

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, November 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: Solicitor Paul Steff, Sgt. Dwan Shane, Officer Krawchyck, Mayor Robert Knox, Mike Mamone, Sr., Code Enforcement Officer Frank Mercier, Engineer Jeff Frye and Tiffany Babinec of Rochester Area Baseball and Softball Organization.

ABSENT:

CITIZENS REPORT: Tiffany Babinec introduced herself as a member of the Rochester Area Baseball and Softball Organization. She inquired about the rental procedure for East Washington Street Ballfield for the spring season. Mr. Drumm indicated that a rain garden pond had been installed by Rochester Area Sewer Maintenance Authority and that currently there is no fence around the pond which creates unsafe condition for use of the ballfield. He also indicated that currently is no lighting in that area. He said that until these situations are resolved that the borough in good conscience cannot rent the field to anyone.

Ms. Babinec asked what are the rules for renting the ballfield. The secretary read the rules for rental. Mr. Steff said that deposits are asked for due to various mishaps over the years by others who rented the field. Mr. Steff reviewed the contract and said there is a \$500 deposit for use of the field, \$300 for use of the concession stand and \$200 for use of the restroom. He indicated that these are escrow deposits in case there is damage. He said the utilities must be paid by the parties renting the field. He also said there is an extra fee of \$200 for restocking if the key to the gate is lost. Ms. Babinec asked is baseball would be able to piggyback so that another organization would not be able to use the field when they are renting it. Mr. Steff said it is not conducive to have two organizations use the field at the same time.

Mr. Drumm said the borough should know within a few months whether the field will be available for rental. Secretary took note of Ms. Babinec's contact information.

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

COMMUNICATIONS: Secretary presented engagement letter from Herman & Loll (borough's auditors) for the 2023 year. They will charge a fee of \$2,925 for the annual audit. Mr. Wagner made motion to accept the engagement letter of Herman & Loll for their services for 2023. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

MAYOR and POLICE: Mayor Knox gave the report. In October there were 70 calls for service, 3 arrests and 7 citations.

Mr. Drumm thanked the police department for their security in the borough on Halloween.

It was mentioned that a constable from Rochester Township was riding around on Halloween Trick or Treat night with a spotlight on his car. He was asked not to use the spotlight. Sgt. Shane said she will talk to him.

STREETS & SEWERS: Mr. Drumm said that Youngblood did not seal some of the streets that the borough paid for, namely, part of Lacock, Lyon and 2nd. Mr. Frye said he will contract Youngblood about this.

It was discussed that interviews needed to be conducted very soon for the street position.

It was mentioned that the new pump had been installed at the lift station, the old one pulled out to be evaluated for repair and that second pump had been ordered.

Mr. Seminick asked about getting new street signs. He said some of the current signs need to be replaced. Mr. Simon will prepare a list of signs to be replaced. It was mentioned that previously discussed about purchasing 10 stop signs, but the prices for these signs are extremely high. Mr. Mercier said that signs can be built.

Mr. Drumm indicated that a small box for the generator needs to be mounted.

Mr. Drumm asked about the catch basin project using the county ARP funds. It was indicated that the borough has until 2024 to use the money. Mr. Frye indicated that he will provide paperwork to the secretary which then she can provide to the county.

Mr. Wagner asked Solicitor Steff about the letter for the catch basin on 6th Street. Mr. Steff said he discussed this with the engineer and that he and the engineer have reviewed certain paperwork and will provide same to Mr. Wagner soon. Mrs. Gordon asked where the catch basin would be. Indicated that it is in the middle of the road. Mrs. Gordon said one is needed on 4th Street across from the church. Mr. Frye said he will review list.

BUILDING PERMITS: Mr. Mercier indicated that he working solely as Code Enforcement Officer in East Rochester and will start going around the borough checking on things. It was mentioned that the hillside coming up Lacock from Route 65 is owned by the transmission company.

Mr. Mercier was granted permission to purchase a hoodie with East Rochester Code Enforcement printed on it. He will purchase same and borough will reimburse him. Question was asked about Mr. Mercier handling permits for sheds and fences. He said he could do that. Solicitor Steff said the job title has always been Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer.

FINANCE AND BUDGET/TAX REPORT: Tax Collection for October \$3,707.87; Tax Collection Commission for October \$185.39; Total bills paid in October \$23,150.52; Payroll for October \$1,866.86 (net pay - includes street, secretary, tax collector, zoning); Pennvest November payment \$1,024.95; collection from Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority for September \$4,189.92

Mrs. Gordon said she would like for council to go into executive session at the conclusion of the regular meeting to discuss financial matters.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Secretary read report. Mr. Mamone was present at the meeting to answer questions that council may have regarding the new fire contract. A copy of said contract was provided to each council member for their review. Discussion held about the terms of the contract. The noted changes are the exist clause and the main address.

Mrs. Gordon suggested that a meeting be set up with Rochester Township, Mr. Simon, Mayor Knox and herself to discuss the contract renewal. It was mentioned that the proposed contract has an exit clause.

Mr. Mamone indicated that the fire department is still operating out of Northside station and still at downtown station. He said he is not sure what Rochester Borough plans to do about the fire contract as to whether they wish to be part of it. Mayor Knox indicated that he will contract Commissioner Iannini from Rochester Township to discuss terms of the agreement. Mrs. Gordon said she has a problem with the price.

Secretary read fire reports as follows: September 2 calls and October 1 call.

SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION: Mr. Steff presented the Rochester Area Regional Emergency Management Agency Agreement. Mr. Mamone said he came to the meeting to explain the purpose of the Agreement and answer any questions that council may have. He said that Beaver County wants to have a regional emergency management agency. He said that Tito Yaccich does online courses in his job as coordinator and that Rochester Borough and Rochester Township have both executed the agreement. Solicitor Steff said that a lot of communities are doing regionalized emergency management. Mr. Mamone said that Mr. Yaccich will be coordinator and that he and Wesley Hill will be assistants.

Mr. Mamone said with respect to the section of the agreement indicating financial contribution that an amount had to be inserted. He said there would be no cost to East Rochester. Mr. Drumm said his issue is cost and Mr. Mamone said no one is asking for money. He said that if an emergency situation happened in East Rochester, any costs involved would be minimal since insurance would take care of it. If there were costs involved it would be for food and generator costs. Mr. Drumm said that the borough cannot afford to have their own emergency management coordinator.

Solicitor Steff said he has reviewed the agreement. He said that council either participates in the regional emergency management or provide our own emergency management person. Mr. Drumm said there is no one in the borough who can be appointed the emergency management coordinator. Mrs. Gordon made motion to adopt the Rochester Area Regional Emergency Management Agency Agreement. Mr. Wagner seconded. Solicitor Steff said that intergovernmental agreements are done by resolution. It is an intergovernmental cooperation agreement between the three municipalities and according to the statute it is to be adopted by a resolution. The language in the resolution for East Rochester mirrors the language of the resolutions already passed by Rochester Borough and Rochester Township. Mr. Steff said as per motion made the borough is adopting Resolution 11-2-22 authorizes the appropriate officials to sign the agreement establishing the Rochester Area Regional Emergency Management Agency consisting of the Borough of Rochester, Rochester Township and the Borough of East Rochester. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Secretary indicated that Ford-450 needs to be inspected.

BOROUGH ENGINEER: Mr. Frye indicated that he will contact Youngblood Paving about the sealing the streets previously mentioned. He said that the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System waiver application (MS-4) had been submitted to the DEP and waiver was approved. Granted for another 5 years.

RECREATION: Progress

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Drumm indicated that he talked to Rochester Borough Manager John Barret about holding East Rochester Borough council meetings in their council chambers. Solicitor Steff said he researched the Borough Code and Sunshine Law and said that East Rochester is permitted to have the meeting in Rochester Borough. He said there is no requirement in the statute that meeting has to be in our borough. He said a notice is posted and that council can set times and place for meetings. Mrs. Gordon said it was discussed years ago about using Rochester Township. Mr. Mamone said he would bring this up to the Township Commissioners at their next meeting.

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 8:00 PM.

At this time council went into Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary/Treasurer