

McKees Rocks Borough
Virtual Public Meeting
November 10, 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 Charles Maritz
Councilmembers Absent: Vice-President Kathy Evich and Councilman Archie Brinza

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, of Weiss Burkhardt Kramer, LLC, and Borough Engineer Mr. Douglas Evans, of NIRA Consulting Engineers, Inc.

Agenda Comments/Changes: None

Guest Speaker: Ms. Kinsey Miller – Community Forester of Tree Pittsburgh was present to address Council regarding the tree canopy of Allegheny County with the idea of protecting and planting new trees for the future in McKees Rocks. Data collected from 2010 and 2015 showed an overall loss of 15 acres in all counties. Due to technical difficulties, Ms. Miller was unable to finish her presentation and agreed to send information to Councilwoman Harvey to share with Council and set up a future meeting with the Borough.

Mr. Keegan Henrikson requested to address Council re: Borough Ordinance 1753 Section D. Licensing Fees, but was no longer in attendance. Councilwoman Harvey advised Mr. Henrikson was on the Webex video/phone conference meeting but signed off earlier.

Reading of the Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Maritz and seconded by Councilwoman Walker to approve the public meeting minutes from October 13, 2020. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

Committee Reports:

- McKees Rocks Police Department October 2020 Activity Report (on file at the Borough Manager Office)
- McKees Rocks Independent Volunteer Fire Department October 2020 Activity Report (on file at the Borough Manager Office)
- Council Committees None
- Council of Government (COG) – Councilman Mixter commented that he requested COG to send over information about grants to the borough office for review.

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 November 2020.

Mayors Report: Mayor Muhr reported many abandoned vehicles being tagged/towed, as well as violations being written for properties in violation of garbage pile up. Mayor Muhr also commented that he likes the idea behind Ms. Miller's presentation, however we have current property owners who don't take care of their trees on their property.

Communications:

- Borough Manager – Borough Manager Pompey provided the 2021 preliminary operating budget to Council for review. Borough Manager Pompey explained the 2021 preliminary budget mirrors the 2020 budget, pointing out that the revenue collection regarding real estate and garbage collection for 2020 is still good even with COVID-19 as a factor. Borough Manager Pompey indicated to Council that she is open to any suggestions.
- Borough Engineer – Mr. Douglas Evans read the monthly Capsule Engineer's Report to Council. Borough Engineer recommends Council to consider passing six (6) concurring resolutions and (1) slum and blight resolution for the Year 47 CDBG Grant Applications.
- Borough Solicitor –Ms. Megan Turnbull stated for meeting minute purposes that she is requesting an executive session with Council to discuss legal and personnel issues after the business portion of the meeting. Ms. Turnbull also presented a LERTA Resolution to Council regarding the Roxian Theatre located at 425 Chartiers Avenue, explaining the document at length suggesting Council should consider the Resolution during tonight's meeting, with effective date January 1, 2020.
- Building Code Official Monthly Activity Report - A written October 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 - None

Controllers Report: As of October 31, 2020, General Fund, both income and expenses have an annual budget of \$ 4,648,048.00. Expenses totaled \$3,556,080.00 or approximately 76.51 % of annual budget. Income is \$4,327,824.22 or 93.11 % of the budgeted income. Balance remaining in the General Fund Checking Account is \$ 493,104.36 as of October 31, 2020.

As of October 31, 2020, Sewer Fund, both income and expenses have an annual budget of \$1,958,446.00. Expenses totaled \$ 1,509,525.31 or approximately 77.08 % of the annual budget. Income is \$1,247,388.24 or 63.69% of the budgeted income. Balance remaining in the Sewer Fund is \$311,426.60 as of October 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 Myers and seconded by Councilman Mixer to accept the bills. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

Agenda:

1. A motion was made by Councilman Mixer and seconded by Councilwoman Walker to approve the six CDBG Grant Resolutions and one Slum & Blight Resolution for Year 47 applications.– Phase 2 project. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
2. President Krisby presented the resignation of Tom McAllister as Code Enforcement Officer. A motion was made by Councilwoman Walker and seconded by Councilman Myers to accept the resignation of Tom McAllister as Code Enforcement Officer. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
3. President Krisby presented the Gaming Economic Development & Tourism Fund (GEDTF) Grant Award in the amount of \$85,501.00. Councilwoman Harvey questioned if this grant is to only be used at Ranger’s Field or all parks. President Krisby confirmed the grant is for all parks. A Motion was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Maritz to accept the Gaming Economic Development & Tourism Fund (GEDTF) Grant Award \$85,501.00. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
4. A motion was made by Councilman Maritz and seconded by Councilwoman Walker to accept the Roxian LERTA Resolution, with effective date 01/01/2020 presented during Borough Solicitor’s communications report. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
5. President Krisby presented the 2021 TAN Loan, advising Council of the proposed amount of \$250,000.00. A motion was made by Councilman Mixer and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve the 2021 TAN Loan in the amount of \$250.000. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
6. Borough Solicitor Turnbull explained the advertising requirements for the 2021 Preliminary Budget, indicating Council should consider approval to advertise the availability of the 2021 preliminary budget for December 2020 meeting adoption mentioning changes can be made during the December 2020 meeting. A motion was made by Councilwoman Walker and seconded by Councilman Mixer to approve the advertisement of the 2021 preliminary budget availability. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
7. President Krisby discussed the Building Code Official and Code Enforcement Officer have been sharing one vehicle, requesting Council to authorize the Borough Manager to pursue purchasing another vehicle for Code Enforcement. A motion was made by Councilman Mixer. Councilwoman Delgado questioned if this motion was replacing the current vehicle or to purchase a second vehicle. President Krisby confirmed it would be to purchase a second used vehicle. Councilwoman Delgado agreed. Motion carries.
8. Borough Solicitor Turnbull presented Borough Ordinance 1768 Amusement Tax Amendment, indicating the effective date would be 12/1/2020 changing the rate from 10% to 5%. A motion was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilwoman Harvey to approve Borough Ordinance 1768. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
9. Borough Solicitor Turnbull presented to Council the proposed 2021 Council meeting dates. Borough Solicitor Turnbull explained that if Council wants to consider adding the Monday evening workshop back onto the monthly meeting schedule, the Borough could advertise the 2-meeting schedule each month for 2021 and Council could then cancel the Monday evening workshop as needed. A motion was made by Councilwoman Walker and seconded by Councilman Mixer to approve the advertisement of the 2021 meeting schedule as Borough Solicitor Turnbull suggested. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

10. Councilwoman Walker presented Borough Resolution 876 regarding borough employee sick and vacation time, tabled from the October 2020 meeting indicating that “something needs done about this, as it’s been on the books.” Councilwoman Harvey commented that it was tabled for Council discussion which hasn’t happened yet as a group, and that it needs dug into to review documents and it needs to be discussed in executive session. Councilwoman Delgado and President Krisby agreed that it should be discussed during executive session.
11. Councilwoman Walker presented the Borough Council handbook asking Council to review for the best interest of community and for further discussion. President Krisby confirmed the discussion of the handbook could be done during executive session.
12. Councilwoman Walker presented the idea of purchasing body cameras for the police department suggesting the police department/borough start looking into public safety grants. Obtaining body cameras per Councilwoman Walker is for the safety of officers and the community. Chief Deliman responded the police department is in need of new car cameras and is suggesting looking for a grant that could possibly cover the cost of car cameras as well as body cameras. President Krisby advised he will contact Ms. Kim Hileman to see if she can be of any help for public safety grants.
13. President Krisby presented the twelve student art drawings of the salt boxes, brought by Ms. Lynne Deliman for Council approval. All twelve drawings were approved, but the best drawing by majority Council vote will receive a gift card. Street Department Foreman Mr. Bobby Thompson confirmed 12 new salt boxes were built to replace old, damaged salt boxes and there is a total of 20 salt boxes for the community.

Old Business

Councilwoman Harvey asked if any contact has been made with CSX regarding the trains blocking River Road for extended periods of time, as it was mentioned prior to Fire Chief Radoycis for the concern of emergency response time. Councilman Maritz commented that it has been noted for years that the VFD route is across the McKees Rocks Bridge to access the Bottoms.

Councilwoman Harvey also asked if the Borough could contact PennDOT regarding adding signs such as “Slow down, Save a Life” to the McKees Rocks Bridge regarding speeding, as there has been way too many accidents (including fatalities) on the bridge. The most recent car accident involved a fatality of a young female. President Krisby commented he would contact Rep. Deasy about possible sign placement.

New Business

Mayor Muhr commented there is an interested buyer for three lots along Island Ave (near Harriet Street Park) for his business of pallet storage. A motion was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Maritz to request a business plan from this person of interest. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

President Krisby adjourned the business portion of the meeting, and Council held an executive session to discuss legal and personnel issues.