

ROCKLEDGE BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
OF
September 24, 2007

The Rockledge Borough Council met at 7:30 p.m. on September 24 2007, at the Rockledge Borough Hall. After the prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance were recited, the roll was called as follows: Mr. Denelsbeck, Mrs. Walz, Mr. Beady, Mr. Kelleher, Mr. Caffrey and Mrs. Kehoe.

Motion was made to adopt the agenda. All were in favor.

Additions: Recreation: a request from the Rotary Club to use Rockledge Park.

Law and Planning: Mr. Beady wanted to discuss the 1% Earned Income Tax, late fees. Mr. Denelsbeck advised that somehow some people of Rockledge were subjected to a late fee bill issued by Berkheimer. Mr. Denelsbeck happened to receive one himself. We are investigating it and we called the school district who is our only partner in the tax. They do not know anything about it. Berkheimer told us last week that it was Abington, it could be the district or the township, asked for the tax to be collected on a quarterly basis, and that fines and fees should be levied, we have never done that before, and Mr. Denelsbeck does not think that we instructed anyone to do that.

Mr. Kelleher stated that when you call Berkheimer, they state that they are sending these tax bills out blank, there is nothing on them and what they want you to do is figure out what you made in that quarter, and then take 1% of it and send it. So you have to estimate your own bill. What they will do at the end of the year, is send you out another bill to give to your accountant or whoever does your end of year taxes, and then if there is a mistake it will be fixed. Mr. Denelsbeck stated "just like your income tax". Mr. Kelleher stated that they are asking you to take your quarterly earnings for all 4 quarters, quarterly and figure it out yourself. Per Mr. Denelsbeck, they have always done this. Mr. Kelleher has always received a bill at the end of the year and would give it to his accountant. But then 2 weeks ago he received a blank bill that he never received before, it was not from Albert Wartman, so he called Berkheimer, and was told that Abington passed an ordinance that was passed in 2006 starting in 2007 that they wanted it quarterly. He said that he does not live in Abington, he lives in Rockledge, and that he always did it at the end of the fiscal year. He was told no. Now if you do not pay it quarterly, you have to pay the fines and the interest. He told them that he did not get the 1st and 2nd quarterly bill, and was told that they are a little bit slow catching up. But they still want us to pay the fines and penalties. Mr. Kelleher talked to six residents and they all received them and don't know what to do with them. Mr. Joe Bresnan's partner represents Abington Township, and he will try to find out. Mr. Denelsbeck advised, that he contacted the controller of the School District, he was not available, but talked to his assistant, who doesn't recall anything. It could have come out of that ACT 1 in a way that they have to fund. Mr. Denelsbeck is not so sure that that wasn't one of the predications on how they collect the tax now, because that law changed the way that they collect tax. They have to collect different things in different ways. Mr. Bresnan advised since the school district gets the bulk of the money my experiences being normally that the school district is the one who enters into the contract for the collection of the earned income tax and that each municipality that is in the district piggybacks onto that so that there will be no direct relationship between Abington Township and Rockledge Borough. Mr. Denelsbeck stated that he does not have tremendous faith in Berkheimer with them just deciding that since Abington did it that we would automatically want to do it, or because Abington did it, that's the way they collect for the school district so then they have to collect for us. At some point somebody, either the district or the collection agency should have let us know that, we do not have to use Berkheimer to collect our half. Mr. Kelleher advised that when he was talking to Berkheimer, they said that they did send letters out. They may have sent them out to Abington residents, but they did not send them out to Rockledge residents.

Finance: Mr. Denelsbeck stated that at the end we will come back to finance to start the budget, but he forgot that he said the first meeting in October, so no one was prepared to look at the budget.

Public Service: Mrs. Kehoe would like to have everyone's comments about the newsletter by this Wednesday. She would like to have the newsletter done by Friday, September 28, 2007. She also advised

that a resident by the name of Meredith Meehan had come to a council meeting a few months ago and wanted to set up something to collect goods for the Marine's in Iraq. Mrs. Kehoe is including this in the newsletter stating that there will be various drop off sites in the borough. Mr. Denelsbeck wanted to clarify that she is looking for items and not money. She is looking for items.

Mr. Denelsbeck advised that as requested by Mr. Conrad Kraus at the last meeting, a letter was sent to the city in support of the movement and resurrection of the monuments, at Fillmore and Huntingdon Pike.

Public Safety: Mr. Caffrey had nothing to discuss at this time. Chief Leary gave an update on the E.D.I.T.S training day. There were 180 students this year. 2 days of intensive training.

Chief Leary also advised that he was involved in a Narcotics Inforcement Team Investigation and received a check in the amount of \$659.00 and change.

Streets, Lights, and Sewers: Mr. Kelleher is still looking at prices for the tractor. Mr. Denelsbeck stated that we have to vote to spend the money to do it, because it is a relatively large expenditure and we were trying to figure out where we were getting the money from. Mr. Caffrey stated he can't wait to see this, pull a rabbit out of your hat on this one fellow. Mr. Denelsbeck stated that by the September numbers that we couldn't chisel it out of wages – streets crew, because god help me, there is plenty. There is not any contracted payment services being done, so there is \$10,000 sitting there. Mr. Caffrey asked what the final price is. Mr. Denelsbeck advised him that by the time they were done it was almost \$16,000. This was going to be discussed again at a later date after everyone looked at their brochures. Mr. Kelleher made a motion to buy a John Deere fully enclosed Tractor. All were in favor.

Mr. Denelsbeck wanted to know if we had all the bills for our new police truck. He wanted to know if \$28,900 was the final price for the new Police Truck. Chief Leary advised Mr. Denelsbeck that all the bills were received. Mr. Denelsbeck advised that we will squeeze it out of somewhere.

Update on the new streets truck, Mr. Hartey advised that the new streets truck should be here in about two weeks. Mr. Kelleher advised Mr. Hartey, that if the truck is not here by October 1, 2007, to please get on them.

Mr. Denelsbeck advised that we need to do an advertisement to sell the old truck. He asked Mr. Bresnan to work on this. He wanted to know the value of the truck. Mr. Denelsbeck said around \$5,000 or \$6,000.

Mrs. Kehoe wanted to know if we ever made a decision on the diesel tank. Mr. Denelsbeck advised her that we are waiting for an answer from the officers of the Rockledge Volunteer Fire Company.

Recreation: Mrs. Walz advised that we need to advertise for counselors for the Basketball Program that will run from January 1, 2007 through March 9, 2007. She would like to hire in November.

Mrs. Walz received a letter from Eileen Himes, director of community events of the Cheltenham/Rockledge Rotary Club. At one of their recent board meetings, they were discussing ways to increase their presence in the Borough of Rockledge. They would like to have a Rotary day in Rockledge Park, on Saturday October 13, 2007, or Saturday October 20, 2007 from 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm. There will be an Alex's Lemonade Stand, Pony Rides, and a few games for the children. They do not expect a large crowd, maybe 50 people. Basically they are just asking for a permit to use Rockledge Park. Mrs. Walz made a motion to allow them to have Rotary Day October 13, 2007 from 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm. All were in favor.

Property: Mr. Beady had nothing at this time.

Personnel: Mr. Caffrey made a motion to hire Clint Snyder as the new streets crew foreman. All were in favor.

Mr. Denelsbeck had some things to mention. Rockledge 4th of July is starting once again to raise money for next years' parade. Anyone who wants a raffle ticket he has them, they are \$20.00.

The fire house on October 27, 2007 is having a beef and beer fundraiser. Anyone interested should call Mrs. Ploszay for tickets.

Election day is November 6, 2007, please come out and vote.

Mr. Kirby has a friend who owns a business down by the bus depot on Oxford Avenue. He wanted to know if anybody has an idea of when that will be done. Mr. Hartey stated he cannot speak about Oxford Avenue, because that is the Philadelphia side. He stated that the sidewalks in Rockledge should be done by Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Ploszay stated that there is a Pancake Breakfast on October 21, 2007 at the Rockledge Fire Department 8:00 am to 12:00 noon.

Mrs. Ploszay has a question about the traffic light on Sylvania and Huntingdon Pike. She noticed that when you are on Sylvania and Montgomery, you can see the color of the light. She thought it was not supposed to be that way, because when people see the color of the light they speed up. Mr. Denelsbeck thinks that we did not put louvers on the lights. Sylvania was supposed to be LED lights and that way we wouldn't have a problem. Mr. Denelsbeck asked Chief Leary to look at this and see how far down you can see it. This is a traffic hazard that the neighbors did talk to us about when we talked about installing the light. We had put some speed strips down before we pave the street and we had talked about taking a look at doing some other directional things on Sylvania Avenue if that's the case, so let us take a look at it. Let's repaint those strips.

Motion is in order to recess to a private meeting. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Hines
Administrative Assistant