

**COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**OF**  
**April 29, 2024**

The Rockledge Borough Council met at 7:00 p.m. on April 29, 2024, at the Rockledge Borough Hall. After the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance, the roll was called as follows:

In Attendance: Mr. Enderle, Mr. Briggman, Mr. Menniti, Mr. Boyle, Mr. Sheppard, Mr. Clarke, Mr. Creedon and Mayor Caffrey.

**Acceptance of the Minutes:** Motion to adopt the minutes from the March 25, 2024. All were in favor.

Council met prior to the meeting for an executive session regarding a personnel item.

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

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

**Monthly Bills – April 2024**

General Fund	-	\$ 110,291.56
Highway Aid	-	\$ 1,635.93
Capital Reserve	-	\$ 2,791.93
Police Pension Fund	-	\$ 588.73

**Check Detail – March 2024**

General Fund	-	\$ 89,154.74
Highway Aid	-	\$ 435.00
Capital Reserve	-	\$ 65.68
Police Pension Fund	-	\$ 13,020.19

Mr. Enderle made a motion to transfer \$300,000 from the General Fund to the Fund Account. All were in favor.

Mr. Enderle made a motion to make the following budgeted transfers: All were in favor.

- Transfer from General Fund to the Police Pension MMO Fund - \$60,000
- Transfer from General Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund - \$70,000
- Transfer from General Fund to the Fund Account - \$125,000

Treasurer's report:

<u>General Fund:</u>	Beginning Balance	\$ 290,496.91
	Receipts	\$ 345,480.06
	Disbursements	\$ 272,174.46
	Ending Balance	\$ 363,802.51

<u>Highway Aid:</u>	Beginning Balance	\$ 20,785.29
	Receipts	\$ 68,208.26
	Disbursements	\$ 2,021.38
	Ending Balance	\$ 86,972.17

<u>Capital Reserve:</u>	Beginning Balance	\$ 96,735.90
	Receipts	\$ 15.55
	Disbursements	\$ 9,565.68
	Ending Balance	\$ 87,185.77

<u>Police Pension MMO:</u>	Beginning Balance	\$ 175394.32
	Deposits/Interest	\$ 29.71
	Disbursements	\$ 0
	Ending Balance	\$ 175,424.03

<u>Fund Account:</u>	Beginning Balance	\$ 154,978.32
	Receipts/Interest	\$ 26.25
	Disbursements	\$ 0
	Ending Balance	\$ 155,004.57

<u>ARPA Account:</u>	Beginning Balance	\$ 262608.08
	Receipts/Interest	\$ 44.48
	Disbursements	\$ 0
	Ending Balance	\$ 262,652.56

**Public Service:** Mr. Poster made a presentation to Jeff Aungst, President of the Fire Company, a check in the amount of \$2,828.48 for the Fire Fighters Tax Credit. The fire company will distribute to the firefighters that applied/qualified for this tax credit.

Mr. Aungst stated that this program is a great motivator. He would like to give a shout out to Mr. Menniti and his son who is turning out to be an awesome firefighter as he is a supervisor already. Mr. Aungst also thanked Mr. Clarke who is a firefighter. The fire company appreciates this and thank you to all.

**Public Safety:** Mr. Boyle made a motion to accept the Police, Fire Marshal's, and Fire Company reports. All were in favor.

Chief Gallagher thanked everyone who helped with St. Cecilia's Legacy Run.

He also wanted to thank Brenda Corey and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee for putting on a law-abiding crawl, Hike the Pike. There were no issues.

Chief Gallagher will post crime statistics and such for the borough but wanted to let everyone know that crime in Rockledge is down. He gives credit to our officers.

The one burglary reported this year was a domestic situation. We are up 108% for traffic stops opposed to last year. Bus stop detail goals were set to 500 for this school year, to date we are 607 details. There were no issues at the bus stops. Foot patrols in 2023 were up 85% and 2024 are up 60%. Vacant home checks are up 285%. Bar and tavern checks are up 506%. The crime in Fox Chase and Burlhome is going up, but crime here is going down. This is good news for us as a community.

Mr. Menniti wanted to give an update on Town Watch:

Mr. Kevin Fries had his kidney transplant. He is in good spirits and doing great!

Mr. Jim Finnegan, 7930 Fillmore Street, wanted to thank Detective Lukashunas for his action in deescalating a situation during the St. Cecilia's run.

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

Mr. Hess gave an update:

- In field mix at Cegielkowski Playground
- Mulched Mill Park; replaced mulch at Jarrett Avenue and Cegielkowski playgrounds.
- Added crushed stone to island by Sunoco Huntingdon Pike
- Working with Bryan on having a street sweeper come into town to clean the streets – this will be posted on social media.
- All the decorative streetlights should have light – repairs were completed.

**Parks & Recreation:** Mr. Menniti advised that he and Mr. Poster have been working on Summer Camp for this year. Mr. Poster gave a presentation:

Rockledge Borough Summer Camp has been a time-honored tradition in the Borough for many years. It was originally designed to give the children of Rockledge some organized play time during the summer months. Last year, on the first day of camp it had over 75 kids attend. However, by the end of that first week attendance was down in the 40's and it continued to drop throughout the four-week period into the 30's per day. Seeing these numbers and evaluating this camp last year, liability was my first thought camper to counselor ratio. Additionally, ages of the campers come into consideration when determining ratios. Our camp allows residents of Rockledge Borough ages 6-14 years old. Ages 6-9 require a 6/1 ratio while ages 10-14 require a 10/1 ratio. Using these ratios, limiting campers to 44, and predicting how many children attend in each age group. I believe we should have 6 counselors. There will be four regular counselors, one assistant head counselor and one head counselor with salaries of: 4 regular counselors -

\$15.00 hour; 1 Assistant Head counselor \$17.00 hour and the head counselor at \$19.00 hour. There will be 1 hour of prep time included in these numbers; the total salary for run of camp for 2024 would be \$8,460.00. There will be themes per week: Week 1 – A Bug’s Life – Insect Week; Week 2 – Stars and Stripes; Week 3 – Superhero Training Academy; Week 4 – Shark Week and Week 5 – Summer Camp Olympics. These are just suggestions and when we finalize weeks, counselors and finances, the themes will be finalized. Campers will not be required to do any of these activities and free play is always an option. The sign-ups will be online. Mr. Poster also brought up the discussion of charging for camp – maybe \$25.00 per week. For families with more than 1 child maybe \$5.00 extra per additional child. When you look at it if you charge \$25.00 per week for 1 child it is \$5.00 per day. The \$25.00 would include freezy pops, water, huggies, t-shirts and maybe a pizza lunch 1x a week. Also discussed was having camp from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm with the children bringing their lunch and not going home for lunch.

Mrs. Andrea Brown, 901 Loney Street asked if more family events could be organized, maybe a bus trip to say Hershey Park or a water park, barbecue at one of the playgrounds. Mr. Poster said this is something that could be looked at.

Mr. Finnegan, 7930 Fillmore asked about why there was so many closed permits on the Building Inspection Report – is Charlie leaving. Mr. Poster advised that he is getting closer to retiring but was just cleaning up the permit files.

Mr. John Wynne, 32 Blake Avenue asked if the Planning Commission needs to discuss the zoning variance for 7 Huntingdon Pike – there was a hearing previously and it was for a sweet shop now they are asking for a hearing for a Hookah Lounge. The residents surrounding the area will be notified again and it will be advertised. Mr. Wynne asked about liquor even though they said they would not be selling liquor could this be BYOB. Mr. Menniti stated that the Hookah Lounges he has seen are BYOB.

Mr. Menniti asked about the new totes we are getting for recycling from J.P. Mascaro. He has a bigger tote than what they are giving us – can he still use his own. Mr. Poster will check on this.

Mrs. Karen Paulus asked if there is an update regarding this building. Mr. Poster and Mr. Bresnan will check on this.

Mr. Eugene Clark advised that on May 16, 2024, Iron Hill Restaurant will be having a fundraiser for the firehouse.

### **Human Resources:**

Mr. Clarke had nothing at this time.

### **Manager’s Report:**

Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, I attended a virtual meeting with Comcast Business on network security.

Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, I met with Mascaro and other municipalities regarding the upcoming upgrade to our recycling process. We will be getting new, larger recycling containers to support the increase in recyclables. Keep a look out on our Facebook page and our website recycling page at <https://www.rockledgeborough.org/community-information/news/2024/03/28/increase-recycling-initiative/> for more information as we get closer to implementation.

Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, I met with T-Mobile Government representative regarding programs and grants that T-Mobile is running that would benefit the Borough.

Thursday night, April 25<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Montgomery County Association of Borough's dinner we hosted along with Hatboro, Jenkintown, and Bryn Athyn Boroughs. I want to thank staff and elected officials that were able to attend to show support for our Borough. We saw an informational presentation from two Montgomery County Planners regarding ongoing and future initiatives with the county. I will follow up with the county with some of the grants and planning assistance that they are offering with these initiatives.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Thursday May 16, Council Sheppard and I will be attending the PENNVEST information exchange with PA State Representative Ben Sanchez regarding grants and other funding for sewer, storm water, and drinking water projects.

Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, I will be attending the Planning Commission Meeting which is open to the public. We will be discussing among other things, Mill Park, Jarrett Park and receive a presentation on a change in business plan to 7 Huntingdon Pike. The Planning Commission Meetings are specifically designed to design, organize, and implement future projects for the Borough. If you want to know what is going on and be of the planning process, attending is the best way to have your voice heard.

Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> I will be attending a symposium on supporting community health and wellness through evidence-based park destinations. This information will hopefully help in the planning and implementing our Mill Park and Jarrett Park projects.

### **Public Comment:**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joyce Hines  
Borough Clerk