

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

OF

January 27, 2025

The Rockledge Borough Council met at 7:00 p.m. on January 27, 2025, 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. Clarke, Mr. Creedon, Mr. Boyle, and Mayor Corrigan.

Acceptance of the Minutes: Motion to adopt the minutes from December 16, 2024. All were in favor.

A vote was taken for a new Councilperson. A motion was made to appoint Mrs. Katie Hopkins-Toffling. The vote was 5:1 in favor of Mrs. Hopkins-Toffling.

The swearing in of Councilwoman Mrs. Katie Hopkins-Toffling by Judge Kessler.

The formal swearing in of Mayor Corrigan by Judge Kessler.

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

Mr. Briggman made a motion to have Joseph Bresnan attend the February 27, 2025, zoning hearing for Rockledge Enterprises (Abby's Auto). All were in favor.

Mr. Briggman would like to discuss violations and penalties for snow removal. Mr. Poster advised that he has received phone calls regarding residents not shoveling their sidewalk with the 24- hour allotted time period. We have handed out the friendly door hanger notices to remind people that they have to shovel their sidewalk within 24 hours of the snow stopping. The fine right now is \$10.00. He is suggesting that the fine be changed to \$50.00 for every 24 hours it is not cleared. Mr. Boyle asked about putting it on social media that the sidewalks need to be cleared. Mr. Poster stated that this is not a money-making issue – we just want people to clean their sidewalks. There will be a continued discussion at the February meeting. Mrs. Hopkins-Toffling asked about Huntingdon Pike being an emergency route – would the time be the same as the residents. Mr. Menniti asked Mr. Hess if there were cars still parked on the Pike? Mr. Hess advised that they were good – there were only two issues with properties on where they cleared the snow, and Officer Weinberg took care of those issues. Mr. Menniti is concerned about the snow Emergency Routes of Huntingdon Pike and Church Road. Chief Horajekyj advised that if there are cars parked on these two roads they will knock on doors and ask the residents to move their cars.

Mayor Corrigan wanted to discuss people who do not take care of their lawns. They do not cut their lawn; they get a warning, and then they cut it then 2 months later it is the same again and they get another warning. This should also be considered while we are talking about snow. Mr. Poster will look at this also.

Mr. Hess will check about the snow emergency signage routes.

Mr. Briggman wanted to discuss the recent Planning Commission meeting regarding 350 Robbins Avenue. Mr. Poster stated that this property is at the end of Robbins Avenue at the edge of Rockledge Park. There is an industrial building there and this particular building is at the entrance to the trail. That building is zoned in the residential district and was built in 1965. It would be great to get a business in there for both the owner and the borough. We are looking to rezone it because the other building there is in the Limited Industrial district and this building is in the residential district. The Planning Commission agreed to have the zoning changed to the Limited Industrial district.

Mr. Briggman wanted an update on a previous agenda item of the sidewalk inspection clarification. Mr. Poster advised that there is no ordinance regarding sidewalk inspections and his opinion is to not get involved with doing them unless it is brought up by another resident as a formal complaint. We then can send code enforcement out to determine the condition. When a property sells a Use and Occupancy Inspection is completed and sidewalks are included in that.

Mr. Kirby, 116 S. Penn Avenue, asked about the rules for a fence around swimming pools. There either has to be a fence around the yard with a locking gate or a rail on the pool sides with a locking gate.

Mr. Finnegan, 7930 Fillmore Street, asked about the Railroad building and then the 350 Robbins Avenue building. The solicitor advised that the building is not grandfathered but the business is. If the railroad people wanted to put a different business in there now it would be a change in use and therefore would have to conform to today's zoning. The building at 350 Robbins would have this issue every time a new business went in there. The 350 Robbins property is surrounded by a residential property and a Limited Industrial property – it would be easier to change the zoning.

Mr. Finnegan, 7930 Fillmore Street, also asked about an issue with the trees at the railroad museum on the Sylvania side of the property. Mr. Wartman advised that the previous owner took trees out without getting approval. Mr. Finnegan advised that they are taking the trees out and will be replacing them. There is a zoning decision that trees need to be planted there.

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

End of Year - December 2024

General Fund - \$	17,517.26	
Highway Aid	-	\$ 1,386.17
Capital Reserve	-	\$ 0
Police Pension Fund	-	\$ 0

Monthly Bills – January 2025

General Fund - \$	75,337.63	
Highway Aid	-	\$ 3,973.67
Capital Reserve	-	\$ 525.00
Police Pension Fund	-	\$ 0

Check Detail – December 2024

General Fund	-	\$	2,473.30
Highway Aid	-	\$	0
Capital Reserve	-	\$	90,144.41
Police Pension Fund - \$ 10,147.17			

Public Service: Mr. Creedon advised that Colleen Trahey, from St. Cecilia's School is in attendance to discuss this year's Legacy Run that will take place on Saturday, April 26th, 2025.

Colleen Trahey spoke about the third annual Legacy Run. The Legacy Run Scholarship is for children of St. Cecilia's alumni. Last year they raised \$20,000 and were able to give each applicant a scholarship. This year they will be using the same route as they did last year. The date and time for the run is April 26th, 2025, starting at 8:00 am.

Public Safety: Mr. Boyle made a motion to accept the Police monthly report. All were in favor.

Town Watch: Mr. Fries advised that they logged 30 miles and 4 hours. Welcome to new Mayor Brian Corrigan. Welcome Mrs. Katie Hopkins-Toffling.

Chief Horajekyj advised that Officer Matt Morse has completed his field training. He is also a certified instructor in CPR and 1st Aid.

Chief Horajekyj advised that in 2027 Montgomery County will be updating the radios for police, fire, and emergency services. When he receives more information he will forward to council.

Chief Horajekyj advised that Rockledge Borough Police Department will be hosting a Senior Scam Awareness Presentation in partnership with the PA Office of Attorney General on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at 1:00 pm at the Rockledge Borough Hall, 121 Huntingdon Pike, Rockledge, PA 19046. This informative session will be led by David P. Shallcross, Director of Senior Protection, and will cover the latest scams targeting seniors and provide essential tips on how to stay protected.

Chief Horajekyj presented Officer Frank Jaworski with a plaque for his service to Rockledge Borough. He was an officer here for 20 years and was an excellent field training officer and drug intervention. Frank is retiring.

Thank you to Officer Frank Weinberg for his service to Rockledge Borough and its citizens.

Mayor Corrigan advised that he met with the Chief and some of the officers. One of his goals is to get grants for much needed upgrades to the Police Station. Officer Luke Lukashunas used to be certified to do Truck Compliance Stops but his certifications ran out. Mayor Corrigan and the Chief will be checking to see if any of the other officers would want to pursue getting certified. The reason for this is to make our streets safer, in particular, Huntingdon Pike, Church Road and Fox Chase Road.

Mayor Corrigan said he spoke with Officer Weinberg with regards to safety when we have our parade, with what happened in New Orleans. Mr. Corrigan has some trucks committed to blocking

the unit blocks along the Pike and will be reaching out to other people for their help. Mr. Menniti said sign him up for a couple of vehicles. Mrs. Hopkins-Toffling will reach out to Liberty Roofing to see if they will help out.

Mayor Corrigan asked Mr. Hess about the electronic signs. Mr. Hess will reach out to Mark Hood as the requests have to come from the Emergency Management Coordinator.

Mayor Corrigan advised that on the day of the 4th of July Parade the Pike will be closed earlier than it usually is. They are going to need time to get all the vehicles set up. The closure time will be around 7:00 am.

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

Mr. Hess advised that:

- They have used eight tons of salt.
- One truck had an issue and Abington helped us out.
- Thank you to Council for getting grants to put heat in the shop.
- There was a water issue on Park Avenue and Aqua came right out.
- Thank you to residents on Lynwood Avenue for moving your cars.
- Decorations were taken down.

Mr. Menniti wanted to thank the Public Works Crew for an excellent job with the most recent snowstorm.

Mr. Menniti asked for an update on when the salt bin project will begin and be completed.

Mr. Poster advised that the project should start in a month or two. We will be clearing out excess trees, leveling the ground where the bin is going, installing the salt dome, adding fencing, installing cameras and paving. We received \$145,000 total grants with no match. As the ground starts thawing, we could see some water pipe issues. If you see any water on the ground, please contact the borough office so that we can contact Aqua or contact Aqua directly.

Mr. Hess advised that we are now using Eco friendly salt.

Parks & Recreation Mr. Menniti gave an update on the recent Planning Commission meeting regarding Jarrett Playground and Mill Park.

Jarrett Playground updates: Mr. Poster advised that we are looking for grant opportunities. This project will be done in phases. The cost to remove the existing building, addition of new building re-attaching the sewer and electricity may cost \$450,000 give or take. There are grants available now and he will be applying for those.

Mill Park Phase: The entrance way slab was completed and eventually there will be a 20x20 pavilion; in the open field there will be a path for a walking trail hopefully this summer. Mr. Poster will be applying for a grant for that.

4th of July updates: Brenda Corey: Comedy night is half-way to filling up. They are looking to have fireworks next year for the 250 Anniversary of America. They did receive a \$10,000 grant for those fireworks. A fireworks show costs around \$20,000.

Human Resources: The formal swearing in of Mayor Brian Corrigan. The swearing in of new Councilmember Katie Hopkins-Toffling.

Manager's Report January:

Thursday, January 2, I met with the MCCC Executive Committee. Confirmed MCCC meeting times and guest speakers for the year.

Thursday, January 9th, I attended the MCCC monthly meeting. I listened to the solicitor from Upper Hanover Township, Michael Crotty, about tips for Zoning.

Thursday, January 17th, I met with Montgomery Township Manager, Carolyn McCreary regarding our May 8th meeting, subject will be a Finance Director question and answer panel. I have secured John Ramey, Warminster Finance Director/Assistant Manager, to discuss preparing for the audit.

Tuesday, January 21st, I attended the Planning Commission Meeting where we discussed a building expansion at 612 Huntingdon Pike, re-zoning of 350 Robbins Avenue, Jarrett Playground update, and Mill Park Update.

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

Thursday, February 4th, I have a MCCC Executive meeting.

Thursday, February 11th, I will be attending the monthly MCCC meeting at Jeffersonville Golf Club to meet the three Montgomery County Commission members. Topic, The Dollars Behind Decisions: An Overview of the 2025 County Budget.

As always, Borough Hall is open Monday through Thursday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and closed on Fridays. However, I am available by appointment before and after

9:00 AM & 3:00 PM Monday through Thursday, and on Fridays between 8:00 AM & 4:00 PM.

Public Comment:

Mr. Goldberg – Go Eagles!

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Hines

Borough Clerk