

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, May 4, 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, Sam Landis, Renee Seminick and Debra Ahern

**ABSENT:** Randy Morrow

**CITIZENS REPORT:** Renee Seminick, 62 Highland Street, thanked the police for the patrols in her neighborhood and also thanked the borough to installing a new curb at 155 Willow. She said she came to the meeting to complaint about the new tenant at 313 Highland. The tenant turns and their visitors turn around in her driveway and kick up stones. She said the yard at 313 Highland is full of trash and debris. The tenants are disrespectful and do not keep their dogs on leashes. They park their vehicles in the front yard and it is torn up from them driving through the yard.

Chief Mercier said the property is an eyesore. Chief said maybe get code to check it out and start an open storage investigation. Mrs. Seminick said she is concerned for the safety of the residents in the area. There is a lot of vehicle traffic on Willow and Highland. Mr. Seminick said they park facing towards his house and turn around in front of his garage. Mr. Drumm questioned about the turning around on Seminick's property. Mr. Seminick said they park facing down the hill on Highland toward his property and go down to the end in front of his house and turn around. Mrs. Seminick said the roadway is deteriorating. There is currently a "No Outlet" sign at the top of Curtland and a "No Outlet" sign on Willow, but there is not one going down Highland. She said they have trash under the tower on the Duquesne Light right-of-way. Mr. Seminick said their visitors park in front of the fire hydrant. Mrs. Seminick said as a taxpayer she should not have to put up with the mess and the parking issues. Chief Mercier said it is bad. He said if code enforcement needs his assistance to call him. Chief said he can address the traffic issue and the running around in front of the Seminick residence. Secretary indicated that Mr. Morrow, code enforcement officer, has spoken to the landlord at least three times and has asked him to have the property cleaned up and that Mr. Morrow had visited the property and taken photos. Secretary will contact Mr. Morrow to readdress the issues. Secretary said that after a call to the tenant by the landlord, the tenant came to the borough building about what they are required to do. Secretary said they were very agitated about being called by the landlord. The tenant left the borough building and went to the police department hoping to file charges against me as a neighbor because I complained about the appearance of the property. Mrs. Seminick said she had photos from her surveillance camera about how they are turning around on her property and turning around on the Duquesne Light right-of-way. Chief Mercier asked about three strike rule, which Secretary said refers mainly to police issues. Mr. Seminick said he does not appreciate the borough secretary being put in

the position she was in when they came to the borough building very agitated. Chief said if happens again to call the police. Police can not get involved without getting disturbance calls. Chief Mercier said he would talk to the tenant in order to address the parking, turning around on neighbor's property and Duquesne Light property.

Mrs. Ahern said she came to the meeting to ask about the broken glass on the borough building. Secretary said she contacted two window repair businesses and one told her they do not make onsite inspections and the other never responded. Mrs. Gordon suggested boarding up the windows and putting up inverted shutters. Mr. Landis said the windows in the back are also broke and need repaired or replaced. Secretary will obtain prices for window replacements and price for inverted shutters. Mrs. Gordon said the awning needs repaired. It was suggested that the awnings on the upper floor windows in the front be removed. The awning will be left over the lower window and the door.

**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 Rochester Borough Development Corporation regarding a Beaver County Emergency Responder's Appreciation Day to be held on September 18 from 1:00 to 5:00. If anyone is interested in helping to organize the event or to make a donation, they are to contact John Barrett, Rochester Borough Manager.

**MAYOR and POLICE:** Mayor Knox read the report. There were 100 calls for service. 1 arrest and 4 citations. Mayor Know indicated that there were about 35 children attend the Easter Egg Hunt. He thanked Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. Cable and Mrs. Ahern for their help.

**STREETS & SEWERS:** Discussion was held about the sale of the borough's street sweeper. Mr. Drumm indicated that he had talked with Mr. Barrett, Rochester Borough Manager, and he offered \$1,200.00 for the street sweeper and indicated that Rochester Borough would sweep the streets in East Rochester at any time when asked. Mrs. Gordon asked about how much we could get for it if it was scrapped. Said could not get much since not much of it is metal. Mr. Drumm said that Rochester Borough would sweep our streets when asked. Mr. Wagner made motion to sell the Borough's Street sweeper to Rochester Borough for the price of \$1,200.00 and when asked Rochester Borough would sweep our streets. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor. Secretary instructed to send letter to Mr. Barrett regarding sell of street sweeper for \$1,200 and that Rochester Borough will sweep our streets when asked.

Mr. Landis said he put up the "No Parking" signs on Spruce.

Mr. Wagner indicated that he and Mr. Landis rode around the borough. Mr. Wagner suggested removing the stone from around the flag pole and installing landscape timbers around it. Prices will be obtained for the landscape timbers and provided at the June meeting.

Mr. Landis said that Wright Contracting took out the cement slab and the pavilion at the

playground. They constructed new forms for the cement slab and will install the concrete next week. Mr. Wagner brought up about the drainage situation at the playground. It is so swampy. Suggested that French drainage system be installed.

Mr. Landis said the tar paper blew off the roof at the lift station. His thought is to either install shingles or metal roof. He also indicated that the generator needs painted.

Mr. Landis was asked if he had obtained summer help. He indicated he did. Mrs. Gordon asked about a list of items that the summer help would assist him with. Mr. Landis indicated that he was in the process of preparing a list. The list will be provided to council members.

Mr. Landis mentioned that Rich Snyder from Team Fishel is interested in purchasing the 8 inch cement blocks currently at the borough building. Mr. Landis said there are about 30 block. Mr. Drumm indicated that the blocks belong to the firemen and they should be asked about selling the block.

**BUILDING PERMITS:** Report in folders. Permits issued for 893 Oak for fence; Workout Anytime for new signage, solar panel installation at 711 Second Street and fence permit for 815 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

**FINANCE & BUDGET TAX REPORT:** Tax Collection for March \$15,956.03; Tax Collection for April \$83,550.54; Tax Collector's commission for March \$478.68; Tax Collector's commission for April \$2,536.83; Total bills paid in March \$32,332.87; Total Bills in April \$26,803.95; Payroll for March \$5,193.20 (net pay - includes street, secretary, tax collector, zoning); Payroll for April \$5,601.16 (net pay – includes street, secretary, tax collector, zoning); Pennvest April payment \$1,024.95; May Pennvest payment \$1,024.95; Rochester Joint Sewer Authority collection for February \$5,696.01; March collection \$4,427.36.

Mrs. Gordon made motion to pay tax collector commission for March and April. Mr. Seminick 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.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Secretary read report as follows: No fire calls in March and no fire calls in April. Mr. Seminick said the reason why we did not receive reports in a timely manner for the last few months is because the fire chief had the dates wrong. Secretary said the reports were received a week later than usual. Mrs. Gordon said in the Fire Department contract it states that reports will be provided on a monthly basis. "The Rochester Fire Department shall provide the East Rochester Borough Secretary with monthly written reports addressing performance under the agreement. The Rochester Fire Department agrees to meet with East Rochester Borough Council when requested." Mr. Drumm asked if we were missing any fire department reports and the secretary indicated "no". She said the last one was received on May 3.

**SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION:** Mr. Steff presented Resolution No. 5-4-22 regarding the delegation of municipal powers to one local Emergency Management Coordinator. This resolution was previously asked for by Rochester Township in order to share emergency services coordinator. It is the same coordinator for Rochester Borough and Rochester Township and East Rochester. Mr. Simon made motion to adopt Resolution 5-4-22 regarding the appointment of Intergovernmental Emergency Services Coordinator. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, motion was carried.

Mr. Steff said he had received an Easement Agreement from Rochester Borough Sewer and Maintenance Authority regarding the compliance with MS4 project – Separate Storm Sewer System. Mr. Steff said part of the project is a Rain Garden – modular high-performance bio-filtration system for filtration of storm water. Mr. Steff showed council members the drawing that was attached to the Easement Agreement. He said the stormwater facilitates an easement along Lacock Run. Mr. Steff said in order for the Sewer and Maintenance Authority to construct the project they need an easement agreement over the property for no compensation. Mr. Steff said he provided Mr. Frye with a copy of the easement and the drawing attached to it and Mr. Frye indicated that he has no issues with the easement. Mr. Steff said the easement is necessary to control stormwater near the ballfield. Mr. Steff said in order the grant the easement council’s approval is needed and the agreement is to be signed by council president and the borough secretary. Mr. Steff said he will handle the notarization of the agreement. Mr. Drumm asked about whether the Authority would fence the area and if they would repair the fence at the ballfield while they are fencing in the area they need. Mr. Steff said he would discuss this with the solicitor for the Authority. Mr. Seminick asked who would maintain the fence – would it be under the sewer maintenance and was assured that the authority would maintain the fence.

**BOROUGH ENGINEER:** Mr. Frye said that he and Mr. Landis rode around the borough and made a list of catch basins. He said there are approximately 25 catch basins and the cost to repair all of them would be over \$25,000. He said the project would have to be put out for bid. He said the bids could be opened before the next meeting or at the next meeting. If bids are to be opened up before the next meeting when need to pick date and time so bid requests can be advertised. He said bonds and insurance will be required. Mr. Drumm said he would like to bid on this project. Mrs. Gordon said it is a conflict of interest. Mr. Steff said that as long as Mr. Drumm gives full disclosure he can bid. The bids will be sealed and Mr. Drumm will have to abstain from voting. Mr. Steff said there is undue influence without full disclosure and with full disclosure it is a fair process. If Mr. Drumm’s bid is higher than others, then council will not go with his bid anyway. It is up to council what they want to do. Mr. Wager said that if Mr. Drumm’s bid is lower and his work is quality, then he should be able to submit a bid.

Mr. Drumm said he would like council’s permission to bid on the project. At this time, a roll call vote was taken as follows:

Mr. Seminick	Yes
Mrs. Gordon	No
Mr. Wagner	Yes
Mr. Simon	Yes

**RECREATION:** The water meter was reinstalled at the ballfield and the water was turned on. Discussion was held about whether to leave the water turned on at the ballfield for the summer. Mr. Wagner suggested shutting off the water and leaving the meter. Secretary will call Beaver Falls Municipal Authority. Meter will be taken out after the summer season and then Mr. Landis can winterize the lines.

Mayor Knox suggested getting the dugouts painted. He said the Rochester Ram logo should have been painted on the dugouts. Mr. Landis said the inside of the dugouts are in good shape. Secretary instructed to hold off on bids for fence repair at ballfield. Mr. Landis said one toilet is needed at the ballfield.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

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 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary/Treasurer