

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, June 1, 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: Solicitor Paul Steff, Chief Frank Mercier, Engineer Jeff Frye, Sam Landis

ABSENT: Mayor Robert Knox and Randy Morrow

CITIZENS REPORT: None

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

COMMUNICATIONS: None

MAYOR and POLICE: Chief Mercier gave report. There were 121 calls for service in May, 2 criminal arrests and 6 motor vehicle citations.

Mr. Seminick thanked Chief Mercier for the continued police presence in the Willow Avenue – Highland Street neighborhood.

Mr. Seminick said that the visitors to 313 Highland Street park in front of the fire hydrant on Willow and block access to the hydrant. Chief said to call the police. Discussion was held about citing vehicles on paper streets that are not part of the roadway system. Chief Mercier said he will be meeting with Mr. Steff about tweaking the current ordinance regarding abandoned vehicles. Secretary asked Chief Mercier if he could have the license plates run through the system for the two trucks sitting on that property.

STREETS & SEWERS: Mr. Landis indicated that he called several places about purchasing landscape timbers to be used at the flag pole. He got prices for 10' 6x6 timbers. After calling several landscape businesses he contacted someone who works with the Amish and he can purchase 2 10 x10 and 2 8 x 8 red oak timbers for \$100.00 total. Mr. Wagner made motion for Mr. Landis to purchase on behalf of the borough the red oak timbers at the total price of \$100.00. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mr. Landis also indicated that the pole saw ordered last year has been received and ready for use.

BUILDING PERMITS: Report in folders. Excavation permit issued for 818 Lacock for cement pad.

FINANCE & BUDGET TAX REPORT: Tax Collection for May \$56,441.83; Tax Collector's commission for May \$1,899.15; Total bills paid in May \$19,321.96; Payroll for May \$5,053.61 (net pay - includes street, secretary, tax collector, zoning); Pennvest June payment \$1,024.95.

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

Mr. Simon made motion to pay bills. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Secretary indicated that 2021 borough audit has been completed by Herman & Loll and copies of report provided to council. Mr. Seminick made motion to accept 2021 borough audit. Mr. Wagner seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: No report

SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION: Mr. Steff indicated that at last month's meeting an Easement Agreement from Rochester Borough Sewer and Maintenance Authority regarding a rain garden project was presented for council's signature. At that time, council instructed Mr. Steff to inquire as to whether the Rochester Borough Sewer and Maintenance Authority would provide the replacement of fence panels at the East Washington Street playground area as part of the project. Mr. Steff said he spoke with the solicitor for the sewer and maintenance authority and he indicated that there would be no fencing installed. Mr. Steff said he would like to have a motion to ratify the signing of the Easement Agreement with the date of May 10, 2022 with the Rochester Borough Sewer and Maintenance Authority. Mr. Simon made motion to ratify the Easement Agreement dated May 10, 2022. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

BOROUGH ENGINEER: Mr. Frye indicated that he put out for bid the catch basin project and placed several advertisements in the Beaver County Times. He said he received inquiries and 6 set of plans were sent out with the deadline of June 1, 2022 at 2:00 PM. No bids were received by that time. He said council can either advertise the bid process again, modify the project or reduce the number of catch basins to be repaired to only the ones that Columbia Gas dug up during their project which would come in under the advertisement threshold. Mr. Frye said he would have to check to see which catch basins were involved in the Columbia Gas project. He initially had put out for bid 17 catch basins. Did receive a price on the manhole replacement at Oak Avenue from Nicely Contracting. Mr. Frye said council can modify the project so that it comes under the bid process threshold, which is \$21,900. Also received quote for repair of the catch basin in front of the borough building. Mr. Wagner asked Mr. Frye what would be the quickest way to get the catch basins repaired. Mr. Frye said if

council decides to bid the project again, there is the advertising requirement. If we reduce the project down then there is no advertising requirement.

It was asked whether Mr. Frye can obtain quotes and accept lowest responsible quote and Mr. Steff indicated “yes he can”, which bids would be ratified at the next council meeting. Mrs. Gordon asked Mr. Frye what he thought the entire project would cost. He said he thinks approximately \$80,000 for the way the project was bid out. Mrs. Gordon said she is concerned about that. Mr. Frye said we have the grant money. Secretary said that the grant money from the County is for \$100,000. The county provides \$80,000 and the borough is responsible for \$20,000 which can be taken out of the federal American Rescue Funds. Nothing will come out of the general fund. Mrs. Gordon asked about the money received from the federal government. Secretary said that money can be used for street paving, salaries, storm water repairs. Secretary said there is approximately \$27,000 in the American Rescue Plan fund right now and another deposit will be made by the federal government in late July. Mrs. Gordon asked which grant do we have to have money upfront and the secretary said the county grant. Secretary said that any quotes received need to be provided to the county for their approval, and the county handles the funds. The county distributes the funds as needed. Mr. Frye said that right now Columbia Gas has no schedule when paving will be done. Mr. Landis has spoken with Youngblood Paving and they are not sure when Columbia Gas will have them do the paving. Mr. Frye indicated that previously he received two bids for catch basin repair in front of the borough building and on Oak. Mr. Frye said he can revise the list for the other catch basins and send it out to contractors. Mr. Frye said the repairs need to be made as soon as possible.

Secretary confirmed with Mr. Frye that the money from the ARP Funding from the County can be used for this project and he said “yes”. Mr. Steff indicated that a resolution needs to be passed and an agreement signed which is required by the County under the ARP Funding. He will have these ready for the next meeting. Secretary indicated that the Form 1099 had been provided to the county already. Mr. Frye said he will modify the list and send out for quotes. Mr. Frye said we can accept new quotes or accept the quotes already submitted for Oak Avenue and the borough building. Mr. Steff said the engineer can obtain quotes for the borough building, Oak Avenue and the other catch basins or already take the bids for the borough building and Oak Avenue and accept other quotes for the other catch basins.

Mr. Seminick made motion for the borough to accept the two previous quotes for repair of the catch basin in front of the borough building and on Oak Avenue and accept new quotes for the catch basins that Columbia Gas dug up. Mrs. Gordon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried. Mr. Drumm clarified that the quotes already received for the catch basin at the borough building and Oak will be accepted and separate quotes will be obtained for the catch basins within Columbia Gas project.

RECREATION: Secretary said she contacted Big Lots and the gazebo is still not in.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Secretary indicated she contacted Wagner’s Home Center and Felser about prices for windows for the borough building. Six windows would be replaced. She said both quotes were similar, but felt better windows would be installed with Felser. The quote is for \$4200.00 for 6 windows. Mr. Wagner made motion to purchase 6 windows for

borough building at price of \$4,200 from Felser. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

NEW BUSINESS: None

There being no further business a motion was made by Mr. Simon and seconded by Mrs. Gordon to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary/Treasurer