

ROCKLEDGE BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
OF
September 10, 2007

The Rockledge Borough Council met at 7:30 p.m. on September 10, 2007, at the Rockledge Borough Hall. After the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance, the roll was called as follows: Mr. Denelsbeck, Mr. Beady, Mr. Caffrey, Mr. Casey and Mayor Praediger.

Additions to the Agenda: Mr. Caffrey would like to talk about a training session for the Fire Marshall to attend.

Mr. Denelsbeck would like to talk about a report he received from the Auditor General on the Police Pension Fund.

Motion was made to accept the August 13, and August 27, 2007 minutes. All were in favor.

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

Mr. Caffrey advised that about 6 months ago we received a revision from Mr. Hartey about making adjustments to the financial end of the permit schedules (the fees). Where do we stand with that? Mr. Caffrey is seeing a lot of construction going on and he thinks we looked at the cost of the new building inspection company because the cost of the new company is much higher and how do we expect to recoup the difference? Mr. Hartey advised Mr. Caffrey that we were going to hold off the permit fees because we were not sure of the increased expense for the new company that started July 1. We went from \$45.00 to \$52.00 an hour. There has not been anymore discussion on the new permit fees. Mr. Caffrey advised Mr. Hartey that the schedule he did looked good and had a lot of facts and numbers. Can we look at that for budget purposes for next year? Mr. Denelsbeck asked Mr. Beady if we could get that back by October, so when we have to do our revenue number and expense number. Mr. Beady said yes. Mr. Beady and Mr. Hartey will get together next week. Mr. Bresnan said don't forget that we can include our time. You calculate the total cost of the permit program including the 3rd party company plus any internal cost. Mr. Hartey asked "Joyce and Myself" Mr. Bresnan said yes. Mr. Caffrey has no complaint about the building inspector he likes the guy. He is abrupt but he tells how it is. Mr. Hartey also said he has been very happy with him. The company that the building inspector works for can assist in doing a new permit schedule, but there is an additional fee for this.

Mr. Denelsbeck has received a complaint about the electric, plumbing etc. at the garage on 200 Park Avenue that was just built. Mr. Denelsbeck asked Mr. Hartey, if he could send the building inspector out to that address, to make sure it is looked at.

Finance: Mr. Casey made a motion to accept the monthly bills and tax collector's report. All were in favor.

Mr. Denelsbeck asked if anyone had any questions about the bills. Mr. Caffrey stated that there were a few. His one question was, why are we paying for an inspection on the new police vehicle, but this is the way it had to be. Mr. Denelsbeck wanted to know where Pontarelli's Automotive was located. Chief Leary advised Mr. Denelsbeck that it is located in Warminster. Mr. Denelsbeck wants the vehicles to be inspected somewhere closer to Rockledge. Chief Leary said ok.

Mr. Denelsbeck has a payroll question he has to address in a personnel session.

Mr. Casey stated that we received a Duda Actuarial Consulting calculation of the 2008 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Borough of Rockledge, Police Pension Plan. Says that 5% police contribution again and they are saying that we are going to have to also add \$34,000. We went over the plan with Kathy Jordan and Duda before and they think we have a very good plan going on. This is really the best plan right now, unless we wanted to get crazy with our investments. The \$34,000 is not less the state contributions. Mr.

Denelsbeck wanted to know what the state contribution was last year. Mr. Hartey wants to say \$28,000. Mr. Denelsbeck wanted to know the unit per officer is these days. He asked Chief Leary if it was 7 or 8. Chief Leary did not know? He will find that out, because there is going to be a difference, but it's not going to be that astronomical. 5% is the limit by law.

Everyone received a budget packet in your weekly packets, so Mr. Denelsbeck would like to start working on the budget in October. Mr. Hartey gave everyone a copy of the 2005, 2006 & 2007 budget reports to compare previous years. Mr. Caffrey apologized to Mr. Hartey, he did not understand why he was getting old reports. Mr. Denelsbeck did the same thing.

Next thing is that we received the Auditor Generals report on our Police Pension Fund, and we got spanked a little. Mr. Bresnan will have to fix this one. Non-compliance with prior audit recommendations: 1. failure to adopt the benefit provision mandated by act 30. Mr. Denelsbeck thinks that our wording is not what they want for pre-vesting death benefit, killed in service and survivor's benefit. Mr. Denelsbeck thinks the wording is wrong and he is going to give the report to Mr. Bresnan, so that he can see it, but it needs to be fixed. 2. failure to pay the Minimum Municipal Obligation of the plan in 2005, because we simply forgot to make that payment which we have rectified. We actually rectified this before we received this report. 3. failure to appoint a chief administrative officer. Mr. Denelsbeck does not understand this, because every time they tell us this, we appoint Albert Wartman and every time they audit us they change the terminology that they want, so this one we can fix. 4. Custodial accounts maintained by the municipality, but Mr. Denelsbeck does not understand this one, so this will have to be a tax person.

Public Service: Mr. Caffrey stated that Mrs. Kehoe is not here. He does not know if she had anything to bring up, but Mr. Denelsbeck advised Mr. Caffrey, that his news letter items need to be given to her, we would like to get that out because we are a little bit behind.

Public Safety: Mr. Caffrey made a motion to accept the Police, Fire Marshal and Fire Company Reports. All were in favor.

Mr. Caffrey discussed the correspondence he received from Russell Hellyer the Fire Marshall. He would like to be able to attend a three day course providing a comprehensive review of public safety requirements, fire code, building code. The class starts September 18, 2007 until September 20, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The cost of the program is \$295.00 and in that \$295.00 Mr. Caffrey would like to incorporate his salary as the Fire Marshall. This will put the budget for the Fire Marshall a tad over. Mr. Caffrey had mentioned this in the last council meeting, but he did not have all the facts. He doesn't know the exact amount but he thinks it is somewhere around \$500.00 over budget. Mr. Caffrey would like to have an approval to let the Fire Marshall attend these classes. Motion was made and all were in favor.

Mayor Praediger spoke about Rockledge Night Out/Car show last night which was a tremendous success. We had 176 registered vehicles that showed up for the car show. It was a very good time. There was great response from the community. Chief Leary stated a big thank you to everyone, especially Carl Siwek. Mr. Denelsbeck asked Chief Leary if we were going to send a letter of thanks to him so he can hang it up in the store? Chief Leary stated we are going to give him a plaque.

Mr. Denelsbeck asked Chief Leary if he had anything to discuss. Crime Night out coordinated by the entire Police Department, Mayor Praediger and most especially Frank Weinberg, Carl Siwek and the entire Siwek Family. They did a terrific job before, during and after the car show. We actually had to turn cars away because there was just no more room. We will take a look at that a little bit further for next year. Tomorrow, September 11, 2007 and Wednesday September 12, 2007 the E.D.I.T.S symposium will start. Members' of council are welcome.

Streets, Lights, and Sewers: Mr. Beady made a motion to accept the Streets Opening Report. All were in favor.

Mr. Caffrey had a question about Fox Chase Road. Mr. Denelsbeck stated that we will call Abington.

Several months ago Mr. Denelsbeck asked for research on a small utility vehicle to aid in the crew's ability to do their jobs, specifically with the snow and clearing of sidewalks and the clearing of the walking

trail. Mr. Hartey and Mr. Praediger did some research on a piece of John Deere piece of equipment that would do that for us and one of the reasons, this being directed to Mr. Caffrey because he is the least accepting of this is that the plan is to add another walking trail to the park on Jarrett Avenue and a walking trail through the park across the street and interconnect them, so it is going to be a significant amount of walking to be done on top of the significant amount of sidewalk that we already have. It will serve some other purposes. It will give them the freedom to do more jobs because one person can shoot off in that little thing and do some things that hold up our truck. We had one for a day to try out and it worked really well. Mr. Denelsbeck liked it. This will also help save money on the fuel. Mr. Caffrey did not think that the vehicle could be driven down the street, but Mr. Denelsbeck said we could, we drive the lawnmower down the street. It is more like a golf cart, with a little bit of power behind it. Mr. Denelsbeck is not willing to approve the windshield and the doors right now he thinks maybe they need to look at the budgetary process for that. He also thinks that there is no glass enclosure when you are snow blowing. Mr. Denelsbeck is only looking to approve the machine, the plow and the spreader right now, because that is all the money he can find. Mr. Denelsbeck thinks that those items will still be available, correct? Mr. Praediger advised Mr. Denelsbeck that you should at least get the vehicle with the windshield. We will hold off approval for two weeks so we can look for the extra money. We will get Mr. Caffrey a brochure so he can see it.

Recreation: Mr. Casey had nothing to report.

Mr. Denelsbeck has asked for the Easter Egg Hunt checkbook to be returned to us. The person in charge is retiring after 8 years of service. We need this information so we can start to plan for the Easter Egg Hunt, because it is very early.

Property: Mr. Beady had nothing at this time.

Personnel: Mr. Casey advised that there has been one letter of interest for the street crew foreman position. There will be an interview this Friday, September 14, 2007, at 4:00 p.m.

Public Comment:

Mrs. Paulus was wondering if you had an update on the War Memorials. Mr. Kraus is here and he will talk about them in a little while. She wanted an update on the revitalization. Mr. Denelsbeck advised her that the light pole foundations were poured on the North side of the Pike in Rockledge. They should be pouring the sidewalk in front of the Church this week.

Mr. Wynn: Borough will reimburse for the class that he wants to attend. No trees have been projected out. We are in the process of accessing value of the properties that are on Loney Street.

Mr. Goldberg: Any update on the employee ID cards? No, we are working on that. Council has just received their badges this evening.

Mr. Hipwell: He stated that he has been watering the flower pots along the pike. He was hoping that we will not be putting new flower pots in because nobody waters them. After two years he took one apart and one of the problems is that the flower pots have stone in the bottom of them so the water goes right through them. He does a lot of traveling and over in Chestnut Hill they have a lot of flower and they have a man with a truck going down the street to water the flowers. He said if you are going to have them you need someone to water them or get rid of them. Mr. Denelsbeck said ok. Mr. Hipwell is concerned about the man at the auto body shop. He has moved the planters close to the building and he knows of another building/business that did this and the planter caught on fire and the whole building went up. Mr. Denelsbeck advised him that there is nothing he can do about this, they are his flowers. Mr. Denelsbeck advised Mr. Hipwell that there are no plans for new flower pots. Mr. Hipwell has heard that there was a Center City consulting firm recommending that the signs come down. Mr. Denelsbeck advised Mr. Hipwell that the Kise Straw & Kolodner Company from Center City did the preliminary drawing for the revitalization. Nowhere in any of the plans does it say to remove the signs. It very clearly however, talks

about the condition of the signs as they are replaced, and that is a decision that this council made. Mr. Denelsbeck also advised Mr. Hipwell that the Center City consulting firm did recommend that that sidewalks from Church Road to the Cemetery be replaced.

Mr. Conrad Krause: Wanted to give an update on the War Monuments. In the beginning of the year we received permission from the Board of Trustees of the St. Timothy's Church, to move the monument on the Fillmore side to their property, we are going to try to maintain the right of way. Today, we made the most progress, Harold Praediger was there along with Harold Windisch from Penndot and a couple of other engineers working on the project and they are going to consider and paying for the cost of repairing and moving the monument foundations. We needed a price all these years, and finally after the monument got hit about 6 or 7 years ago by a snowplow, Mr. Krause was able to get someone to come up with a drawing pro bono, that he sent to a couple of people who would be involved in the prices of granite on both sides, Rockledge side also the Fox Chase side. They came up with a price of \$172,000 less than the city did which sparked a little bit of interest in Arts & Culture and the city Historic Commission down there. We are back to placing, we have a lot of detail work that we have to take care of right now, and we Brian O'Neil's representative who happens to be the post commander with us today, George Kenny's representative, Tom was also there today, we do have some progress and I expect while the streetscape project is going on we will have something final before they leave. Plans are to restore each monument. Plan is to move the one on the Fillmore street side onto St. Timothy's lawn. The other one will stay where it is. They can be restored for about \$40,000 each. Mayor Praediger advised council that there is a problem with the electricity. Mayor Praediger advised that we don't know the resolve would be for sure right now, when they dig this thing up on the Rockledge side, they are going to see where the piping is, if they can either reuse it and then imitate it on the Fillmore street side off of our street pole light that we are going to have down at Blake Florist. Do not know what is going to happen when they are dug up. Mr. Denelsbeck advised that they were very good about that when we had our issue with the traffic light here at Church Road. It was a very inexpensive thing, so if we need to add that to the project and its reasonable, we will certainly eat that. Mr. Krause asked for a letter of support for the project, to be sent either to the Pennsylvania Historic Commission and or down to Margo Berg. Mr. Denelsbeck stated that we are under the impression that the control of those monuments is not under Arts and Cultures. Mr. Hartey advised that they were not under Fairmount Park , it is under the Arts and Cultures. Margo Berg is the contact. Motion made to send a letter of support. All were in favor. Mr. Denelsbeck advised Mr. Krause that the letter would be sent tomorrow. Mr. Hartey will wait to hear from Mr. Krause with the address. Mr. Caffrey suggested maybe doing another time capsule. Mr. Denelsbeck stated that the Borough of Rockledge would be happy to do anything to help except paying for them.

Mrs. Paulus: Questioned the height of the monuments. They will be a little different then they are now, because of the cost.

Mr. Denelsbeck advised Mr. Praediger that Abington will do the wiring for the monuments, not Tony DePaul. We had Abington lay the conduit at Church Road for a couple of hundred dollars. We just have to buy the device. Abington will install the device for us.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Hines
Administrative Assistant