

McKees Rocks Borough  
Public Meeting  
September 10, 2019  
7:00 PM

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 Leslie Gee, Council Craig Myers, Council Sarah Harvey, and Council Joe Mixter. Also present were Mayor John “Jack” Muhr, Borough Manager Ruth A. Pompey, and Administrative Assistant LeeAnn Wozniak. Borough Engineer Mr. Douglas Evans from NIRA Consulting Engineers and Borough Solicitor Ms. Megan Turnbull, of Weiss Burkhardt Kramer, LLC were present. Controller Julia Chambers was present as well. Vice-President Kathy Evich participated via phone. Council Maribeth Taylor was absent.

**Agenda Comments/Changes:** None

**Guest Speaker:**

Ms. Natalie Uschner-Arroyo, from the Lower Chartiers Watershed Association was present to re-introduce the association to Council. The association’s goal is to protect and improve Chartiers Creek running from North Fayette to McKees Rocks, by picking up litter, species removal, water monitoring, and tree planting. Ms. Uschner-Arroyo invited Council and the community to the 2019 Chartiers Creek Clean-up scheduled for September 29, 2019. The group had a very successful clean-up in 2018.

Mr. Craig Rippole was present to address the Roxian Theatre parking that was a concern of a guest speaker during the August 2019 meeting. Mr. Rippole provided information regarding a temporary parking agreement that was signed by Roxian Live, LLC and Trinity Development in May 2019 with an expiration date of June 2019. This agreement was put in place to give Roxian Live, LLC the opportunity to find alternative permanent parking arrangements and monitor the success rate of the first few months of operating while customers are permitted to park in the McKees Rocks Plaza. At this present time, there is no agreement in place but Mr. Rippole is being the “friendly neighbor” and allowing the parking in the private lot. Mr. Rippole will begin to enforce the private parking if it becomes problematic, and will continue to discuss with Roxian Live, LLC other parking alternatives.

Mr. David Flick was present to request Council to reconsider the vote on the nepotism policy that was recently considered during the August 2019 public meeting, with a 5 to 4 vote. Mr. Flick feels the Borough needs to start embracing in best practices and transparency, if we want our tax payers to entrust in the elected officials and administration. Mr. Flick commented that being denied the privilege to speak at a Council meeting regarding this topic simply means that Council doesn’t think a resident has a right to an opinion.

**Last Month’s Minutes:**

A motion was made by Councilman Mixter and seconded by Councilwoman Gee to accept the meeting minutes from August 13, 2019 public meeting. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

## **Committee Reports:**

- **Real Estate Committee:** Councilwoman Delgado reported that an email was sent to Council regarding a workshop on 9/27/19 hosted by Urban Land Development Institute, which will give Council the opportunity to work together with other local developers and other Council's in urban development planning. This workshop is at no cost to the Borough, and two seats were offered. If any Council Member wants to RSVP (one seat remaining), must reply to email contact by 09/16/2019.

- **Communications Committee:** Councilwoman Harvey reported that approximately 40 – 50 Pitt students will be helping with the borough's Fall Community Clean-Up scheduled for Saturday, October 19, 2019. Councilwoman Harvey is requesting Council to consider waiving the Council Chambers rental/cleaning fee, in order for the clean-up group to have space for meeting/drinks/supplies. A motion was made by Councilwoman Gee and seconded by Councilman Mixter to waive the fee cost. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

**McKees Rocks Independent Volunteer Fire Department** provided a written report for the month of August 2019. There were a total of 26 calls, in which 8 were false alarms. 1 of the false alarms was at Hays Manor at Building 7 & 8. Response included 3 motor vehicle accidents, 2 gas leaks, 1 haz-mat alarm, a smell of acetone in an apartment, 1 police assist, 2 EMS assist, 2 wires down and 3 water conditions. There was also 1 brush fire and 3 structure fires, one of those fires being a three-alarm fire on Boquet Street. One firefighter was checked by EMS at the haz-mat call and one person was injured at one of our motor vehicle crashes in August.

To all alarms, response includes the following: Engine 189, 5 times, Engine 189-2, 7 times, Utility 189, 7 times, Truck 189, 3 times, Rescue 189, 2 times and persons in private vehicles responded directly 14 times. Cancelled en route 7 times. Mutual aide provided on all calls by Preston Station 277. In addition, the fire on Boquet Street Seville Station 251, Stowe Station 275, Crafton Station 128 and Moon Run Station 245 provided mutual aid. Total of 189 people responded to the calls in August, averaging 7.3 persons per call.

**McKees Rocks Police Department** provided a written report for August 2019. A total of 763 events were reported. There were 120 cases reported, 30 arrests, and 19 citations (7 traffic, 10 non-traffic, and 2 borough weight citations). Total mileage on patrol vehicles 3,557. Total money submitted to the Borough Manager was \$ 2,470.91.

**Mayors Report:** Mayor Muhr reported that the borough has been contacted by Allegheny County 911 regarding property addresses in the borough that need corrected for emergency management purposes. Mayor Muhr also reported that he contacted Waste Management on Monday morning regarding the missed pick-up in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward on Friday of last week, which affected Sarah Street up to Singer Avenue, and is waiting for a call back.

**Public Affairs Report:** A written public affairs update for September 2019 was provided by Ms. Kim Hileman, Cohen and Grigsby, P.C for Council review. Ms. Hileman was not present.

**Borough Manager's Report:** No report

**Engineer's Report:** A written Borough Engineer's Capsule report was provided to Council during last evening's Caucus meeting and all actions items are included on the Agenda for voting. Councilwoman Delgado suggested that the Chartiers Avenue Landslide repair be addressed, as there is a significant dip in the asphalt toward the top of the hill.

**Solicitor's Report:** Ms. Megan Turnbull stated for meeting minutes recording purposes that she will continue to work with the Mayor and Borough Manager regarding any Waste Management pick-up/billing issues and/or any other general borough business.

**Controller's Report:**

As of August 31, 2019 General Fund, both income and expenses have annual budget of \$3,883,598.00 Expenses totaled \$ 2,533,473.38 or approximately 65.24 % of annual budget. Balance remaining in the annual budget is \$ 1,350,124.62. Balance in the General Fund Checking Account is \$ 151,423.68.

As of August 31, 2019 Sewer Fund, both income and expenses have an annual budget of \$ 1,773,996.00. Expenses totaled \$ 961,366.96 or approximately 54.19 % of the annual budget. Balance remaining in the annual budget is \$ 812,659.05. Balance in the Sewer Fund Savings Account is \$ 637,704.25.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Moye and seconded by Councilwoman Gee to accept the Controller's Report. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

**Bills:** A motion was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilwoman Gee to accept the bills. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

**Agenda:**

1. A motion was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Mixer to move forward from cutting checks to ACH transactions, after coordination with Borough Solicitor regarding policy parameters. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
2. A motion was made by Councilwoman Gee and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve payment to geotechnical engineer in the amount of \$2,653.00 and \$86,290.00 to JG Contacting, Inc. for Chartiers Avenue Landslide repair. Councilwoman Harvey and Councilwoman Delgado opposed, indicating the work should be completed first. Roll call requested resulting in 6 Yes, 2 No (Harvey and Delgado). Motion carries to approve payment(s).
3. A motion was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Mixer to approve the County Snow and Ice Agreement. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
4. A motion was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Mixer to approve proposal from Earth, Inc. in the amount of \$11,000.00 for a geotechnical analysis of Phase I portion of West Carson Street Ext, upon Borough Manager's review of general fund resources. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
5. A motion was made by Councilwoman Gee and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve Borough Resolution 6103 Vacant Property Recovery of 319 Hamilton Street. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
6. A motion was made by Councilwoman Moye and seconded by Councilwoman Harvey to accept recommendations of borough property address corrections from Allegheny County 911. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
7. A motion was made by President Krisby and seconded by Vice-President Evich to approve Borough Resolution No. 6104 accepting the Civil Service Commission's approval of the updated Civil Service Rules and Regulations. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

8. A motion was made by Councilwoman Gee and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve Borough Ordinance No. 1762 adopting Portnoff fees for collection of unpaid real estate taxes. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

**New Business:**

Councilman Myers shared with Council that he recently attended the Borough Association Dinner and Mr. Bob Winters of Homeland Security gave a presentation regarding active shooter preparation and response. There will be an upcoming presentation on 10/21/2019 at the Bethany Presbyterian Church in Bridgeville, PA if anyone is interested in attending (flyer will be passed out to local churches, etc as well). Councilman Myers also shared that the community can call 211 United Way for assistance if they are in need or know someone who is in need of emergency assistance such as utilities payment assistance, mortgage help, divorce/marriage assistance, et al.

Councilwoman Harvey shared with Council that borough residents and small business owners are now able to drop off glass for recycling at CAP Glass/Superior Mulch Location 21 Furnace Street Ext. Monday through Friday 7AM-3:30 PM and 8AM-Noon on Saturdays.

Mayor Muhr shared that the McKees Rocks Volunteer Fire Department is holding their annual "Night at the Races" on November 9, 2019 and is currently selling tickets. The VFD always responds to calls immediately and Mayor Muhr thanks the members for their service.

**Old Business:**

751 Boquet Street: Borough Solicitor commented that the borough is still the owner of this property and discussion needs to continue between Council and Borough Administration regarding the status of disposal (i.e. – demolish, transfer to 3<sup>rd</sup> party) that is in best interest of the community.

Councilman Mixter commented that he and Councilwoman Gee walked around the community in the past to observe the poor condition(s) of the parks and areas that children play. A grant application was submitted to fix up the local parks in the community, and funds (\$460,000) should be available soon. The children in our community deserve updated, clean and safe parks to play and hold recreational activities.

A motion was made by Councilman Mixter and seconded by Councilwoman Gee to adjourn the business portion of the meeting. Meeting adjourned by President Krisby.