made by Councilwoman Harvey and seconded by Councilman Radoycis to authorize borough office to review parking Ordinances regarding permit parking in the borough.

A motion was made by Vice-President Walker and seconded by President Brinza to adjourn the business portion of the meeting. Meeting adjourned, by President Brinza.