

McKees Rocks Borough
Virtual Public Meeting
December 15, 2020

6:00 PM Executive Session – An executive session was requested by Borough Solicitor Megan Turnbull to discuss legal and personnel matters prior to the start of the public meeting at 7:00 PM.

7:00 PM Public Meeting

Roll Call: Borough Solicitor Megan Turnbull requested roll call, in absence of President Paul Krisby. Councilmembers Present: Councilman Joe Mixter, Councilwoman Sarah Harvey, Councilman Archie Brinza, Councilwoman Leslie Walker, Councilwoman Elizabeth Delgado, and Councilman Charles Maritz

Councilmembers Absent: President Paul Krisby, Vice-President Kathy Evich, and Councilman Craig Myers

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.

Borough Solicitor Turnbull advised that due to the absence(s) of both Council President and Vice-President, a temporary Meeting Chair should be elected to facilitate the public meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Mixter to nominate Councilman Brinza as the temporary Meeting Chair. Councilwoman Harvey seconded the motion. No other nominations were made at this time, and no objections were made to Councilman Brinza. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Comments/Changes: Councilwoman Delgado suggested that Council discuss item no. 4 - 2021 sewer budget before discussing item no. 3 - 2021 sewer fee increase, as originally listed on the agenda. No objections were made to change the order.

Guest Speaker: Ms. Sandra Corbin, property owner of 1013 3rd Street was present to address Council regarding the concern(s) of 1011 3rd Street. Ms. Corbin expressed her concern that she has been having problems with the tenant of this address since she became a new homeowner in August 2020. Ms. Corbin talked about numerous issues such as having her car blocked in, finding needles and garbage in her yard, as well as the property having wires running out of the window to another house. Ms. Corbin indicated the police have been called in the past and she has reached out to the borough and other recourses of McKees Rocks, but has not heard back from anyone or received assistance with this property. Councilman Brinza and Councilman Maritz responded to Ms. Corbin indicating they were unaware of the issue and would like to schedule a time with Ms. Corbin to discuss the issue in person and see the

condition of the property. Mayor Muhr confirmed attending as well. Ms. Corbin agreed to meet in person and mentioned having photos and a journal on file recording all the issues.

Reading of the Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Walker and seconded by Councilman Mixter to approve the public meeting minutes from November 10, 2020. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

Committee Reports:

- McKees Rocks Police Department November 2020 Activity Report (on file at the Borough Manager Office) Councilman Maritz commended Chief Deliman and the two newest full-time Police Officers for doing a good job. Mayor Muhr confirmed both full-time Police Officers just completed one full year of service, and two part-time Police Officers were recently hired and starting shift work.
- McKees Rocks Independent Volunteer Fire Department October 2020 Activity Report (on file at the Borough Manager Office)
- Council Committees: Real Estate Committee Member Councilwoman Delgado mentioned having Ms. An Lewis, from TRI COG Land Bank meet with the Borough in 2021 to address abandoned properties.
- Council of Government (COG) – Councilwoman Delgado commented that COG passed the 2021 budget, with no increase in dues.

Dentons Cohen & Grigsby, P.C.: No report received

Mayors Report: Mayor Muhr reported garbage pick-up issues in the Borough, especially in the McKees Rocks Bottoms area involving Eber Alley. Cars were parking along the alley and the garbage truck could not get through to recover. Street Department has since placed No Parking signs for garbage pick-up day to resolve the issue. The apartment building owned by Alice Street Investments on Island Avenue is also a garbage issue, with overflowing dumpster. Mayor Muhr also commented that something needs done to start repairing the streets and recommended in the past raising the tax millage to help pay for street paving as well as house demolitions. There was discussion regarding potential reported speeding along Greydon Avenue.

Communications:

- Borough Manager – No report
- Borough Engineer – Mr. Douglas Evans read the monthly Capsule Engineer’s Report to Council. There are no actions items for Council vote.
- Borough Solicitor –Ms. Megan Turnbull stated for meeting minute purposes that Council participated in an executive session to discuss personnel and legal matters prior to the business portion of the meeting and there will be another executive session after the business portion of the meeting to discuss litigation matters. Ms. Turnbull also provided a COVID-19 update according to the Governor’s recent orders including universal masking of all employees and virtual meetings will continue until further notice as indoor space capacity limit is up to ten people. Ms. Turnbull mentioned as previously discussed that two full-time Police Officers recently met their benchmark of 1 year of active service with the Borough and Council should consider a motion to remove them from probationary status. A motion was made by Councilman Maritz and seconded by Councilwoman Walker to remove the probationary status of the two full-time officers. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

- Building Code Official Monthly Activity Report - A written November 2020 activity report was provided to Council for review by Mr. John Stahl, and on file at the Borough Manager's office.

Controllers Report: As of November 30, 2020, General Fund, both income and expenses have an annual budget of \$ 4,648,048.00. Expenses totaled \$3,862,319.04 or approximately 83.1 % of annual budget. Income is \$4,505,177.73 or 96.93 % of the budgeted income. Balance remaining in the General Fund Checking Account is \$ 356,413.15 as of November 30, 2020.

As of November 30, 2020, Sewer Fund, both income and expenses have an annual budget of \$1,958,446.00. Expenses totaled \$1,511,742.07 or approximately 77.19 % of the annual budget. Income is \$1,270,336.92 or 64.87% of the budgeted income. Balance remaining in the Sewer Fund is \$373,073.95 as of November 30, 2020.

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

Bills:

A motion was made by Councilman Mixter and seconded by Councilman Maritz to accept the bills. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

Agenda:

1. Councilwoman Walker discussed with Council the possibility of getting public safety grants for body cameras for the police department for safety of our officers and community. Councilwoman Walker mentioned researching herself a grant that needs to be applied for by May 2021. Councilwoman Harvey suggested talking to Ms. Kim Hileman regarding state level funding for this request.
2. Borough Manager Pompey suggested GPS systems be installed on all borough vehicles for safety reasons as well as tracking gasoline usage. GPS would track where employees are at all time, and vehicles should be within Borough limits. Council recommended looking for grants to pay for the GPS installation cost, instead of coming out of the borough budget. Councilwoman Harvey motioned to table this item while looking for grants. All in favor.
3. Borough Manager Pompey discussed the proposed 2021 sewer budget adoption, indicating a sewage fee rate increase is included. Currently, the sewer account is close to being negative with the bills that are currently due and payable and revenue as it stands at current rate is not enough to continue moving forward. Council discussed at length and agreed to table adoption of the 2021 sewer budget until Council votes on the sewer fee rate for 2021. Borough Solicitor Turnbull indicated that any sewer fee rate change for 2021 would need adopted by Ordinance. Borough Solicitor Turnbull explained that Council should motion to authorize advertisement of sewer rate change ordinance for January meeting adoption, and the rate can be confirmed or changed during discussion at the January meeting. A motion was made by Councilwoman Harvey and seconded by Councilwoman Delgado to authorize advertisement of Ordinance with same rate of 2020, no increase. Councilman Mixter opposed. Roll Call requested resulting in 4 No (Mixter, Walker, Maritz, Brinza) and 2 Yes (Harvey, Delgado). A motion was made by Councilman Maritz and seconded by Councilman Mixter to authorize advertisement of Ordinance in conjunction with the

rate increase in the 2021 proposed budget. Roll call requested resulting in 4 Yes (Mixer, Walker, Maritz, Brinza) and 2 No (Harvey, Delgado). Motion carries.

4. Borough Manager Pompey presented the 2021 preliminary budget for Council adoption. A motion was made by Councilman Mixer and seconded by Councilwoman Walker. Roll call requested resulting in 4 Yes (Mixer, Walker, Maritz, Brinza) and 2 No (Harvey, Delgado). Motion carries.
5. Borough Manager Pompey presented the 2021 Tax Millage Rate Resolution for adoption, indicating no rate change. A motion was made by Councilwoman Harvey and seconded by Councilman Maritz to approve the 2021 Tax Millage Rate Resolution. Roll Call requested resulting in 6 Yes – 0 No. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
6. Borough Manager Pompey presented the 2021 TAN Loan Resolution, in the amount of \$250,000.00 at a fixed rate of 2.30 %. A motion was made by Councilman Maritz and seconded by Councilwoman Walker to approve the 2021 TAN Loan Resolution. Roll call requested resulting 6 Yes – 0 No. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
7. Borough Manager Pompey discussed with Council the Code Enforcement Officer job posting, asking if Council had any suggestions or adjustments to the current job positing. Councilmembers suggested that the job posting state “Borough residents strongly encouraged to apply” and job posting should be put on the website and advertised in the local paper. A motion was made by Councilwoman Harvey and seconded by Councilman Maritz to authorize advertisement of the revised job posting in the local paper and on borough website. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
8. Borough Manager Pompey confirmed the VFD 1971 American LaFrance was sold to Mr. Michael Avigliano for \$5,000.00. A motion was made by Councilman Maritz and seconded by Councilwoman Harvey to accept the sale of the VFD 1971 American LaFrance. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
9. Borough Solicitor Turnbull presented to Council the PUC/PennDOT Bridge & Sidewalk Salting Agreement for informational purposes, as an agreement may be presented for approval in near future. Borough Manager Pompey indicated reaching out to the Borough Engineer regarding specifics of the length of bridge the Borough owns, etc and unsure at this time what PennDOT costs will be.
10. Borough Solicitor Turnbull presented the authorization for the Borough to engage with Maiello, Brungo, Maiello LLP as special counsel to handle any filings for ALCOSAN in the amount of \$20,000.00. A motion was made by Councilman Maritz and seconded by Councilman Mixer to authorize Maiello, Brungo, Maiello LLP as special counsel for ALCOSAN, up to \$20,000.00. Roll call requested resulting in 6 Yes – 0 No. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
11. Borough Solicitor Turnbull presented the authorization for the Borough to engage with Maiello, Brungo, Maiello LLP as special counsel to handle a targeted list of properties with delinquent real estate taxes for collection efforts. A motion was made by Councilman Mixer and seconded by Councilwoman Walker to authorize Maiello, Brungo, Maillo, LLP as special counsel for targeted delinquent real estate collection. Roll call requested resulting in 6 Yes – 0 No. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

A motion was made by Councilman Maritz and seconded by Councilwoman Walker to adjourn the business portion of the meeting. Business portion of meeting adjourned by Councilman Brinza. Borough Solicitor Turnbull requested an executive session to discuss litigation/legal matters.