

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
OF
September 26, 2022

The Rockledge Borough Council met at 7:30 p.m. on September 26, 2022 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, Mrs. Morris, Mr. Enderle, Mr. Menniti, Mr. Clarke and Mayor Caffrey.

Additions to the Agenda: None

Adoption of the Agenda: All were in favor.

Acceptance of the Minutes: Motion to adopt the minutes from August 29, 2022.

Mr. Praediger advised that a packet of information was received by a resident late in the afternoon. This will be reviewed and council will get back to the resident with a response.

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

Mr. Enderle wanted to discuss allowing Air B&B's in the borough. After a discussion many council members and residents had some concerns about this. Council asked Mr. Joseph Bresnan to draft a memo regarding this.

Mr. Denelsbeck, 105 N. Sylvania Avenue asked for a follow-up to his question regarding the sign at 611 Huntingdon Pike. Mr. Praediger advised that Mr. Pluguez responded with the following: A visual and physical investigation of the sign at 611 Huntingdon Pike was executed with photo documentation. The pole sign without a business identification insert was in stable condition. The sign insert display area was slightly bent possibly indicating impact contact. The overall condition did not appear to reveal that the sign was going to fall, however, not having the credentials as a certified construction structural expert my suggestion is for a report from a Structural Engineer to be provided to satisfy the submitted complaint.

Mr. Denelsbeck stated that the Planning Commission has had 5 members – sadly Mr. Diegel passed away and Mrs. Crossing is no longer a resident of the borough. Will those positions be filled? Mr. Praediger advised that he will look into it.

Mr. Denelsbeck wanted to know if there was any plans to be looking at the Revitalization plan and the Comprehensive plan. Mr. Praediger has not done any work on that as of now.

Mr. Denelsbeck asked about Mill Park. Mr. Praediger advised that the bid for remaining work went out but no one bid on it. Then Covid pushed it back. The funding is there. The problem was that no bids were received.

Mr. Denelsbeck mentioned Act 65 of 2021 that updated the Sunshine Act stating that the council agenda is to be posted 24 hours before the meeting. Mr. Menniti advised that our website is being updated. He forwarded the Agenda to our web guy when Mrs. Hines sent it to him and as of then it was not posted. Mr. Menniti did post it on Facebook. Mr. Menniti is working on this.

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

Monthly Bills – September 2022

General Fund	– \$	379,081.69
Highway Aid	– \$	11,576.68
Capital Reserve	– \$	14,895.28
Police Pension Fund	- \$	555.30

Check Detail – August 2022

General Fund	– \$	17,397.13
Highway Aid	– \$	0
Capital Reserve	– \$	7,761.22
Police Pension Fund	- \$	0

Mr. Praediger made a motion to advertise that Budget Meetings will start at 6:30 pm at the October 24, 2022 and November 28, 2022. All were in favor

Mr. Praediger made a motion to adopt resolution 2022-03. A resolution accepting the 2023 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) in the amount of \$16,466. All were in favor.

Mr. Praediger made a motion to transfer \$3,250 from Capital Reserve to General Fund to pay employee ARPA bonuses (COVID). All were in favor.

Mr. Praediger made a motion to change the Police Department Credit Card to John Gallagher and to change the Public Works credit cards to Mike Hess. All were in favor.

Mr. Denelsbeck asked if the borough received Covid money – yes the borough did. Mr. Denelsbeck wanted to know if that was in Capital Reserve – yes it is.

Mr. Denelsbeck advised that in the detailed tax report that Mr. Wartman submits that there is no information regarding the mercantile tax collected. Mr. Praediger advised that the last time a mercantile report was submitted was 2006. Mr. Bresnan advised that a report that does not exist does not have to be made. It would be council’s decision to change that. Mr. Bresnan stated that a Right to Know request can be completed and the information received that way.

Mr. Wartman gave the Treasurers report, August 2022:

<u>General Fund:</u>	Beginning Balance	\$ 1,064,930.79
	Receipts	\$ 129,655.90
	Disbursements	\$ 235,823.04
	Ending Balance	\$ 958,763.65

<u>Capital Reserve:</u>	Beginning Balance	\$ 247,399.40
	Receipts	\$ 41.66
	Disbursements	\$ 17,644.22
	Ending Balance	\$ 29,796.84

<u>Highway Aid:</u>	Beginning Balance	\$ 43,681.92
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Receipts	\$	6.91
Disbursements	\$	4,929.92
Ending Balance	\$	38,758.91

<u>Police Pension MMO:</u>	Beginning Balance	\$	94,984.42
	Deposits/Interest	\$	16.14
	Disbursements	\$	0
	Ending Balance	\$	94,000.56

<u>Fund Account:</u>	Beginning Balance	\$	384,196.98
	Receipts/Interest	\$	65.26
	Disbursements	\$	0
	Ending Balance	\$	384,262.24

Public Service: Mr. Menniti made a motion to advertise the bid for trash recycling and disposal. The bids will be opened at the October 24, 2022 meeting. All were in favor.

Mr. Menniti requested a discussion regarding code enforcement weekly hours. Mr. Praediger advised that we are talking about having the building inspector in the borough more than the two days a week. He is currently here 2 days a week for 2 hours each day. The discussion is to bring him in for a 3rd day or more hours on the days that he is here now. Charlie is our zoning officer/code enforcement. Russ is our building inspector. Colleen Demusz 24 Blake Avenue asked who he answers to. Mr. Bresnan advised that he is authorized by borough council and answers to borough council. She asked if there is someone on borough council that he directly reports to. He is 3rd party. Vince Menniti mentioned that when someone has a complaint that they are required to complete a complaint form - can it be done anonymously? Mr. Bresnan advised that for a non-police matter yes. Colleen Demusz asked about the time frame when a complaint is received. Mrs. Hines advised that when a complaint is received it is given to Charlie the next day that he is here. A report is submitted by Russ which lists the permits issued and closed. Charlie gives a report of his hours and what he was working on – this report is used for billing. Rental inspections were stopped because of Covid. Mr. Morris stated that the 3rd day justifies him keeping up. Mr. Praediger advised that we will look at his time and see what needs to be done.

Mr. Menniti advised that the October 2022 council meeting will be held on October 24, 2022.

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

Town Watch Update: Mr. Fries advised that they were out for 24 hours and logged 104 miles. Recruited 2 new people at the Car Show.

Mr. Fries brought up a time limit for people speaking at the council meetings. Mr. Praediger advised that he has thought of this but he likes people to have their voice.

Mrs. Morris advised that despite the weather the car show turned out great. Thank you to the Community.

Chief Gallagher advised that everyone had a great time at the Car Show despite the weather. Septa police with a K-9 unit, Abington Police and the Regional Swat Team, were here and thank you to them. Chief Gallagher also had Delaware Valley Intelligence looking at social media for any flags or alarms regarding the Car Show. We were prepared. He would like to thank the police officers and the fire officers for the great job they did. The hours between 5 and 7 was a complete success. Shout out to Officer Dan Staley who had a visible presence.

Thank you to Detective Lukashunas for his help with a couple minor incidents. Looking forward to next year. The Fall Festival and Car Show will be moved back to the weekend after Labor Day for 2023.

Mrs. Morris wanted to mention about a post on Facebook that she saw with someone being concerned about the safety of mainly the police and fire fighters at the car show because of the weather. She advised that Police and Fire fighters go out in the rain. They do not respond to a crime or fire because of a thunder storm. The Fire Company and Police will respond no matter the weather.

Mr. Menniti advised that they had about 150 cars despite the weather. Once the rain stopped and the Eagles game ended it was crowded.

Chief Gallagher wanted to send a thank you to Mike Hess and his crew for their great work with the Car Show.

Mrs. Morris also said thank you to Mike Hess and his crew. Thank you for the cones on the corners in Strockville.

There was a discussion regarding people moving the barricades. Mrs. Morris asked that maybe next year someone can check the barricades as people were moving them thinking that they can get thru that way.

Colleen Demusz, 24 Blake advised that the officer on Blake was very polite to her while she was trying to get to her house.

Mr. Menniti wanted to convey to Chief Gallagher that people were telling him how safe they felt with the streets being blocked by the food trucks.

Mayor Caffrey - Thank you to Mike Hess and his crew. Trash was cleaned up in a timely matter. The Steuben Parade organization would like to return to the Pike for their Steuben Day Parade in conjunction with the Car Show. They would like to start at 10 same route same day as the Car Show. This would be a lot of moving parts and man power. Mr. Praediger advised that he understands that they would like a bigger crowd and not to be disrespectful to them it is a short parade. Mr. Praediger don't know of a worse day to do it. Council will think about it.

Marianne Finnegan, 7930 Fillmore Street, stated that the Steuben Day Parade comes up Loney and ends at the post. She asked Council not to consider this as it would create too much traffic and confusion.

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

We received our new leaf vacuum system. The reason why it took so long was due to supply chain issues. Mr. Sheppard spoke to Chris from Allen Myers Construction regarding the issue of the steel plates in front of the firehouse. If directed Allen Myers can install additional thickness of material to take the weight of the fire truck. The Veteran Banners will be taken down after Veterans Day which is on November 11. Mr. Sheppard is looking into purchasing 26 Holiday Banners for the Pike. The cost is \$49.00 per banner. Mr. Sheppard gave some examples of the art that we could have put on them. Mr. Sheppard would like to move forward with this. Mr. Bresnan stated that the issue is when you have Nativity Scenes. The signs could say Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah. Mr. Praediger said he is not comfortable about spending unbudgeted money. This should be budgeted for next year. Mrs. Morris agreed with Mr. Praediger. All were in agreement with waiting until next year to purchase new banners. The lights were budgeted for this year.

Mrs. Finnegan agrees with sticking with the budget and asked if there was any money received for the Veteran Banners that could be used towards this. The money received from the Veteran Flag Program paid for what was needed for the program.

A question was asked about maybe having residents purchase the Holiday Banners. At this time there is not enough time.

The Veteran Banners are awesome and should be on every utility pole in the borough.

Mr. Denelsbeck asked about a paving date. Mr. Sheppard stated that we are on the schedule for the 1st paving job in the spring. Mr. Denelsbeck asked if anyone reached out to our Representatives Sanchez or Haywood to get help with this. Mr. Sheppard will reach out but he is happy with the one on one contact he has with Chris from Allen Myers.

Recreation:

Mr. Clarke made a motion to allow the 1000 block of Burke Street to have a block party on Saturday, October 8th, 2:00 to 8:00 pm. All were in favor.

Personnel:

Mrs. Kehoe had nothing at this time.

Mr. Denelsbeck asked for an update on the Borough Manager position. Mrs. Kehoe advised that the job posting has been posted again.

Managers' Report:

Mr. Praediger mentioned information he received from Mrs. Metzinger regarding the ARPA funding that was received. We have received our second deposit of funding for a total of \$265,000 and the only money spent so far is the bonuses for the officers who worked during the pandemic – total \$3250.00. The Treasury has lightened up on the limitations that were originally attached to this money – it can now be spent on anything that can be considered ‘traditional government services’. Some thoughts to use this money is to pay back General Fund for the purchase of the new leaf vacuum. As the public works department has expanded there is a need for covered storage for the equipment. Example the snow plows have been left outside in the elements and the hoses have dry rotted. Dave has some info on adding another storage structure at S Sylvania at a cost of about 35,000 – 40,000. The other issue is there is no heat at the garage where they work – only in the office. We need to get filters for the storm inlets. We have a quote from 2 years ago which is about \$100,000. Cost would be more now so we need to get updated prices. Mr. Menniti asked if this price includes installation and delivery. We will need to get an exact number before we do anything else with this money. We cannot make a decision until we get current prices and installation for the filters. Mrs. Morris would like that info before the next meeting.

Public Comment:

Colleen Demusz, 24 Blake is with the Fourth of July Association. She would like to do a fundraiser, a 5k run. Who on council should she contact to get the process started? She is in the very beginning stages. She was thinking starting at Cegielski and then go from there. Mr. Praediger suggested for her to come up with a plan. Once she has a general idea she could present to council.

Mrs. Morris advised that the Pike is a state route so it would be good if we keep it off the pike. Colleen thought about having it cross the Pike.

Rich Flannigan asked about the proposed crosswalk he spoke to Mr. Praediger about. Mr. Praediger is still working on.

Motion was made to adjourn. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Hines
Borough Clerk