

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, March 2, 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 and Sam Landis

ABSENT: Randy Morrow

CITIZENS REPORT: Secretary said Bobbie Signorelli of 805 Walnut Street called and indicated that her daughter wants to build a home on the Signorelli property and since there is no sewage tap-in on the property she will need to install a septic system. Mrs. Signorelli said she spoke with Mike Groves, the Sewage Enforcement Officer for Rochester Township, and he told her he would help her with getting the perc test for the septic system, but would need the borough's permission to assist her. If East Rochester would not grant him the permission, then we would need to appoint a Sewage Enforcement Officer.

Mr. Steff said the Sewage Enforcement Officer takes care of all paperwork with the Department of Environmental Protection. There is no charge to the borough. Mr. Drumm asked for a motion for Mike Groves, Sewage Enforcement Officer for Rochester Township to help Mrs. Signorelli with the perc test for the installation of a new septic system. Mr. Wagner made said motion and Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

At this time, the police report was given so that Chief Mercier could be excused from the meeting to attend a previously scheduled appointment.

MAYOR and POLICE: Mayor Knox read the report. There were 55 calls for service and 4 arrests for the month of February. Ten citations were issued.

At this time, Chief Mercier was excused from the meeting.

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: None

STREETS & SEWERS: It was mentioned that a catch basin on Oak Avenue is starting to cave in. The brick surrounding the manhole needs replaced. Also, the catch basin across the street from this one also needs repaired. There are two catch basins on Lyons Avenue that are in bad shape. Issue also with catch basin in front of borough building, it collapsed. Mr. Frye said that the borough can use the County American Rescue Funds money to fix these catch basins. He suggested that he and Mr. Landis meet and take an inventory of the catch basins in the borough to see if any others need repaired and maybe have a report for the April meeting.

Mr. Frye said he has contacted Chafee Excavating and Nicely Contracting about looking at the catch basins mentioned that needs repaired first and provide a quote for the work. Mr. Frye said that the catch basin on Oak Avenue will probably cost around \$12,000 to repair. Mr. Frye said the catch basin at the borough building should be fixed ASAP.

Mr. Seminick made motion for Mr. Frye to obtain bids for catch basin repair. Mrs. Gordon seconded. By way roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mr. Landis said he purchased cold patch. Mr. Drumm said only to fix the massive holes. Mr. Landis said he filled holes on Lacock.

Mr. Landis asked about the borough hiring summer help for 1 or 2 days a week. Mr. Landis said 2 days a week would be good. Discussion held about hiring summer help. Would help with grass cutting, weed whacking, spraying, painting, tree trimming, etc.

Mrs. Gordon said that in the past the outside lawn service did a good job. Secretary indicated that the person could be paid from the Federal American Rescue Plan Funds. Mr. Wagner made motion to hire summer help – one person for two days per week at the rate of \$10.00 per hour. Mr. Simon seconded. Roll call vote was taken – Mr. Drumm – yes; Mr. Seminick – yes; Mrs. Gordon – No; Mr. Wagner – Yes; Mr. Simon – Yes. Motion was carried by majority voting Yes.

Mr. Steff said position should be advertised by “word of mouth”; no need to advertise in newspaper.

BUILDING PERMITS: Report in folders. No permits issued for month of February.

FINANCE & BUDGET TAX REPORT: Taxes collected for February \$7,157.63; Tax Collector Commission is \$357.88; Total Bills Paid \$24,945.06; Payroll \$6,372.28 (includes street, secretary, zoning, tax collector); Pennvest March payment \$1,024.95.

Mrs. Gordon made motion to pay tax collector commission. Mr. Wagner seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried. Mrs. Gordon made motion to pay bills. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mrs. Gordon made request to transfer \$30,000 from EITC account to general fund. Mr. Seminick made motion to transfer \$30,000 from EITC account to general fund. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: No report. Mr. Seminick said he will look into why no report.

SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION: Mr. Steff presented Ordinance No. 341 which amends Ordinance No. 263 regarding “No Parking” on Walnut to Spruce and Walnut to Linton. Mr. Drumm asked for motion to enact Ordinance No. 341. Mrs. Gordon made motion to enact Ordinance No. 341 regarding “No Parking” from Walnut to Spruce and Walnut to Linton. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

BOROUGH ENGINEER: Mr. Frye said he submitted the Floodplain Management report for 2022 to the state.

RECREATION: Mayor Knox said he will be conducting an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 9th at the East Washington Street Ballfield. He asked for council’s permission to have a letter drafted which he can then take to various businesses in the borough to ask for donations. Mr. Drumm said no problem having a letter drafted.

Secretary will have Easter Egg Hunt info put on borough website.

Mr. Drumm said that at Big Lots there is a 10’ x 12’ metal gazebo which would be nice for the playground. The cost is \$1,439 for the gazebo. He said it has “L” brackets so it can be bolted down. Mr. Seminick made motion to purchase metal gazebo from Big Lots. Mr. Wagner seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mr. Drumm said that Team Fishel will take out the cement slab at the playground.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Simon asked about who to contact at Team Fishel regarding the mess they left in front of his house. Secretary will provide contact info.

Mr. Landis said that Team Fishel will be back in the borough in March to cut off old gas lines and then come back in April to fix the yards.

There being no further business a motion was made by Mr. Simon and seconded by Mr. Seminick to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary/Treasurer