

McKees Rocks Borough  
Public Meeting  
December 11, 2018  
7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by President of Council, Mr. Paul Krisby. President Krisby requested roll call. Present were Council Elizabeth Delgado, Council Maribeth Taylor, 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. Mr. Douglas Evans from NIRA Consulting Engineers and Borough Solicitor Ms. Megan Turnbull, of Weiss Burkhardt Kramer, LLC was present. Vice-President Kathy Evich, Council Shallegra Moye, and Controller Julia Chambers were absent.

**Agenda Comments/Changes:** None

**Guest Speaker:**

- Ms. Jeannie Hughes was present to express her continued concern regarding the abandon/vacant houses in the community. Ms. Hughes feels that the new code enforcement officer(s) are doing a wonderful job, but there is just “so much to do.” Residents are to the point of disgust that they want to put their houses up for sale and leave. Ms. Hughes was looking for ideas how to get funding for demolition, suggesting the McKees Rocks CDC get involved which was discussed in past using grant money. Councilwoman Taylor commented that Ms. Hughes would have to talk with the McKees Rocks CDC directly. Councilwoman Taylor suggested reaching out to our county councilman regarding charging additional \$15.00 for every property sale which would put money in a demolition fund. Allegheny County currently does not participate. Council Myers commented that for 2019, the Borough is working on a demolition plan which is in the early stages of discussion.
- Mr. Donald Baird, III Coordinator of McKees Rocks Emergency Operations Management was present to advise Council that the current Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) dated January 2016 is due for review and approval by the Borough Council effective for the upcoming 2019 calendar year. President Krisby advised that this topic is an action item for voting later this evening.
- Ms. Kimberly Hileman, of Cohen & Grigsby was present to give updates on grants and funding the Borough is currently receiving or applying for 2019. The Borough received a total of 2.6 million in grants for 2018 in which the RCAP grant of 2.5 million is to secure a new construction of the Allegheny County Housing Authority and additional \$100,000.00 to assist in pedestrian stairway improvement project. Also, the Borough is currently awaiting a transportation grant announcement, going toward the extension of Intermodal Way. Ideas for 2019 include utilizing casino revenue funds for economic grants, and other grant funding to assist in blight property, new construction, park improvements, and improvements to Borough building. Council Taylor is asking Ms. Hileman to look into any possible grant funding for demolition projects for 2019. Upon questioning from Council Harvey and Council Delgado, Ms. Hileman confirmed that the Borough of McKees Rocks is the only municipality that Cohen & Grigsby represents for lobbying affairs and Cohen & Grigsby is still working during the month of December when not in Harrisburg.
- Ms. Carolyn Yagle, of Economic Planning and Design was present to update Council on the process of rezoning of the Borough. Ms. Yagle commented that focus groups have been consistently meeting at the Borough, and the goal of these meetings is to rezone the Borough in that it's in the best interest of the Borough's healthy, safety, and welfare. Ms. Yagle will continue to work with the Borough Solicitor and formulate a document for review possibly by January 2019. This document will include what the new

Borough Ordinance will enforce, including explanations and procedures for conditional use vs. permitted uses by right for example.

#### **Last Month's Minutes:**

A motion was made by Council Myers and seconded by Council Mixter to dispense the reading of November 13, 2018 combined Caucus/Public Meeting minutes. The motion was adopted by acclamation.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- Council Harvey read the November 2018 activity report from the McKees Rocks Independent Volunteer Fire Department. The Fire Department received a total of 33 calls. There were 9 false alarms, two at Hays Manor in Building 19 and Building 20-21. Response also included 4 motor vehicle accidents, in which one accident on the McKees Rocks Bridge resulted in a fatality. There were also 4 gas leaks/smell of gas, 2 CO alarms, one haz-mat call, 3 assist EMS and 1 assist Police. There was 1 car fire and 7 structure fires. 4 of the structure fires were to assist Kennedy, Station 1841. One person was hurt on a call during November.

Engine 189 responded to 15 incidents. Engine 189-2 one time, Rescue 189 1 time, Utility 189 1 time, and persons in private vehicles responded directly to scene 22 times. VFD cancelled enroute 11 times. Mutual aid provided by Presston Station 277 on all calls. In addition, both VFD and Stowe Station 275 responded to all accidents on the McKees Rocks Bridge. VFD provided aid to Kennedy, Station 181 4 times for a structure fire and Allegheny County dispatched us to an incident in Pittsburgh by mistake twice, once to Stowe and once to White Oak. Total person response from Station 189 to calls in November was 187 averaging 5.6 persons per call.

- Council Harvey read the monthly Activity Report from the McKees Rocks Police Department for November 2018. Chief Deliman reported a total of 640 events. There were 108 cases reported, 39 arrests, 29 citations (20 traffic, 9 non-traffic), and 14 impounded vehicles. Total mileage on patrol vehicles 3,832. Total money submitted to the Borough Manager was \$5,336.55.

#### **Council Committee Reports:**

Council Delgado reported that the Borough website is LIVE, and she will be emailing a Step by Step guide to Council on how to add/edit personal biographies on the webpage. Council Delgado mentioned she would assist other Councilmembers if needed on how to add information to the website. Council Delgado also commented that the COG Take Back Sheet was previously emailed to Council for review and the Borough is scheduled to host the February 2019 COG dinner.

#### **Mayors Report:**

Code Enforcement Report by Mayor Muhr for the month of October 2018 included 12 violations, 3 citations, 2 towed cars, and 2 ½ hours of court time. November 2018 report included 6 violations, 6 towed cars, and 1 ½ hours of court time. Mr. Bradley Bosetti recently reached out to the Mayor offering assistance for property clean-up. Mayor Muhr requested clean-up assistance at 411 Broadway, 331 Broadway, and 314 Copeland/Valley. Mayor Muhr also contacted Uansa Village regarding the overflowing dumpsters and mattresses being left by residents. Also, the trailer being used for storage at the fish club on Helen Street needs to be removed, and the owner will remove it by Spring 2019.

#### **Borough Manager's Report:**

The phone system proposals requested by Council for review are included in this evening's Council packets.

**Engineer's Report:** A written report was provided to Council during last evening's Caucus meeting and there are no additional items to report at this time.

**Solicitor's Report:** Solicitor Turnbull reported for meeting minute recording purposes that Council is to consider two action items this evening in regards to CSX development, which is dating back to 2016.

**Controller's Report:**

As of November 30, 2018 General Fund, both income and expenses have annual budget of \$3,839,218.00. Expenses totaled \$3,212,154.73 approximately 83.67 % of annual budget. Balance remaining in the annual budget is \$627,063.27. Balance in the General Fund Checking Account is \$234,052.86.

As of November 30, 2018 Sewer Fund, both income and expenses have an annual budget of \$1,694,243.00. Expenses totaled \$1,260,256.56; approximately 74.38 % of the annual budget. Balance remaining in the annual budget is \$ 433,986.44. Balance in the Sewer Fund Savings Account is \$338,921.07.

A motion was made by Council Taylor and seconded by President Krisby to accept the Controller's Report. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

**Bills:**

Prior to motioning to accept the bills, Council Taylor questioned line item(s) 27402 Cohen & Grigsby amount, asking why \$10,000.00 was paid when monthly fee is \$5,000.00. Borough Manager advised the payment was for 2 months (November and December); though Council Taylor suggests we already paid November. Council Delgado is suggesting that we start bookkeeping 1<sup>st</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, instead of mid-month, as she feels it's too confusing for Council tracking. Council Taylor also briefly commented about the expense the Borough is incurring for water use of staff, line item 27441 which Council Taylor feels in not a necessity. In regards to changing the transaction dates from mid-month to 1<sup>st</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, Solicitor Turnbull stated that a policy would need created with specific details regarding Administration processing Borough invoices and issuing payments. A motion was made by Council Gee and seconded by Council Mixer to pay the bills. Council Delgado and Council Taylor opposed. Roll call was requested, resulting in 5 Yes – 2 No (Council Taylor and Council Delgado). Motion carried.

**Agenda:**

1. A motion was made by Council Myers and seconded by Council Harvey to accept Pineapple Payments as an electronic payment resource for the Borough. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
2. A motion was made by Council Gee and seconded by Council Mixer to approve Pay Application No. 2 for Insight Pipe Contacting, LLC in the amount of \$14,043.13. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
3. A motion was made by Council Taylor and seconded by Council Gee to approve the CSX 90-day extension for approval of subdivision plan recording. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
4. A motion was made by Council Mixer and seconded by Council Myers to authorize CSX Facility Encroachment Agreement, subject to final review by Borough Solicitor and Borough Engineer. Motion adopted by acclamation.
5. A motion was made by Council Myers and seconded by Council Mixer to accept Cohen & Grigsby registration renewal in the amount of \$300.00. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

6. A motion was made by Council Harvey and seconded by Council Taylor to accept CONNECT membership fee in the amount of \$487.00. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
7. A motion was made by Council Taylor and seconded by Council Mixter to update (if necessary) the McKees Rocks Emergency Operations Plan for January 2019. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
8. A motion to table accepting the 2017 Municipal Audit & Financial Report until January 2019 meeting was made by Council Delgado and seconded by Council Taylor, to give Council additional time to review. Council Mixter opposed. Roll call requested, resulting in 5 Yes – 2 No (Council Mixter and Council Gee). Motion carried.
9. A motion was made by Council Taylor and seconded by Council Harvey to advertise Request for Proposals (RFP) for Garbage and Recycling Contract effective April 1, 2019. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
10. A motion was made by Council Delgado and seconded by Council Taylor to start the Drug Take Back Program. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
11. A motion was made by Council Gee and seconded by Council Myers to accept the Codification of Ordinances Proposal from General Code. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
12. A motion was made by Council Taylor and seconded by Council Delgado to table approving new Borough phone system until January 2019 meeting, to give Council additional time to review proposals. Council Mixter opposed. Roll call requested, resulting in 4 Yes – 3 No (Council Mixter, Council Myers, and Council Gee). Motion carried.

**New Business:**

Borough Engineer just wanted to make Council aware that a letter was sent to the Borough regarding the services provided by Garvin Boward Beitko Engineering, Inc. at Chartiers Ave. Ext, and the invoice is included in this month's billing itemization.

**Old Business:**

Council Taylor motioned to table the discussion/vote regarding PaloALTO Partners until January 2019 meeting as Council Moye was absent and requested to be present for this agenda item.

A motion was made by Council Taylor and seconded by Council Gee to temporarily adjourn the business portion of the meeting and break for an executive session to discuss legal and/or personnel matters at 8:44 PM.

Public meeting re-convened at 10:05 PM to address the remaining agenda voting items:

1. A motion was made by Council Taylor and seconded by Council Gee to approve the handicap parking application for resident Ms. Kathy Olsen, at 823 O'Donovan Street.
2. A motion was made by Council Taylor and seconded by Council Myers to approve the 2019 general fund budget as advertised with the following change: Freeze 2018 pay rate for administrative staff until performance evaluations are complete at which time raise(s) will be determined by discretion of Council. Council Gee Opposed. Roll call requested, with a result 4 Yes – 3 No (Council Mixter, Council Myers, Council Gee). Motions carried.
3. A motion was made by Council Harvey and seconded by Council Taylor to accept Borough Ordinance No. 1755 – 2019 Tax Millage Ordinance at a combined rate of 9.4 mills (No change). Motion was adopted by acclamation.

Council Delgado reported for meeting recording purposes that she is motioning to have the Caucus meeting recorded and minutes typed by Administrative Staff, by law. Solicitor Turnbull stated that she will look into the Sunshine Law and see if this is truly a requirement, for Caucus meetings.

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