

**COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**OF**  
**March 31, 2025**

The Rockledge Borough Council met at 7:00 p.m. on March 31, 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, Mrs. Hopkins-Toffling and Mayor Corrigan.

**Acceptance of the Minutes:** Motion to adopt the minutes from February 24, 2025. All were in favor.

Council met prior to the meeting for an executive session for a Human Resource matter.

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

Mr. Briggman made the following motions:

- Motion to advertise Ordinance 685. An Ordinance to approve, adopt and enact an Ordinance Codification for the Borough of Rockledge, County of Montgomery, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; to provide for the repeal of certain legislation not included therein; to save from repeal certain other legislation not included therein; and to provide penalties for tampering with the code. All were in favor.
- A motion to adopt Resolution 2025-02 modifying the borough's schedule of Permit Fees to include Public Works Service Fees. All were in favor.

Mr. Denelsbeck wanted to know what Public Works Service Fees are. Mr. Poster advised that surrounding municipalities have added to their fee schedules these fees. For example: a resident does not mow their grass, and we have tried to contact them about cutting their grass and they just don't do it – we can have our Public Works department do the cutting then bill the homeowner for their time, use of equipment, fuel, etc.

Mrs. Hopkins wanted a discussion regarding a Pilot Program for backyard chickens.

Executive Summary: The Borough of Rockledge proposes a Backyard Chicken Pilot Program to allow a limited number of residents to raise chickens in the backyards. This initiative promotes sustainability, food security, and community engagement while ensuring proper regulations and oversight. The first year of the pilot will grant ten licenses at a fee of \$25.00 per household, generating \$250.00 in initial revenue. The program will be evaluated after one year to assess its feasibility for potential expansion.

Program Goals & Benefits:

1. Goals:
  - Promote local, sustainable food sources.

- Educate residents on responsible backyard farming.
  - Assess the feasibility of a permanent program.
  - Ensure public health and animal welfare through proper regulations.
2. Benefits:
- Food Security: households can produce their own fresh eggs.
  - Environmental Impact: Reduces food transportation emissions and food waste (chickens eat table scraps).
  - Community Engagement: Encourage local sustainability practices.
  - Pest Control: Chickens help control insect populations naturally.

#### Program Structure:

1. Licensing & Application Process
- Only ten licenses would be available for the first year.
  - Interested residents must submit an application with:
    - Proof of residency
    - Property details (must meet space requirements)
    - Agreement to comply with program guidelines.
  - A \$25.00 annual license fee will be required upon approval.

#### Points brought up:

- Code enforcement for odor.
- Houses are in close proximity to one another.
- Novelty
- Noise

Residents and council members discussed this and decided that everyone should think about this issue more and that it will be discussed again. Mr. Bresnan will have to look at this regarding the zoning.

Mr. Briggman asked Mr. Poster for an update from the Planning Commission meeting. Mr. Poster advised the following:

#### Mill Park

Mr. Poster stated that he is looking at pricing for the pavilion and the path. He is also looking for grants for this. He is hoping to have some work completed by the end of the summer and beginning of fall. Mr. Poster thanked Mayor Corrigan for his help with information regarding pricing.

#### Jarrett Playground

Mr. Poster advised that he and Councilwoman Hopkins met with Ben Sanchez to discuss state/federal grant opportunities. Designs for this project have been discussed in recent Planning Commission meetings. There is a design for the inclusive playground and a design for the entire park. Please visit the borough's website to see the plans.

**Finance:** Mrs. Hopkins 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.

**Monthly Bills – March 2025**

General Fund	-	\$ 125,425.92
Highway Aid	-	\$ 504.92
Capital Reserve	-	\$ 240.00
Police Pension Fund	-	\$ 599.33

**Check Detail – February 2025**

General Fund	-	\$ 7,444.05
Highway Aid	-	\$ 2,977.27
Capital Reserve	-	\$ 55.21
Police Pension Fund	-	\$ 9,564.70

Mrs. Hopkins gave an update on her meeting with Ben Sanchez regarding grants. Thank you to Mr. Poster for going and introducing her to Ben Sanchez. She had a great conversation with Mr. Sanchez with regards to the following:

- How can Mr. Sanchez be more involved?
- How can he attend more events here?
- He placed Councilwoman Hopkins on a grant email chain.
- There may be grants for us to update our website.

Councilwoman Hopkins is excited to work with Mr. Sanchez's representatives on grants. Councilwoman Hopkins asked other Councilmembers to send her their priorities and wish lists so that she may be able to look for grants. Representative Ben Sanchez has offered to contact Aqua about having a water fountain installed at Jarrett Playground.

Mr. Denelsbeck, 105 N. Sylvania Avenue asked why all revenue sources are not reported on a monthly basis. This will be looked at.

Mrs. Hopkins advised that she attended the Rockledge Fox Chase Business Association meeting. They would like to work with the borough on issues like promoting new businesses, etc. They meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month – the location does change every month.

**Public Service:** Mr. Creedon had nothing at this time.

Mr. Menniti advised that the trash contract is up at the end of this year. When he was on Public Service when he first started on Council, he was told by a lot of haulers that they did not have enough time to work on the trash bid and submit it. Mr. Menniti would like the bid to go out earlier than we normally send it out. Mr. Poster said he did send a mock bid to Zack and Joe. Mr. Bresnan said that you can't do it too early because they don't know what costs are going to be until it gets closer to the end of the year and he thinks that it is not just the time frame of the bid opening but a lot of haulers do not want to bid to pick up trash in Borough's – our streets are smaller so they cannot use the automated trucks. Mr. Poster said he was thinking about sending the bid out in September with an opening date in October. Mr. Poster spoke with Al DeGennaro,

Mascaro's attorney, regarding concerns that Mr. Poster has. Mr. Menniti would like to take a look at the businesses as we do pick up trash from some of the businesses. Mr. Poster agreed.

Mr. Joseph Denelsbeck, 105 N. Sylvania stated that he remembers Mr. DeGennaro stating that we have the Cadillac of trash pick-up. Maybe Council should look at; the number of cans allowed out, number of bulk items allowed, etc.

Mr. Poster advised that Mr. DeGennaro stated that we could do a contract for 3 years with two additional options for extending the contract. Mr. Bresnan stated that options are tricky. You can do any kind of alternative, but you cannot make a later decision on a contract bid. If you get a one year, three year or five-year contract that has options you would compare them and see what is best for you. What you cannot do is give a three-year contract with a two-year option and then say we will decide in three years. You are essentially circumventing the bid process. You have to decide upfront what option you are taking.

Mayor Corrigan advised that he recalls we are allowed up to ten cans and one bulk item a week. Maybe not have bulk items every week – 1 x monthly. Mr. Menniti would just like to have this looked at.

Mr. Denelsbeck, 105 N. Sylvania Avenue mentioned that we need to look at where our trash is taken. Mr. Poster stated that Mr. DeGennaro stated it is cheaper for them to dispose of it because they have their own facility. Mr. Poster stated that when attending the Montgomery County Consortium meetings every month he has mentioned several times about joining with other municipalities. The problem is that it would have to be a borough because none of the townships do any type of single hauler trash and if they did, they would not be using a truck with a driver and 2 pickers, they would be using the truck with the arm. Mr. Poster said he mentioned this to Mr. DeGennaro and was told by him that it would still be two separate pick-ups as they would be on different days.

Mr. Denelsbeck, 105 N. Sylvania Avenue asked if anyone has checked with Jenkintown as they pick up their own and has anyone researched us picking up our own. Mr. Poster advised that it would cost us about \$400,000 for a truck and then what happens when that truck goes down, who are we going to get to pick up trash. We would have to add two more full-time positions so then we would have to provide benefits. Mr. Poster has not reached out to Jenkintown yet.

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

Chief Horajekyj:

- Officers have completed their mandatory training. They have to do the range portion and that will be done. During the months of February and March all officers completed the mandatory training as required by the Municipal Police Officers Education and Training commission. In addition our newer officers (Grabov, Stlaey, Morse and Meed) attended other training (report writing, De-escalation tactics, Medical Marijuana Workshop, Traffic stops and High-Risk Traffic Stops, Handling Communication Barriers (Hearing impaired, Autistic persons), Dui case law and Dui Field Sobriety Testing. All this

training was free and paid for by Bucks County Training Center, PA Chiefs of Police Association and Pennsylvania State Police.

Thank you to Harold Praediger. When our officers had to qualify at the range we used the Montgomery County Range in Conshohocken. The building is undergoing repair work, and we have to relocate. We have returned to Classic Pistol in Southampton, but there is a membership fee for this. Mr. Praediger, through the funds of the Car Show, has paid the \$1,400 membership fee. Mr. Praediger also purchased a large Pop-up tent, table and table cover for the department.

Our new officer, Officer Morse, has been training alongside Officer Weinberg, trying to learn the process of preparing for community events.

Chief Horajekyj would like to commend the Rockledge Fire Department. The firefighters arrived on March 24, 2025, at a house fire at 66 Robbins Avenue, they did an excellent job! Two dogs were inside, and they were transported to the vet and both are doing great.

Mayor Corrigan stated that April 12, 2025, is the opening day of Fox Rok little league. Players and coaches will be meeting at the Fox Chase parking lot at 7:40 am and will be marching to Fox Chase recreation center at 8:15 am.

Town Watch: Mr. Kevin Fries gave an update. They logged 25-man hours and eighty-eight miles. There was one issue, and the officers responded in under 3 minutes.

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

Mr. Hess gave updates:

- The parks have been being cleaned up.
- Trying to use the street sweeper more this year – please check Facebook for the street sweeping schedule – this schedule is rain or shine.
- Any pot-holes – please contact Mr. Hess [mhess@rockledgeborough.org](mailto:mhess@rockledgeborough.org)

Mayor Corrigan thanked Public Works for the painting that was done at the Police Station.

Mr. Menniti asked about the construction of the Salt bin down at Public Works. Mr. Poster advised that we are in a bit of a holding pattern because the salt bin material comes from Canada, so the business owner does not want to pay extra because of the tariffs. Tree removal can be started. We cannot pave because the salt bin needs to be added first. The fencing can be done just up until the where the salt bin is going. We can get started with excavating and tree removal. Mayor Corrigan asked if Canada is the only place to get the salt bin material. Mr. Poster advised that they were the lowest responsible bidder and that is where the contractor gets his material.

Mr. Poster advised that there have been questions about paving. Mr. Poster had Mr. Hess, and his crew go out and identify streets that need to be paved and come up with a rating system of those streets – which ones are terrible, ok, and pretty decent. Mr. Poster will be looking at grants

through the Department of Community and Economic Development and also speak with Representative Ben Sanchez.

Mr. Hess advised that we are on the list for some gas work – we will have to see what they are doing and what will be paved – we may luck out with getting some paving done that way.

Mr. Menniti asked if there is an Ordinance regarding if a company comes in to do any type of work and dig up the street are they required to pave a percentage of the street or just patch it. Mr. Poster will contact Peco to see what work is going to be done and what they are doing – we could use their contractor to get paving done.

**Parks & Recreation:** Mr. Kirby was in attendance to give an update from the Fourth of July Association:

- On April 26, 2025, the committee will be hosting their Bar Crawl, 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm; shirts are \$30.00.
- On May 20, 2025, election day, they will be selling their baked goods, calendars, and shirts.
- 2025 Fireworks and games will be on July 3, 2025
- The 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade will be on July 4, 2025
- Annual golf outing is on September 27, 2025, at Byrnes Golf Course.

Mr. Menniti wanted to remind everyone:

- The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 12, 2025, at 10:00 am with a rain date of April 13, 2025, at 1:00 pm
- 2025 Summer Camp will run June 23, 2025, through July 25, 2025.
- St. Cecilia's Legacy Run will be on Saturday, April 26, 2025 at 8:00 am. The pike will be shut down at 7:30 am.
- Mr. Menniti advised that we received a thank you from Fox Rok Cheerleading for use of the gym.

**Human Resources:** Mr. Clarke made a motion to accept Tyler Dermer's resignation as Assistant Fire Marshal and Interim Fire Marshal. All were in favor.

Swearing in of Joseph Radtke as Fire Marshal. All were in favor.

Swearing in of Michael Hess as Assistant Fire Marshal. All were in favor.

Swearing in of new Part-time Police Officer Edward Titterton. All were in favor.

Motion to accept Bryan Poster's resignation as full-time Borough Manager effective April 11, 2025. All were in favor.

Motion to an agreement with Bryan Poster as Interim part-time Borough Manager with an hourly rate of \$55.00 an hour on an as needed basis. All were in favor.

Motion to approve Police Chief's contract as discussed in executive session. All were in favor.

Mr. Denelsbeck, 105 N. Sylvania Avenue, asked what are the terms. Mr. Bresnan advised a Right to Know request would need to be submitted. Mr. Clarke did advise that the contract ends

at the end of 2025. Mr. Menniti would like everyone to know that Chief Horajecyk is the Chief of Police not Interim Chief. Mr. Denelsbeck wanted to know if there is a plan for 2026 with this contract being for only a year. Mr. Poster advised that in the contract we have to let the Chief know in September 2025 about extending his contract and even if he would want to extend it.

### **Manager's Report March:**

I wanted to read my message from Facebook for those residents that are not on social media. I regret to inform you that I will be resigning from my position as Borough Manager, with my last day being Friday, April 11. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to Rockledge Borough for the opportunity I have had over the past two years. During this time, we have made significant progress improving borough efficiency, record retention, and more. We are now able to record council meetings for storage on our website, we have improved the visibility of our Facebook page, increased the viewership of our website, improved the entire summer camp process, and more. We have developed job descriptions for all borough positions, created an employee handbook, implemented a new payroll system, along with many other HR accomplishments.

Additionally, we successfully secured grants for various important projects, including acquiring a dump truck and a pickup truck, as well as enhancing the Public Works building by adding bathrooms, heating, and new garage doors. We also constructed a new pole building to accommodate borough vehicles and provide additional storage, the MS4 storm sewer filter project, the salt bin building, and the implementation of a borough watch camera system, among others. I am particularly proud of the new tradition we established with the inaugural tree-lighting event in Rockledge.

There are several other projects currently in progress, such as Mill Park and Jarrett Park, and I eagerly anticipate their completion in the future.

Working alongside the staff, council, and residents has been a rewarding experience. I am confident that Rockledge will continue to thrive, thanks to the dedication and hard work of everyone involved.

As I transition to Telford Borough, which is much closer to my home, I remain committed to assisting Rockledge in any way possible during the interim period until a new manager is appointed. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this amazing community!

### **Public Comment:**

Mr. Denelsbeck, 105 N. Sylvania Avenue, brought up about "vote no" signage regarding the proposed construction of a new Middle School. If members of council have signs to vote no to the referendum, then the borough's taxes should not be increased. Mr. Enderle said thank you.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joyce Hines  
Borough Clerk