

**ROCKLEDGE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**OF**  
**March 29, 2021**

The Rockledge Borough Council met at 7:30 p.m. on March 29, 2021 at the Rockledge Borough Hall. After the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance, the roll was called as follows

In Attendance: Mr. Praediger, Mrs. Kehoe, Mr. Sheppard, Mr. Enderle, Mr. Caffrey, Mrs. Metzinger, Mrs. Morris and Mayor Praediger.

**Additions to the Agenda:** Mrs. Morris has an item under Public Safety.

**Adoption of the Agenda:** All were in favor.

**Acceptance of the Minutes:** All were in favor of adopting the minutes from January 25, 2021.

**Law and Planning:** Mr. Caffrey made a motion to accept the monthly building inspector's report. All were in favor.

Mr. Caffrey mentioned that there was a Zoning Hearing that was conducted on February 25, regarding the property located at 14 N. Penn Avenue. The variances they were requesting to allow 4-unit multi-family structure were granted.

**Finance:** Mr. Enderle made a motion to accept the monthly bills, Tax Collectors report and previous months check detail report. All were in favor.

**Monthly Bills – February 2021**

General Fund	– \$	62,271.90
Highway Aid	– \$	6,046.20
Capital Reserve	– \$	18,508.57
Police Pension Fund	- \$	5,340.07

**Monthly Bills – March 2021**

General Fund	– \$	80,882.97
Highway Aid	– \$	8,739.95
Capital Reserve	– \$	0
Police Pension Fund	- \$	0

**Check Detail – January 2021**

General Fund	– \$	17,176.20
Highway Aid	– \$	0
Capital Reserve	– \$	1,176.84
Police Pension Fund	- \$	4,023.79

**Check Detail Report – February 2021**

General Fund	– \$	2,789.14
Highway Aid	– \$	0
Capital Reserve	– \$	96.16
Police Pension Fund	- \$	4,023.79

Mr. Enderle advised that in early February a transfer from the Fund Balance to the General Fund was made in the amount of \$50,000. This will be transferred back to the Fund Balance along with the budgeted appropriation in May.

Mr. Wartman gave the Treasurers report:

<u>General Fund:</u>	Beginning Balance	\$ 82,383.70
	Receipts	\$ 302,714.57
	Disbursements	\$ 222,286.95
	Ending Balance	\$ 162,811.32
<u>Capital Reserve:</u>	Beginning Balance	\$ 64,292.02
	Receipts	\$ 0
	Disbursements	\$ 19,079.85
	Ending Balance	\$ 45,212.17
<u>Highway Aid:</u>	Beginning Balance	\$ 12,834.58
	Receipts	\$ .08
	Disbursements	\$ 8,172.08
	Ending Balance	\$ 4,662.58
<u>Police Pension MMO:</u>	Beginning Balance	\$ 23,150.57
	Deposits/Interest	\$ .17
	Disbursements	\$ 0
	Ending Balance	\$ 23,151.14
<u>Fund Account:</u>	Beginning Balance	\$ 131,590.70
	Receipts/Interest	\$ 0
	Disbursements	\$ 50,000.00
	Ending Balance	\$ 81,590.70

Mrs. Morris asked Mrs. Metzinger about the Earned Income Tax with regards to budgeting as it looks better than projected. Mrs. Metzinger advised that Berkheimer sends her a projection and that is what she uses for budgeting. Mrs. Metzinger stated that Berkheimer was being conservative with their numbers.

**Public Service:** Mr. Sheppard advised that a request has been received to hold the Steuben Day Parade here again this year. It was cancelled last year due to COVID, but they would like to hold it this year on a smaller scale. Mr. Praediger stated that if they need an answer right now he would have to say no. If they want to revisit in June/July then we can discuss it again. Mayor Praediger stated that it is a little early to say and maybe should wait a few months – that is what he is doing with the Car Show.

Mr. Sheppard advised of the following: Household Hazardous Waste Collection: Saturday, April 24 at Boyertown Middle School in Gilbertsville; by appointment only and Pre-registration is required.

**Public Safety:** Mrs. Morris made a motion to accept the Police, Fire Marshal, Fire Company and Second Alarmers monthly reports. All were in favor.

Mrs. Morris advised that Chief Miller had emergency surgery and is doing well and will return to work soon. Corporal Schmalz is going a great job.

Mrs. Morris would like to make a motion to appoint Mr. Tyler Dermer as Emergency Management Coordinator. All were in favor.

Mrs. Morris asked for a discussion regarding who will conduct the oral interview part of the Civil Service test – either Council or a panel of Police Chiefs. Civil Service testing was administered to any PT Rockledge Police

Officer who was interested on March 20. Three officers participated and two passed both the physical and written portions of the test.

Mr. Joseph Bresnan, Solicitor, advised that Council cannot administer the oral interview. They can interview but they cannot administer test. It was agreed that there will be panel of Police Chiefs to administer the oral interview. Mrs. Metzinger will advise Chief Miller that he will need to set up the interview with a panel of Police Chiefs.

Mrs. Morris wanted to discuss the changing of parking ticket fees from \$15.00 to \$50.00. Council agreed that this was a good idea. Mrs. Metzinger will have to see how the current Ordinance reads as this may be able to be changed by Resolution. All were in agreement to change the Ordinance from \$15.00 to \$50.00.

Mr. Kevin Fries from Town Watch advised that they have logged 73 hours and 285 miles for Town Watch. Mr. Fries advised that he has spoken to Mr. Greg Bucceroni from the Philadelphia/Rockledge Town Watch Coalition. Mr. Fries was not aware of this and asked him not to use Rockledge's name. Mrs. Morris advised that she will reach out to him to see what he is requesting.

Mayor Praediger had nothing at this time.

Corporal Schmalz had nothing at this time.

**Public Works/Property:** Mr. Praediger made a motion to accept the Streets Opening Report and the Streets Department Monthly Report. All were in favor.

Mr. Richard Rowley advised that everything is good – status quo.

Mr. Caffrey advised that he was asked when we will be paving again. Mr. Praediger advised that as of right now there is plan to pave this year.

**Recreation:** Mrs. Metzinger advised that permission was given to allow Fox-Rok softball teams to use the S. Sylvania fields Monday – Friday from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm and Saturday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm from March 15, 2021 thru July 31, 2021. Mr. Caffrey asked if this is what they do every year. Yes it is.

Mrs. Metzinger made a motion to advertise an amendment to our Parks and Recreation Ordinance to include rules and regulations regarding behavior. All were in favor. This will be adopted at the April 26, 2021 council meeting.

**Personnel:** Mrs. Kehoe, the swearing in of new Part-time Officer Michael Whalon. Mayor Praediger swore in Mr. Whalon as a new part-time officer.

**Managers' Report:** Mrs. Metzinger had nothing at this time.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Vince Menniti, 21 Fox Street wanted to know if there were signs up that said no smoking at the parks – Mr. Praediger advised that yes they are.

Mr. & Mrs. Kirby, 116 S. Penn wanted to discuss the parking issues he is having with customers from the Malt House. He would like to know why they cannot park on the grassy area of their property. Mr. Praediger advised that that part of the property is zoned residential. Mr. Praediger advised that borough council is aware of the parking issues from their customers. The Police Department has upped the number of officers on duty during the weekends to monitor the parking issues. Hopefully by changing the fee of the parking tickets will curb people from parking illegally. Mr. Praediger advised that the borough has been in contact with the owners multiple times regarding this issue. They have a couple of good ideas. There is a building down a block or so from the restaurant that has a completely empty parking lot. They were going to reach out to the owner of the property about maybe renting those spaces. They were going to reach out to the owner of Rockledge Plaza. Maybe create some type of valet service. Mr. Praediger advised that he completely understands what they are going thru.

A resident advised that if they are going to do valet maybe charge a couple of bucks and give the money to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Assoc.

Mr. Praediger advised that unfortunately people do not show respect with regards to parking.

Mr. Praediger wanted to thank the residents for coming and voicing their concerns and for them to know that the Borough is aware of issues and that the owner is working on a solution.

Mrs. Kirby asked if something could be done about the stop sign at S. Penn and Loney with regards to parking close to a stop sign. They do not park back far enough. Mr. Rowley and Mr. Praediger will take a look at it. Mrs. Kirby was advised to call the police when someone is parked too close the corner.

Ms. Jenn Buongiorno, 15 Elm Avenue advised that she has an issue with cars being parked on her street from Abby's Auto. She said that she actually went to his shop and he advised that he would move the car. He also advised that he will be moving soon. She also advised that the workers for the Malt House park in front of her house early in the morning when there is sufficient parking in the parking lot of the Malt House. Mr. Praediger advised that this will be addressed. Mrs. Kehoe advised that she was made aware of a car parked on Elm with no tags. Mr. Praediger advised if there are no tags that residents should contact the police.

Mr. Menniti advised that it would not be a good thing for the borough to get involved with the possible valet parking for the Malt House. Mr. Praediger advised him that the borough would not be involved. He also had a question about the tent.

Mr. Dan Boetefuer, 118 Daly Street, discussed the number of patrons in the Malt House. He asked if the tent is going to be addressed and the outside seating. Mr. Praediger advised that the tent will be there thru April. Mr. Praediger advised that the outside seating is allowed by the COVID order. When this changes at the state level then it will be addressed. He also asked about the fence that is blocking the dumpsters. He thinks it is in the street. The Borough will have the building inspector take a look at it.

Mr. & Mrs. Fitzpatrick, 623 Burke, he wanted to thank the borough for doing what they have done so far. He asked what the address is of the place where they are looking to rent parking. Mr. Praediger advised that it is the old lawyer building on the Pike. They are also going to be calling the owner of the shopping center where the Liquor store and Vincent's is. He also wanted to know if there was an arrangement made with the Police that when there is a car illegally parked that the police will go into the bar. Corporal Schmalz advised that it is just a courtesy. Why is there no towing of illegally parked vehicles? Corporal Schmalz advised that we do not have the authority to tow. Mr. Praediger advised that numerous tickets are being written.

A motion was made to adjourn to an executive session. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joyce Hines  
Borough Clerk