

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lacock Dwellings Community Center, East Rochester, PA.

Meeting was called to order and Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll call was taken.

PRESENT: John Drumm, Joyce Gordon, Joseph Seminick, David Wagner and James Simon.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Robert Knox, Solicitor Paul Steff, Chief Frank Mercier, Engineer Jeff Frye, Debra Ahern and Sam Landis

ABSENT: Randy Morrow, Code Enforcement Officer

REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING: At this time, Mayor Knox gave the Loyalty Oath to Joseph Seminick, David Wagner and James Simon as council members.

Mayor Knox then accepted nominations for President of council. Mr. Simon nominated John Drumm and Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all were in favor and Mr. Drumm was elected President of Council. Mayor Knox then accepted nominations for Vice President of Council. Mr. Drumm nominated James Simon and Mrs. Gordon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all were in favor and Mr. Simon was elected Vice President of Council.

Mayor Knox then asked for nomination for Chairman Pro Tem. Mr. Drumm asked Mr. Steff about this indicating that council had never elected a Chairman Pro Tem. Mr. Steff indicated that the Chairman Pro Tem runs the meeting in the absence of President or Vice President of Council. Therefore, no one was elected Chairman Pro Tem.

Mayor Knox turned the reorganizational meeting over to Mr. Drumm as Council President. Mr. Drumm made motion to retain Paul Steff as solicitor. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, the motion was carried and Paul Steff was retained as solicitor for the Borough.

Mr. Drumm made motion to retain Michael Baker International as engineer for the Borough. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, the motion was carried and Michael Baker International was retained as Engineering Firm for the Borough.

At this time, Mr. Drumm made Committee appointments. He asked Mrs. Gordon to be on Finance Committee, she accepted. He asked Mr. Simon and Mr. Seminick to be on Streets & Sewers. They accepted. He asked Mr. Wagner to be on Recreation and he accepted.

Secretary indicated that as part of the reorganizational meeting, an appointment needed to be made to Emergency Management. The name of Tito Yaccich was presented as the Chairman of the Emergency Management Committee and the names of Michael Mamone, Jr. and Wesley Hill were presented as team members of the Emergency Management Committee. Mrs. Gordon made motion to accept Tito Yaccich as Emergency Management Chairman and Michael Mamone, Jr. and Wesley Hill as team members. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll

call vote, all in favor and the motion was carried.

The reorganizational meeting was adjourned.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING:

CITIZENS REPORT: No citizens report

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: Mr. Drumm asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting. There being none, Mr. Seminick made motion to accept minutes of previous meeting. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: Secretary read letter from Beaver County Commissioners indicating that the Borough was approved for an American Rescue Plan grant from the county in the amount of \$100,000. This amount includes a 20% match by the Borough (namely, \$20,000). The grant is to be used for infrastructure work in the borough. The County will control the funds and will disburse when work is being performed.

Discussion was held regarding how to use the money to repair or install new catch basins in the borough, especially along 5th Street. Question was asked about the 20% that the borough has to provide. Secretary indicated she was in the process of contacting the agency that handles the Federal American Rescue Funds to see if the 20% requirement could come from the federal funds.

MAYOR and POLICE: Mayor Knox read the report. There were 87 calls for December, 4 arrests and 8 citations. For the year 2021, there are 927 calls for service.

STREETS & SEWERS: Secretary indicated that the new fence had been installed at the lift station and that the invoice had been submitted to the insurance company for reimbursement to the Borough.

Mr. Landis indicated that he had contacted Reno Bros. because one side of the pump at the lift station was not working properly. Reno Bros. came out and looked over the situation and indicated that the check valves are not working properly and should be replaced together with gaskets and valves. Received an estimate from Reno Bros. of \$6,202.00 to replace two check valves. Mr. Landis said that it is back washing. Right now, working OK but check valves need replaced. The water is running back to the check valves. Mr. Simon made motion to accept quote from Reno Bros. and have the check valves replaced. Mrs. Gordon seconded and by way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mr. Landis said he has been receiving complaints about the cold patch that Team Fishel put in where they dig up the roads. He is afraid the snow plow will get damaged because the roads are so bad. Told that Youngblood will be in the Borough to take out the cold patch, mill and insert hot patch in those areas. Question was asked who is responsible for the digging done on the side of the street along property lines. Mr. Frye said he thinks the ordinance states that whoever digs is responsible for 3 feet. He will check the ordinance. He said the ordinance

definitely states that there is to be no checkerboard effect.

Mr. Landis asked that when the paving is completed, if new manhole covers with risers will be installed.

It was mentioned that since new curb was installed near JR's Warehouse, there has been no complaints regarding the water coming from PennDOT. It was asked if there are drains in JR's parking lot and it was replied "No".

Mr. Landis said he would like to get the old manhole cover from the Stewart Avenue work scraped and will need a letter to do so.

BUILDING PERMITS: Report in folder. No permits were issued in December.

FINANCE & BUDGET TAX REPORT: Tax Collection for November \$8,014.71; Tax Collector's commission for November \$400.74; Tax Collection for December \$2,906.00; tax collector commission for December \$145.30; Total bills paid in November \$32,217.06; Total bills paid in December \$61,181.11; Payroll - November 4 to December 1 \$5,272.31 (includes street, secretary, tax collector, zoning, mayor and council); Payroll December 2, 2021 to January 5, 2022 - \$7,184.78 (includes street, secretary, tax collector and zoning officer); Pennvest December payment \$1,024.95 Pennvest January payment \$1,024.95; November collection from Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority \$4,710.77

Mr. Simon made motion to accept report and pay bills. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion carried. Mr. Simon made motion to accept tax collector's report and pay tax collection commission. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mrs. Gordon said we need to transfer \$50,000 from Earned Income account to General Fund to cover expenses until tax money starts coming in. Mr. Seminick made motion to transfer \$50,000 from Earned Income account to General Fund. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: There were 4 calls in November.

SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION: Mr. Steff presented Resolution 1-5-22-1 adopting the 2022 budget which was proposed in November and advertised. Since there was no meeting in December, action is required at this meeting. Mrs. Gordon made motion to adopt the 2022 budget and Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried. Mr. Steff then presented Ordinance No. 340 fixing the tax rate for 2022 at 23 mills. Mr. Wagner made motion to adopt Ordinance No. 340 and Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mr. Steff then presented Resolution 1-5-22-2 adopting the Beaver County 2021 Hazard Mitigation Plan. He said this Plan is developed by the County every 5 years and is to be presented to all municipalities in Beaver County for adoption. Mr. Seminick made motion to adopt 2021 Beaver County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mrs. Gordon seconded. By way of roll

call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

BOROUGH ENGINEER: Mr. Frye said he looked into the issue regarding right of way along Spruce Avenue and Linton. He said the right-of-way on Spruce is 33 feet and the right-of-way on Linton is 40 feet and Walnut is 40 feet.

Mr. Frye also indicated that he looked at the wall on Mr. Clay's property. He said the wall is on Spruce Avenue. He said that prior to Mr. Clay's owning the property, the stone wall was removed at some point. Mr. Frye said that if Mr. Clay wants to pave the driveway, he should install the wall.

Mr. Frye said he was advised about a situation on Willow Avenue regarding a riser. He said he will contact Youngblood Paving about this matter. Also, told that there is a section on Willow where paving was done that needs to be addressed.

Mrs. Gordon asked about conducting a traffic study of Spruce Avenue. Mr. Frye said the steps in front of Mrs. DePace's property are on the street. Mrs. Gordon said that part of the storm water grate is covered with the wall at Mrs. DePace's home. Mr. Frye said that a traffic study would indicate No Parking in front of her house and that to make that No Parking, would need to have a traffic study performed. Mr. Seminick made motion to have the engineer conduct a traffic study of Spruce Avenue and then have an ordinance prepared indicating No Parking. Then, after more discussion, Mr. Seminick revised motion to have traffic study performed from the triangle at 5th Street down Spruce to Linton and including Walnut Street. Mrs. Gordon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

RECREATION: Indicated that flag has been removed until spring.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Secretary presented drawings regarding the subdivision of the lot next to Maier Heating. The drawings were submitted to the Beaver County Planning Commission and approved. They need to be signed by the Borough and then Mr. Maier will obtain other signatures and submit to the County Planning Commission for recording. Mr. Steff questioned whether there were adequate notations on the drawing. He asked Mr. Frye to look over the drawing. Determined that drawing was adequate. Mrs. Gordon made motion for the Borough to sign the Thacik/Maier Lot Line Revision Plan. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried. None

NEW BUSINESS: Secretary presented paperwork received by Michael T. Silosky to purchase Parcel No. 20-001-0222 from Beaver County Tax Repository for the costs of \$1,664.17, which needs to be approved by the Borough. Mrs. Gordon made motion to accept and sign paperwork for purchase of Parcel No. 20-001-0222 from Beaver County Tax Repository by Michael T. Silosky. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

There being no further business a motion was made by Mr. Seminick and seconded Mrs. Gordon to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

At this time council went into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary/Treasurer