

**COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**OF**  
**January 30, 2023**

The Rockledge Borough Council met at 7:30 p.m. on January 30, 2023 at the Rockledge Borough Hall. After the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance, the roll was called as follows:

In Attendance: Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Kehoe, Mr. Sheppard, Mr. Enderle, Mr. Menniti, Mr. Clarke, Mr. Briggman, and Mayor Caffrey.

**Additions to the Agenda:** Mr. Enderle has a change to the agenda. Depository Banks should be placed under Finance.

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

**Acceptance of the Minutes:** Motion to adopt the minutes from December 19, 2022. All were in favor.

Mrs. Morris advised that council met on January 10, 2023 for an executive session regarding a human resource issue.

Mrs. Morris advised that council met prior to tonight's council meeting for an executive session regarding a human resource issue.

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

Mrs. Morris brought up about short term rentals. Mr. Bresnan will make a draft of the ordinance with changes and present to council.

Mr. Sheppard wanted to discuss the planning process in regard to the future of the Borough building. The borough owns a piece of property across the street. This building is getting older and needing more maintenance. The lease for the day care is up in February and we are waiting for their plans. They have asked for an extension but it won't be long term. The time has come for us to plan what our options are for this. Do we improve the lot across the street? Mr. Bresnan stated the parcel across the street has deed restrictions. When the Church sold it to the borough it was deeded that it could only be used as town hall. The borough tried to get the restrictions lifted to sell the parcel but the Church wanted too much. When this building stops being used as borough hall it reverts back to the school district. If the borough moves out it would no longer be used as borough hall. Obviously there is a lot to this. Mr. Bresnan will contact the Solicitor for the school board to discuss.

John Wynne 32 Blake stated that he thought that the parcel of land was open space forever. Mr. Bresnan advised deed restriction is held by the Church. Mr. Wynne is on the Planning Commission and will be working on the Comprehensive Plan which is from 2007 and an update 2012.

Mr. Wynne asked if we have a representative from the County. Mrs. Hines will find out who our rep is. Mr. Wynne asked council if they want the Planning Commission to address this building. Mrs. Morris said yes she would like their input.

Mr. Menniti asked when the Planning Commission meets. Mrs. Hines will give the dates to Mr. Menniti.

Mrs. Morris advised that when the borough hires a contractor and that contractor is located in the borough that they have to be up to date on their Mercantile/Business Privilege tax. We could do a resolution setting this policy. Mr. Bresnan will take care of this.

Mrs. Morris advised that the borough ordinances have not been codified since 2005. General code is about \$16,000. Mr. Bresnan advised that E360 can get them online. Whenever you adopt a new ordinance it can be added. We would have to check to see if they do the edits. All were in agreement to get this process started.

Mrs. Morris advised that she received information regarding a resolution authorizing execution of a cable franchise agreement between the borough and Verizon Pennsylvania. Mr. Bresnan said that this is thru the consortium and everyone signed the resolution but we did not.

Mrs. Morris made a motion to adopt resolution 2023-01. A resolution of the Borough of Rockledge authorizing execution of a cable franchise agreement between the borough and Verizon Pennsylvania. All were in favor.

Mrs. Barto and Mrs. DeChristofaro from the 200 Block of Jarrett wanted to thank to Council for all the work and listening to their concerns regarding issues near the Playground. Thank you to Mr. Sheppard and his crew, thank you to Chief Gallagher for his suggestions and thank you to everyone.

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

**Monthly Bills – End of December 2022**

General Fund	– \$	8,613.49
Highway Aid	– \$	1,589.84
Capital Reserve	– \$	64.27
Police Pension Fund	- \$	0

**Monthly Bills – January 2023**

General Fund	– \$	116,399.55
Highway Aid	– \$	2,810.07
Capital Reserve	– \$	2,150.04
Police Pension Fund	- \$	900.00

**Check Detail – December 2022**

General Fund	– \$	292,529.74
Highway Aid	– \$	0
Capital Reserve	– \$	262,057.74
Police Pension Fund	- \$	9,076.21

A motion to name the following as Depository Banks: All were in favor.

Wells Fargo  
Univest  
Wachovia Securities  
Tompkins Vist Bank

Pa Local Government Investment Trust

Mr. Wartman gave the Treasurers report, December 2022:

<u>General Fund:</u>	Beginning Balance	\$ 394,249.79
	Receipts	\$ 354,287.13
	Disbursements	\$ 517,797.50
	Ending Balance	\$ 230,734.42
<u>Highway Aid:</u>	Beginning Balance	\$ 23,558.25
	Receipts	\$ 3.81
	Disbursements	\$ 6,184.98
	Ending Balance	\$ 17,377.08
<u>Capital Reserve:</u>	Beginning Balance	\$ 322,863.66
	Receipts	\$ 80.66
	Disbursements	\$ 322,944.32
	Ending Balance	\$ 60,441.77
<u>Police Pension MMO:</u>	Beginning Balance	\$ 95,047.88
	Deposits/Interest	\$ 16.20
	Disbursements	\$ 0
	Ending Balance	\$ 95,064.08
<u>Fund Account:</u>	Beginning Balance	\$ 384,453.88
	Receipts/Interest	\$ 289,262.31
	Disbursements	\$ 265,000.00
	Ending Balance	\$ 408,716.19
<u>ARPA Account:</u>	Beginning Balance	\$ 0
	Receipts/Interest	\$ 261,997.52
	Disbursements	\$ 0
	Ending Balance	\$ 261,997.52

Mr. Enderle wanted to discuss the possibility of a grant for the MS4 filters. Mrs. Morris advised that we need to replace the filters from the MS4 permit. We can use the ARPA money (Covid relief money). Mr. Sheppard advised that the filters are about 270,000. We are also looking into Abington Township to share the costs as there are 2 inlets that we share. Council agreed to go ahead and apply for the grant. Mr. Sheppard believes that there is no match.

**Public Service:** Mr. Briggman wanted a discussion about the Abington Senior Fair, May 5 at the Salem Baptist Church, 2741 Woodland Road in Abington. They are conducting a Senior Fair. Mr. Briggman plans to attend. Information will be placed on the website.

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

Town Watch:

Mr. Fries advised that there was no nonsense last night. Talked about a program Abington has called Block Watch. While people are walking their dogs people talk – if you see something say something.

Mr. Fries will work with Mr. Menniti to get information on the website. They logged 126 miles and 23 man hours.

Mr. Clarke advised that Colleen Trahey from Saint Cecilia's is organizing a 5k run on April 29, 2023 at 8:00 am thru Fox Chase, Rockledge and parts of Abington. Council's only concern is that Huntingdon Pike is supposed to be milled and paved around that time. Chief Gallagher will work with Colleen on this event. This includes walking too.

Chief Gallagher advised that the biggest issue right now is theft of catalytic converters. He went over report numbers, increased foot patrols and traffic increase.

Mrs. Finnegan, 7930 Fillmore Street, wanted to thank Chief Gallagher and his guys, she was the one that had the catalytic converter stolen.

Mrs. Finnegan advised that she has noticed that the officers are patrolling on the Rockledge/Philadelphia border and she wanted to say thank you.

Kevin Fries wanted to thank John Creedon and his fiancé Dawn both town watch members for going out in the middle of the night.

Lynn Toner, 14 N. Sylvania had a complaint about parking on Sylvania from patrons or employees of the Austrian Village. Mrs. Morris advised that we cannot tell people not to park on a public street. Mrs. Morris advised that we can try to speak to the owner and ask that her employees park in the shopping center.

Kathy McFadden, 115 N. Sylvania Avenue, asked well then if the employees from the Austrian are parking in the shopping center then what about the people who own stores in the shopping center because parking is already an issue there. Are the employees of the Austrian not allowed to park in their lot? The Chief and the Mayor will have a conversation with the owner of the Austrian.

John Wynne, 32 Blake Avenue, behind the Austrian village has a lot of parking spots. Could we ask them to do shared parking? Chief and the Mayor will talk to them.

**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. Sheppard advised of a sewer back up the day after Christmas on Chandler that affected 2 houses. Abington Township, Mr. Hess and Mr. Sheppard were there. Thank you to Cheltenham Township and Kyle Dermer who worked with Abington, who had to flush the line, they sent a camera down and found there are no cracks or obstructions on the pipe on Chandler – it is unexplainable. Lines are clear.

Mr. Sheppard wanted to discuss the island at N. Sylvania Avenue. After a discussion it was agreed to cement it over and paint the two end caps painted yellow with beads for reflection.

Mr. Briggman asked if this is a case of clearance or just driver issues. Mrs. Morris stated that it is both.

Mr. Sheppard has advised that we have finalized the grant for the pole barn at the borough garage. The grant is \$60,000. Once payment is received it will be put out to bid.

On January 6 grant forms were submitted to Harrisburg thru Representative Ben Sanchez for a new public works vehicle in the amount of \$125,000. This grant is 85% and we would have to pay 15% match. The

cost of a new vehicle is thru Costars thru Fred Beans in the amount \$\$145,000. The old vehicle will be placed for sale on Municibid and thinks we may get more than \$15,000.

**Recreation:** Mr. Menniti had nothing at this time.

**Human Resources:**

Mrs. Kehoe advised that Grace Metzinger handed in her resignation in May and we have been looking for a manager since then. Grace has continued to work for us as Interim Borough Manager until we found a new manager. Mrs. Kehoe would like to thank Grace for her dedication to Rockledge Borough. She was with the borough for 17 years going on 18 years. Mrs. Kehoe also wanted to thank Joyce for picking up the slack.

Mrs. Kehoe made a motion to hire Bryan Poster as Borough Manager. All were in favor.

Mrs. Morris advised that Mrs. Kehoe has spent numerous hours in the search for a borough manager. Thank you to Patti.

Bryan Poster was in attendance and said:

Bryan Poster comes to us from Lansdale Borough, he was there for 23 years. He started off in the Wastewater Department for 12 years. He managed 3 other employees with a 3 or 4 million dollar budget just for technology. The entire Lansdale budget was 60 million. He sees the same challenges here in Rockledge. Thank you for allowing me to be here.

Mrs. Kehoe made a motion to re-appoint the following: All were in favor.

Joseph Bresnan, Solicitor  
Charles Shoemaker, Inc., Engineer  
Bee, Bergvall & Co., Auditor  
Albert Wartman, Treasurer  
Bryan Poster, Secretary  
Berkheimer Associates, Mercantile Tax Collector  
Building Inspection underwriters, Building Inspector  
Richard Schuck, Fire Marshal  
Mark Hood, Assistant Fire Marshal  
Richard Schuck, Emergency Management Coordinator  
Joseph Costello, Vacancy Board Chair

**Managers' Report:**

**Public Comment:**

John Wynne, 32 Blake Avenue, would like council to check the sign ordinance. Ordinance says no illumination. This will be checked.

He also said that the Planning Commission had spoken about the front of that property having grass at the curb area and to stagger the signage.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joyce Hines  
Borough Clerk