

The Borough of McKees Rocks
Special Public Meeting
7:00 PM
June 2, 2021

6:00 PM Executive Session to discuss personnel/litigation/attorney client privilege

7:00 PM Public Meeting

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

Councilmembers present: President Archie Brinza, Councilman John Malesnick, Councilman Chas Maritz, Councilman Nicholas Radoycis, Jr, Vice-President Leslie Walker, Councilman Craig Myers, and Councilman Joseph Mixter

Councilmembers absent: Councilwoman Elizabeth Delgado, Councilwoman Sarah Harvey

Other participants present: Mayor John “Jack” Muhr, Borough Solicitor Megan Turnbull, Assistant Borough Solicitor Danielle Guraisco, Assistant Borough Secretary LeeAnn Wozniak, Office Clerk Jennifer Slavicek, and Code Enforcement Zac Cummings

C. Agenda Comments/Changes

President Brinza announced the purpose of the special public meeting this evening is due to personnel matters as Borough Manager Ruth A. Pompey is going on short term disability due to medical illness and internal personnel changes have been discussed.

Ms. Maribeth Taylor, resident, was present to address Council regarding the action items listed on the agenda for Council consideration pertaining to Borough Manager’s leave of absence and other internal personnel changes as presented. Ms. Taylor is asking Council to rethink the approval of Borough Manager’s unpaid leave of absence as there is no documentation in borough meeting minutes that Council approved any policy change that permits an unpaid leave of absence for an employee. Ms. Taylor referenced two other past employees who requested unpaid leave of absences and were denied by Council back in 2008 and 2011, as the Borough has no policy for unpaid short term or long-term leave of absence. Ms. Taylor is also asking Council to table action items # 2 – 4, as they rethink the approval status of Borough Manager Pompey’s unpaid leave.

Borough Solicitor Turnbull responded to Ms. Taylor's concern to Borough Manager's leave of absence that it is a sensitive matter, and the Borough's legal obligation is to accommodate the employee's request in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and it's appropriate for Council to consider the matter at this time regardless to not having an employee handbook and/or unpaid leave of absence policy.

Ms. Taylor asked if the employees raises would be reversed once the Borough Manager would return or be replaced. President Brinza responded no.

Ms. Taylor also questioned two ACH transactions showing on the March bills transaction list regarding AFLAC payments. Ms. Taylor is asking when Council voted to approve such payment and what/who the payments are for.

Ms. Samantha Levitski-Wright asked if Council was going to require Assistant Borough Secretary and other Office Clerk to attend trainings, etc. to be able to learn the job duties to run the Borough in Borough Manager's absence. President Brinza responded both employees have been trained by Borough Manager Pompey in preparation of Borough Manager's leave and capable of doing the job.

Ms. Holly Woodson, resident, was present to ask Council if residents are to be notified of having a half-way house in the neighborhood. Ms. Woodson stated there is a half-way house located at 326 Russellwood Avenue and is asking if the Building Official issued an occupancy permit. Code Enforcement Officer Zac Cummings responded to resident that the Borough is aware of property and investigating.

D. Action Items

1. A motion was made by Councilman Radoycis, Jr and seconded by Vice-President Walker to authorize short-term unpaid leave of absence of Borough Manager Ruth Pompey effective June 1, 2021 subject to continuing Council review every 2 months and medical certifications. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
2. A motion was made by Councilman Mixter and seconded by Vice-President Walker to appoint Ms. LeeAnn Wozniak, as substitute Borough Manager for all general borough business purposes for the pendency of Borough Manager's absence. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
3. A motion was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Vice-President Walker to increase the hourly compensation of Ms. LeeAnn Wozniak, Assistant Borough Secretary to an hourly rate of \$26.60, effective May 17, 2021. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
4. A motion was made by Vice-President Walker and seconded by Councilman Malesnick to appoint Ms. Jennifer Slavicek to the position of Administrative

Assistant at an hourly rate of \$20.45 effective May 17, 2021. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

5. A motion was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Vice-President Walker to authorize working with Pittsburgh Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) for My Work Summer Youth Program. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
6. A motion was made by Councilman Mixter and seconded by Vice-President Walker to approve ten (10) VPRP Applications/Resolutions for the \$1 million RACP Remediation Grant. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
7. A motion was made by Councilman Mixter and seconded by Councilman Malesnick to approve purchase of 2021 Caterpillar Skid Steer Loader in the amount of \$42,593.00 using liquid fuel funds. Motion was adopted by acclamation.
8. A motion was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Vice-President Walker to approve purchase of 2021 Caterpillar 420 Backhoe Loader in the amount of \$88,095.00 contingent upon financing. Motion was adopted by acclamation.

E. New Business

For informational purposes only, Mayor Muhr advised the Borough Solicitor is doing research to draft an Ordinance regarding adding speed bumps in all three wards at specific areas.

Mayor Muhr also advised the Borough hired two new full-time Police Officers – Mr. Jeffrey Bowser and Mr. Justin Kluchorosky, effective June 1, 2021.

F. Old Business

None

G. Adjourn Business Portion of Meeting