

McKees Rocks Borough  
Virtual Public Meeting  
August 11, 2020  
7:00 PM

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:** Council President Paul Krisby requested roll call. Councilmembers Present: President Paul Krisby, Councilman Joe Mixter, Councilwoman Sarah Harvey, Councilman Craig Myers, Councilwoman Leslie Walker, Councilwoman Elizabeth Delgado, and Councilman Archie Brinza.  
Councilmembers Absent: Vice-President Kathy Evich, Councilman Charles Maritz

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

**Agenda Comments/Changes:** Mr. Nathan Colosimo (26 St. John Street) - Comments Re: Meeting registration cut-off time should be later than 11:00 am  
Ms. Samantha Levitski (219 Greydon Avenue) - Comments Re: Giant Eagle, Inc. Get- Go Land Development Plans

**Guest Speaker:** Ms. Laura Stephany – Allies for Children, Lead Safety Testing & Dust Wipe Sampling Presentation: Ms. Stephany was present to follow up with Council if the Borough was interested in participating in the Dust Wipe Sampling Pilot Agreement within the Rental Housing Inspection Program, which was originally presented to the Borough during the November 2019 meeting. Currently, there is still funding available for a limited amount of time for municipalities and with COVID-19 restrictions, applications are being accepted now for funding through May 2021.

Mr. Steve Vann – Speeding on Church Ave (between St. John Street & Catherine Baker Knoll Way): Mr. Vann was present to address Council regarding speeding on Church Avenue that is a safety concern for the residents and children on the street. Mr. Vann mentioned he has contacted the police multiple times, was told speed bumps were not permitted to be installed as a way to try slowing down drivers. Mr. Vann has suggested an alternate solution to change the short stretch of that section to a 1-way, and residents including Father Ryan have signed a petition. Mr. Vann mentioned he does not want to interfere with any funeral processions, etc. and traffic should be temporarily permitted through at those times, but the speeding currently is a safety concern for residents in that area.

**Reading of the Minutes:**

A motion was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Brinza to approve the public meeting minutes from July 14, 2020. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

**Committee Reports:**

- McKees Rocks Police Department July 2020 Activity Report (on file at the Borough Manager Office)
- McKees Rocks Independent Volunteer Fire Department July 2020 Activity Report (on file at the Borough Manager Office)

- Council Committees – **Real Estate Committee:** Councilwoman Delgado confirmed the Real Estate Committee is still requesting a meeting with the Building Code Official and Code Enforcement Officer, since January 2020. Councilwoman Delgado would like a meeting virtually within the next 30 days. Councilwoman Delgado also commented that Council agreed last year when reviewing Portnoff's fee increases to start looking for someone new, that the borough should probably start looking now. Councilwoman Harvey asked if the Borough was giving out occupancy permits to rental owners if the owners owed delinquent real estate taxes, as she and Councilwoman Delgado met with Ms. Levitski and Mr. Dalmas from Sto-Rox School District confirming these property owners potentially owe delinquent school taxes as well. Borough Solicitor confirmed the new rental ordinance enacted has ACT 90 built into that include checking for municipal liens such as water, sewage, and delinquent taxes which would prohibit a property owner from receiving an occupancy permit or building permit from the Borough.
- Council of Government (COG) – None

**Dentons Cohen & Grigsby, P.C.:** A written summary was provided by Ms. Kim Hileman for Council to review for recent work between the Dentons Cohen & Grigsby Public Affairs Group (Dentons C&G) and McKees Rocks Borough for August 2020.

**Mayors Report:** Mayor Muhr placed an immediate, temporary traffic change (from St. John Street to Guthrie Street) on Church Avenue to 1-way, in response to the speeding concern previously discussed with resident Mr. Vann. A motion was made by Councilman Brinza and seconded by Councilman Myers to authorize advertisement of Ordinance for permanent traffic change of 1-way on Church Ave for adoption in September. Motion was adopted by acclamation. Mayor Muhr has a hearing on 322 Washington Street coming up for multiple violations regarding garbage, grass, animal nuisance, constant partying. This address is a constant issue for the police.

**Communications:**

- Borough Manager – Borough Manager Ruth Pompey will be sending in invoices to the county for the CARES ACT to apply for funding to be reimbursed for police salaries during COVID-19. Borough Manager will be working on the 2021 budget and will have a rough draft available for the upcoming meeting. A copy of the new borough insurance invoice is in the council packet for review.
- Borough Engineer – Mr. Douglas Evans read the monthly Capsule Engineer's Report to Council. No action items are on the agenda for Council consideration
- Borough Solicitor –Ms. Megan Turnbull would like (as meetings have been virtual and public comments have been received via email) to confirm with Council how public comments should be documented on the meeting minutes moving forward, as a resident (and prior Councilwoman) is requesting prior meeting minutes to be amended on the borough website. Councilwoman Delgado is in agreement with the resident, that the minutes should be amended, adding the public comments as attachments because putting them on file at the borough office as suggested by the Borough Solicitor would be difficult for residents to review with the office being closed due to COVID-19 restrictions. Councilwoman Delgado also suggested posting the monthly meeting minutes on the website before Council actually approving the minutes because by the time Council votes to approve the minutes, its already a month behind and it's not really helpful to the citizens. Borough Solicitor said Council could consider that as a direction or also possibly a summary of action items on the borough website. A motion was made by Councilwoman Delgado and seconded by Councilwoman Harvey to post a summary of monthly meeting minutes on the borough website, prior to Council vote. Councilwoman Walker opposed. Roll Call requested, resulting in 6 Yes, 1 No (Walker). Motion carries.
- Building Code Official Monthly Activity Report - A written July 2020 activity report was provided to Council for review by Mr. John Stahl, and on file at the Borough Manager's office

- Code Enforcement Officer Monthly Activity Report - A written July 2020 activity report was provided to Council for review by Mr. Thomas McAllister, and on file at the Borough Manager's office.

**Controllers Report:** As of July 31, 2020, General Fund, both income and expenses have an annual budget of \$ 4,648,048.00. Expenses totaled \$ 2,344,986.79 or approximately 50.45 % of annual budget. Balance remaining of the annual budget is \$ 2, 303,061.21.

Balance remaining in the General Fund Checking Account is \$ 333,601.32 as of July 31, 2020.

As of July 31, 2020, Sewer Fund, both income and expenses have an annual budget of \$ 1,958,446.00. Expenses totaled \$ 970, 457.58 or approximately 49.55 % of the annual budget. Balance remaining of the annual budget is \$ 987, 988.42.

Balance remaining in the Sewer Fund Savings Account is \$ 400, 841.34 as of July 31, 2020.

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

**Bills:**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Walker and seconded by Councilman Brinza to accept the bills. Motion was adopted by acclamation

**Agenda:**

1. Councilwoman Delgado presented Borough Ordinance N0. 1767, previously presented during council meeting in April 2020. A motion was made by Councilwoman Harvey and seconded by Councilwoman Delgado to approve Borough Ordinance No. 1767, amending No. 1738. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
2. Borough Solicitor Turnbull presented the McKees Rocks Police Department Use of Force Procedures Policy. A motion was made by Councilman Brinza and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve McKees Rocks Police Department Use of Procedures Policy. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
3. Borough Solicitor Turnbull presented (3) Vacant Property Recovery Program Resolutions tabled from July 2020 Council meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Brinza and seconded by Councilman Myers to accept the (3) Vacant Property Recovery Program Resolution for Parcel(s) 72-G-73, 43-C-129, 43-L-187. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
4. Borough Manager Ruth Pompey presented the Blight Remediation Program Grant, that Ms. Kim Hileman will be assisting the borough in the \$300,000 application.
5. Councilwoman Harvey presented the Lead Dust Wipe Sampling 1 Year Pilot Agreement to Council, previously explained by Ms. Stephany. A motion was made by Councilwoman Harvey and seconded by Councilman Brinza to approve the Dust Wipe Sampling Agreement. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
6. Councilwoman Harvey mentioned talking with Ms. Kim Hileman about applying for grant funding for drug overdose epidemic.
7. Councilwoman Harvey, on behalf of Councilman Maritz's absence was asking about the condemnation status of 1142 Wayne Ave. Tenants still haven't been able to access property to get belongings since the fire and is asking if there is anything that can be done to over-ride the condemnation status, and let the tenants gain access to property for their belongings. Solicitor

Turnbull responded it has to do with the condition of the property overall and tenants safety, but she would look into what can be done, if anything legally about the situation.

**Old Business:**

Councilwoman Harvey asked the status of the non-working drug tip line since February 2020. Borough Manager Pompey confirmed that Windstream who is currently in bankruptcy is refusing to release the 877 number to our new phone provider. Borough Manager Pompey is thinking about dropping the 877 number and getting a new phone number for the drug tip line. Chief Deliman said if that is what we have to do, we will have to change all the drug tip line signs around town. Councilwoman Harvey also is requesting the Borough to reach out to the Family Dollar Store Manager on Chartiers Avenue, if haven't made initial contact, regarding the garbage/rebar issue in the parking lot, as it continues to be an ongoing problem.

Councilwoman Walker briefly mentioned there is a garage on the corner of Chartiers Avenue/Yunker Street with a rat issue. President Krisby responded the Building Code Official will be notified.

Meeting adjourned, by President Krisby.