

McKees Rocks Borough
Virtual Public Meeting
September 15, 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, Councilman Charles Maritz, and Councilman Archie Brinza.

Councilmembers Absent: Vice-President Kathy Evich

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

Borough Manager Ruth A. Pompey was Absent

Agenda Comments/Changes: Ms. Maribeth Taylor, resident of 1215 Holmes Street, was present to express her concerns to Council regarding the topic “Do you believe this town will ever get better” and her overall opinion was “I don’t know.” Ms. Taylor touched on multiple points during her public comments such as she is concerned about Giant Eagle Get-Go not being a good tenant on the Pat Catan’s lot commenting they haven’t even cut the grass since they applied for land development site plan approval, the Allegheny County Housing Authority building plans changing losing one floor with no restaurant, and also concerned about 708 Chartiers Avenue demolition clean-up still not being complete after two years of the fire.

Guest Speaker: Ms. Tiaunna Woodson, resident of Church Avenue was present to address Council regarding the rodent infestation issue along the 1100 block of Church Avenue (including the vacant property 1146 Church Ave) dating back to 2017. Ms. Woodson states she and other residents have been battling this safety issue with no resolution and has personally paid for interior extermination and exterior baiting around her property. Ms. Woodson is seeking assistance from the Borough for the safety of herself, her son who has an immune issue, as well as other residents and does not want to have to sell her property because the issue can not be remedied. Councilman Brinza responded he recently has been made aware of this issue and has been working with the Street Department on cleaning up some of the overgrowth of the 1146 Church Avenue vacant property, which is listed to be demolished in the future. President Krisby also commented he will discuss the issue along with Councilman Brinza to see what else can be done to correct the problem.

Reading of the Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Walker and seconded by Councilman Brinza to approve the public meeting minutes from August 11, 2020. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

Committee Reports:

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

- Council Committees None
- Council of Government (COG) – Councilwoman Delgado reported that COG will be resuming their monthly meeting this month on Thursday, September 17, 2020 as they have been off for the previous two months.

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 September 2020.

Mayors Report: Mayor Muhr reported talking to the Code Enforcement Officer of Stowe Township regarding rental property owner Alice Street Investments, that no citations have been paid to Stowe Township either. Mayor Muhr pulled the court records here, currently 17 citations with only \$150.00 payment.

Communications:

- Borough Manager – None
- Borough Engineer – Mr. Douglas Evans read the monthly Capsule Engineer’s Report to Council. Borough Engineer recommends Council to award Insight Pipe Contracting LLC as the low bidder for the 2020 Sewer Cleaning and Televising in the amount of \$53,095.75.
- Borough Solicitor –Ms. Megan Turnbull stated for meeting record purposes there will be an executive session tonight to discuss litigation matters as well as personnel issues, there is a tax assessment hearing for Speedway scheduled next week, the tax assessment hearing for Roxian Theater was canceled due to closed for COVID-19, and the Covenant Agreement for Ranger’s Field has been executed by the borough and will be filed later this week.
- Building Code Official Monthly Activity Report - A written August 2020 activity report was provided to Council for review by Mr. John Stahl, and on file at the Borough Manager’s office.

Councilwoman Harvey had questions regarding the difference between the job duties of the Building Code Official vs. the Code Enforcement Officer and had some concerns regarding a recent demolition project that occurred along Singer Avenue.

- Code Enforcement Officer Monthly Activity Report - A written August 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 August 31, 2020, General Fund, both income and expenses have an annual budget of \$4,648,048.00. Expenses totaled \$2,866,836.43 or approximately 61.68 % of annual budget. Balance remaining of the annual budget is \$1,781,211.57. Balance remaining in the General Fund Checking Account is \$370,197.62 as of August 31, 2020.

As of August 31, 2020, Sewer Fund, both income and expenses have an annual budget of \$1,958,446.00. Expenses totaled \$1,148, 428.44 or approximately 58.64% of the annual budget. Balance remaining of the annual budget is \$810,017.56. Balance remaining in the Sewer Fund Savings Account is \$249,429.34 as of August 31, 2020.

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

Bills:

A motion was made by Councilman Mixter and seconded by Councilwoman Walker to accept the bills. Councilwoman Delgado abstained as she did not receive a copy to review. Motion carries.

Agenda:

1. A motion was made by Councilman Mixter and seconded by Councilwoman Walker to award Insight Pipe Contracting, LLC as the low bidder for the 2020 Sewer Cleaning and Televising in the amount of \$53,095.75. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
2. Parking issue on MetroPCS sidewalk, Chartiers Ave: Councilwoman Harvey is requesting a yellow line and a no parking sign placed along the corner of MetroPCS's sidewalk area in response to a high volume of cars parking illegally along Chartiers Avenue.
3. Rodent issue at 1146 Church Avenue – Request of Baiting (Previously discussed).
4. Lower Chartiers Watershed Assoc. Cleanup 9/26/2020: Councilwoman Harvey presented the annual Lower Chartiers Creek cleanup between Crafton and McKees Rocks and is requesting Council to approve the Street Department to assist by blocking the municipal lot or emptying dumpster, et al. A motion was made by Councilman Brinza and seconded by Councilwoman Walker. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
5. McKees Rocks Code of Conduct: Councilwoman Harvey presented the McKees Rocks Code of Conduct, mentioning other municipalities have a similar document in place and Council should consider approving so we hold ourselves accountable. A motion was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilwoman Harvey. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
6. PennDOT Snow Removal Agreement/Resolution: Solicitor Turnbull presented on behalf of Borough Manager Pompey, indicating the agreement is due for a five (5) year renewal and the rates are set as indicated in the agreement for the salting and plowing for the state roads in the borough. A motion was made by Councilman Brinza and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve the PennDOT Snow Removal Agreement/Resolution. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
7. 2021 McKees Rocks Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO): Solicitor Turnbull presented on behalf of Borough Manager Pompey, indicating that the 2021 MMO requirements are required to be considered by Council by September 30th as part of the upcoming 2021 budget. A motion was made by Councilman Maritz and seconded by Councilwoman Walker to approve the 2021 McKees Rocks Minimum Municipal Obligation. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
8. McKees Rocks Borough Salt Boxes Painting Project: Councilman Maritz presented the McKees Rocks Borough Salt Boxes Painting Project, at the request of Lynne Deliman and Sandy Saban who would like to work with Sto-Rox High School art students and the Father Ryan Arts Center to paint the borough's salt boxes with winter themed art work. All artwork would be presented to Council for review and approval prior to painting. A motion was made by Councilman Brinza and seconded by Councilwoman Harvey to approve the salt box painting project. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
9. Occupancy Permits: Councilman Maritz is recommending Council have a final say of any business/commercial occupancy permit because occupancy permits on certain businesses shouldn't have been issued. Councilman Maritz is suggesting a three (3) tier review process – Building Code Official, Chief of Police, and Council. Speak Easy is one example of a business that was issued an occupancy permit, that has now become an issue for the police (town). Chief Deliman confirmed he could not do a criminal background check on the applicant, but he could definitely work with the Building Code

Official on what information he potentially knows about the applicant asking for a permit.

10. Police Department Officer Training – Councilwoman Walker was present to ask what our police department is currently doing with training during the protests and BLM situation. Chief Deliman responded that he is always sending our officers to training on a rotating basis, monthly and constantly reading up on literature regarding training updates and forwards any updates to the officers via email. Chief Deliman knows the Governor signed a new bill for the MOPEC training for 2021 training regarding racial relations. Councilwoman Walker also asked about how the borough is doing about hiring African American police officers. Chief Deliman responded there has never been an issue, and Sgt Finerty currently has two (2) applicants for police officers. One applicant has to take the certification exam over and the other applicant for financial reasons is staying with the current employer.
11. President Krisby is requesting Council to consider amending Amusement Tax Ordinance No. 1417, decreasing from 10% to 5% effective November 1, 2020. A motion was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilwoman Walker to authorize advertisement of Ordinance 1417 amendment for Council adoption at upcoming meeting. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
12. Councilman Brinza is requesting Council to set McKees Rocks Trick-or-Treat for October 31st from 6pm to 8pm, to align with Stowe Township. A motion was made by Councilwoman Walker and seconded by Councilwoman Harvey. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

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