

McKees Rocks Borough
Public Meeting
December 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 Maribeth Taylor, Council Walker, Council Craig Myers, Council Sarah Harvey, and Council Joe Mixer. Also present were Mayor John “Jack” Muhr, Borough Manager Ruth A. Pompey, Controller Julia Chambers, 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. Vice-President Kathy Evich participated via phone.

Agenda Comments/Changes: Chief Richard Deliman introduced two newly hired fulltime police officers, Mr. Eric Cercosimo and Mr. Jonathan Bawkey.

Guest Speaker:

- Mr. Steven Sadvary, a local artist/resident was present to address Council with the proposal of creating an art mural on the wall at 3rd Street Park with assistance of volunteers through University of Pittsburgh, if awarded funding to cover the cost range of \$3,000-\$5,000.00 through a grant application. Mr. Sadvary indicated time length to complete the project would be one to two weekends. A motion was made by Councilwoman Taylor and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve the art mural project, pending approval of funding.
- Mr. James Levandosky, resident was present to explain the difference between “1 man rule” vs. home rule charter, as Mr. Levandosky understands it was recently mentioned on social media describing how McKees Rocks has one person on Council with too much power (which is not true). Home rule charter is a movement to bring responsibility and power to the people/group, with procedures to follow, not 1 single person having all the authority. For example, a resident with a zoning application has to follow procedure and meet with multiple officials for recommendation and approval(s); it’s not just one person telling you how to do something.
- Ms. Verdeen Gary, resident/taxpayer/borough employee was present to ask Council if McKees Rocks has an Amusement Ordinance. Councilwoman Delgado and other council members responded several, including pinball machines, poker machines, live entertainment, pool tables, dart boards, juke boxes. Ms. Gary then asked if we know about this Ordinance, why aren’t certain businesses paying for it? Councilwoman Delgado responded saying “because we don’t know about them.” Councilman Myers responded back saying “oh we know about them.” Ms. Gary commented that we definitely know about the Roxian Theater, Black Forge Coffee, and PK’s Place which all fall under live entertainment.

Ms. Gary pointed out the reason she brought this up is because she understands that the borough workers were not qualified for a pay raise at last evenings meeting, that the workers don’t deserve a raise as they don’t do anything. Councilwoman Taylor responded to Ms. Gary stating that she personally said during last evening’s meeting that if wasn’t that raises aren’t deserved, it was certain amounts being handed out are outrageous when the national average is 2.9 %. Councilwoman Taylor states the discussion that came up during last evening meeting involved how are we giving out high raises when things aren’t being done in the borough. Ms. Gary was speaking on behalf of all borough staff that all deserve raises, for working extra

hard and getting the job done. Ms. Gary feels if the borough would enforce the amusement tax on these certain businesses that they know about, there would be no problem giving borough workers raises they deserve.

Last Month's Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Mixer to accept the meeting minutes from November 12, 2019 public meeting, as amended. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

Committee Reports: None

Council of Government: Councilwoman Delgado will be sending out COG's December 2019 handout to Council for review and the next meeting will be held in Bridgeville, PA.

McKees Rocks Independent Volunteer Fire Department provided a written report for the month of November 2019. There were a total of 29 calls, in which 4 were false alarms. Hays Manor false alarms included one in Building 1 & 2 and one at Building 7 & 8. Response included 2 EMS assist, 3 wires down, 2 water conditions, 3 C O alarms, and 1 lock out. Also responded to 7 structure fires, in which 2 of them in McKees Rocks could have been serious if in middle of night when people were asleep. One fire was in Kennedy and one in Ross Township. One person was hurt on a call in November.

To all alarms, response includes the following: Engine 189, 23 times, Engine 189-2, 2 times, Utility 189, 3 times, Truck 189, 3 times, and persons in private vehicles responded directly 18 times. Cancelled en route 5 times. Mutual aide provided on all calls by Preston Station 277. In addition, Seville Station 251 provided aid 1 time to a structure fire. We provided aid to Kennedy Station 181 1 time and Station 251 Seville as well, for structure fires. The new quint, a combination ladder truck and engine will be here in January 2020. Total of 184 people responded to the calls in November, averaging 6.3 persons per call.

McKees Rocks Police Department provided a written report for November 2019. A total of 719 events were reported. There were 108 cases reported, 29 arrests, and 37 citations (5 traffic, 32 non-traffic). Total mileage on patrol vehicles 3,915 Total money submitted to the Borough Manager was \$ 1,922.20.

Mayors Report: Mayor Muhr commented that he has been working with Allegheny County 911 regarding the suggested address changes in the borough for public safety response and understands the hardship it will be on the property owners. There are three (3) specific addresses that are in desperate need of changes for address duplication reasons, and the Mayor confirms the borough will make necessary corrections. Allegheny County 911 has agreed to withhold on making changes of other suggestions for now. Mayor Muhr also commented that the McKees Rocks VFD new fire truck is here, and has all been paid for by grant funding.

Public Affairs Report: Cohen & Grigsby, P.C. November/December Update 2019 Report available for Council review. Ms. Hileman was not present. Councilwoman Delgado had a question about information provided on line item # 7. President Krisby advised Councilwoman Delgado to contact Ms. Hileman directly for clarification.

Borough Manager's Report: Ms. Pompey provided Council a packet of financials for review. No verbal report given.

Borough Engineer's Report: Borough Engineer capsule report provided to Council during December 9, 2019 Caucus meeting, and voting items are on agenda this evening for consideration. Councilwoman Delgado asked if any update can be provided regarding the grant funding for dirt road repair. No update available at this time.

Borough Solicitor's Report: Ms. Megan Turnbull stated for meeting minutes purposes that there are action items listed later on the agenda for Council to consider regarding 2020 budget adoption as well as a Resolution to fix the tax rate for 2020, as nothing has been suggested by Council to change the tax rate. Ms. Turnbull noted that the preliminary budget can be reopened at any time and changed, but is required to be advertised at least 10 days prior to final adoption. Council Mixer asked Ms. Turnbull if she heard anything from the Allegheny County Housing Authority regarding Hays Manor. Ms. Turnbull responded saying she sent an email and got a response with a possibility of setting up a meeting with the ACHA sometime in early January 2020 to discuss the conditions of the Hays Manor community.

Controller's Report:

As of November 30, 2019 General Fund, both income and expenses have annual budget of \$3,883,598.00 Expenses totaled \$ 3, 759,447.84 or approximately 96.8 % of annual budget. Balance remaining in the annual budget is \$ 124, 150.16.

Balance in the General Fund Checking Account is \$ 424,900.04.

As of November 30, 2019 Sewer Fund, both income and expenses have an annual budget of \$1,773,996.00. Expenses totaled \$ 1,471,099.37 or approximately 82.93 % of the annual budget. Balance remaining in the annual budget is \$ 302, 896.63.

Balance in the Sewer Fund Savings Account is \$ 744, 295.83.

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

Bills: A motion was made by Councilwoman Walker and seconded by Councilman Mixer to pay the bills. Councilwoman Taylor questioned line item # 28104 – Christmas donation fund. Borough Manager explained it was a donation check payable to the borough for Christmas gifts for the Hays Manor Christmas community event. Borough Manager cashed the donation check, and then issued a check to Councilwoman Walker to purchase the gifts for the event.

Agenda:

1. A motion was made by Councilwoman Walker and seconded by Councilwoman Taylor to advertise the Borough of McKees Rocks 2020 Council Meeting Schedule. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
2. A motion was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Mixer to advertise the 2020 Preliminary Budget in the local Gazette 2.0. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
3. A motion was made by President Krisby and seconded by Councilwoman Walker to advertise a Special Council Meeting (Monday, 12/30/2019) to adopt the 2020 Preliminary Budget. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
4. A motion was made by Councilwoman Harvey and seconded by Councilwoman Walker to authorize Char-West COG to process payment application no. 1 in the amount of \$ 35,565.67 to

MJR Construction Services, LLC for the Island Avenue Sidewalk Replacement project. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

5. A motion was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Mixter to authorize payment no. 5 in the amount of \$15,336.51 to John T. Subrick, Inc for the Gardner Street Replacement project pending receipt of CFA funding. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
6. A motion was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilwoman Walker to authorize payment application no. 1 in the amount of \$57,996.45 to T.A. Robinson for Adrian Street repair. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
7. A motion was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Mixter to adopt 2020 First National Bank TAN Loan Resolution as follows: \$500,000.00, 2.3 % interest for 12 months. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
8. A motion was made by Councilman Mixter and seconded by Councilman Myers to authorize Borough Manager to execute documents pertaining to 2020 TAN Loan requirements. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
9. A motion was made by Councilwoman Walker and seconded by Councilwoman Taylor to adopt Borough Resolution No 6106, fixing tax rates for the Fiscal Year 2020 keeping same rate of 2019 (9.40 mill combined – 8.63 mills general borough and .77 mill for VFD purposes). Motion was adopted by acclamation.

New Business:

Councilwoman Harvey mentioned there was recent road work done on St. John Street near St. Mary's Church, and bricks are stacked in piles on the sidewalk and the street is left as patchwork. Councilwoman Harvey is asking if the bricks can be put back down. Borough Engineer confirmed he will look into the utility company who did the road work and check on restoration status.

Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to give the School Crossing Guards a \$10.00/day pay raise (increasing up to \$50.00/day) starting in the budget year 2020. Councilwoman Taylor states they haven't had a pay raise in fifteen years and used to be paid \$10.00 hourly, no matter how many hours they worked. Currently, it's a standard \$40.00/day. Mayor Muhr agreed with Councilwoman Taylor, but knows the School District isn't reimbursing the borough for the Crossing Guards wages. Councilwoman Taylor blames the district not currently having a Business Manager as the reason the district isn't reimbursing the borough for the Crossing Guard wages. Ms. Samantha Levitzki suggested the Borough Manager email the Superintendent to address the Crossing Guards reimbursement issue and possibly come up with a plan to share the cost with the district to cover the cost of the pay raise for the Crossing Guards. A motion was made by Councilwoman Taylor and seconded by Councilman Mixter to approve a \$10.00/day pay increase for the School Crossing Guards in the 2020 budget, pending a shared agreement with the school district.

Old Business:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Walker and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve 1236 Holmes Street Handicap Parking Application. Councilwoman Taylor opposed. Roll called requested, resulting in 8 Yes, 1 No (Taylor). Motion carries.

Councilwoman Harvey was asking for status update of the municipal lot bus shelter relocation to the Rite Aid location, as previously discussed last year. President Krisby advised written permission was never received from the actual property owner to relocate the bus shelter. Councilwoman Taylor motioned to authorize Borough Solicitor write a letter to property owner of Rite Aid asking permission to relocate the bus shelter and place a pad for relocation, as Councilwoman Walker seconded the motion. All members agreed. Motion adopted by acclamation.

Community Reminders:

Blight Property Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2020 6:00 PM at Roxian Theater

Councilman Mixter wanted to recognize the Sto-Rox Little Vikings for their attendance at Heinz Field recently and thank Chief Deliman and his wife, as well as the Sto-Rox High School Band for their assistance with feeding over 200 meals at the American Legion.

A motion was made by President Krisby to adjourn the business portion of the meeting, and break for an executive session to address litigation issues requested by the Borough Solicitor. Meeting adjourned by President Krisby.