

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, December 7, 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 and James Simon

**ALSO PRESENT:** Solicitor Paul Steff, Sgt. Dawn Shane, Officer Lizzi, Mayor Robert Knox, Engineer Jeff Frye.

**ABSENT:** David Wagner and Code Enforcement Officer Frank Mercier

**CITIZENS REPORT:** No citizen's present.

**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:** None

**MAYOR and POLICE:** Mayor Knox gave the report. In November there were 52 calls for service, 1 arrest and 9 citations issued.

Sgt. Shane inquired about installing a "No Left Turn" sign coming from Get Go onto Route 65. A discussion was held about this matter. Mayor Knox indicated that he is going to collect a summary of accidents from the police department within the last 5 years so the borough could apply for a "No Left Turn" sign from PennDot.

**STREETS & SEWERS:** Mr. Drumm indicated that the borough had hired a new laborer and he is currently on a 90-day probationary period. Mr. Simon made motion to hire Shawn Johnston as borough laborer at the hourly rate of \$17.00 per hour and no benefits provided by borough. He will be paid for holidays and will receive one week vacation after one year of service. He will receive time and ½ for anything over 40 hours per week and is on a 90-day probationary period. Mrs. Gordon seconded Mr. Simon's motion. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mr. Seminick indicated that two street lights are out by Co-Go's and Get Go.

Mr. Drumm explained the situation regarding the repairing of the traffic lights at the Monaca-East Rochester Bridge. He said he met with the serviceman from Traffic Control and was advised that the bolts and poles are in bad disrepair. He was told by the serviceman that PennDot offers a grant which provides funding of 80% and the municipality pays 20%. The serviceman repaired the overhead line but not sure how long it will last. Secretary will get

information regarding the PennDot grant. Mr. Frye indicated that the grant through PennDot is a Traffic Signal Technology Grant.

Discussion held about purchasing portable stop signs. At a previous meeting it was discussed about purchasing 10 portable stop signs, but they are costly. Sgt. Shane indicated that would need 3 signs at the plaza and 3 signs at the bridge. Secretary will look into pricing.

Mr. Drumm indicated that the dump truck needs the subframe repaired and leaf springs need replaced, plus 4 tires for the back. Received quote for the subframe work of \$1,800 from Imperial Truck Service, \$3,676.00 from Zirat's for the leaf springs and tires, which includes cost of installation. Mr. Simon made motion to have dump truck repaired. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mrs. Gordon said she indicated to the new laborer and no new dump truck would be purchased. He is to use utility truck in the spring and when there is no need to drive the dump truck.

Mr. Drumm indicated that need new track and rollers and opener for the salt shed. He also said the back wall is buckling out. Would need to purchase 10 feet of track. Mr. Seminick made motion to purchase new track and rollers for the salt shed. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mr. Drumm said the electric has been installed to the flagpole and gazebo. Need to purchase spotlight. Mrs. Gordon made motion for Mr. Drumm to purchase spotlight for the flagpole and gazebo area. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mayor Knox asked about the installation of the fence at the ballfield. Mr. Frye said the fence has been installed. He is waiting to hear when the contractor will hook the electric back up.

**BUILDING PERMITS:** Copy of Mr. Mercier's report provided to council. Permit issued for 895 Spruce for fence and permit issued for shed. Excavation permit issued for 900 Ohio River Boulevard.

**FINANCE AND BUDGET/TAX REPORT:** Tax Collection for November \$8,785.73; Tax Collection Commission for November \$439.29; Total bills paid in November \$18,863.66; Payroll for November \$4,027.81 (net pay - includes street, secretary, tax collector, zoning); Pennvest December payment \$1,024.95; collection from Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority for November \$4,725.84.

Mr. Seminick made motion to pay tax collector's commission. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion carried. Mrs. Gordon made motion to pay bills. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion carried. Mrs. Gordon presented an invoice from Reno Bros. for purchase and installation of one pump. The amount owed is \$8,672.79. She said the bill will be paid out of the sewer maintenance checking account.

Mrs. Gordon also indicated that liquid fuels have its own account which is only used for pay for certain items approved by the state and that sewer maintenance has its own budget of which the monies are used only to pay for expenses regarding the lift station.

Mr. Drumm asked for motion to pay the Reno Bros. invoice. Mr. Simon made motion to pay Reno Bros. invoice in the amount of \$8,672.79. Mrs. Gordon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion carried.

Mrs. Gordon presented the final budget for 2023 with the millage rate of 27 mills. Mr. Steff presented Resolution 12-7-22(1) which requires passage under Act 57 of 2022 requiring all taxing bodies in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to enact a resolution no later than January 9, 2023 indicating that taxpayers who do not receive a tax notice during their first year of occupancy to apply for a waiver from penalties and additional costs from the tax collector. Mr. Simon made motion to adopt Resolution 12-7-22(1) enacting the requirements of Act 57 of 2022. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mr. Steff then presented Resolution 12-7-22(2) adopting the Borough's 2023 budget at 27 mills. Mr. Seminick made motion to adopt Resolution 12-7-22(2) adopting the Borough 2023 budget. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried. Mr. Steff then presented Tax Ordinance No. 342 adopting the Borough's 2023 budget for general purposes at 27 mills. Mr. Seminick made motion to adopt Ordinance No. 342. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** One call received for month of November for vehicle fire.

Secretary indicated final fire department contract had been received from Rochester Township. Borough will be paying same amount. Mrs. Gordon made motion to accept new fire department contract. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

## **SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION**

**BOROUGH ENGINEER:** Mr. Frye indicated Youngblood Paving will submit final invoice for paving project. He indicated that the sealing requested may not be completed until spring. Mr. Frye provided copy of estimate for 2023 paving project. He said that some milling may be required on Pine and Atlas. Mr. Drumm asked about Canton Way. Mr. Frye said may not be able to pave that area, but may be able to lay down stone. Mr. Frye said that Canton Way is not shown on the liquid fuels map. Mr. Frye suggested that council review the estimates and pick the streets that need done. He said that Pine and Atlas are in the worst condition.

**RECREATION:** Progress

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Progress

**NEW BUSINESS:** Mr. Steff asked about location for 2023 borough council meetings,

since he needs to advertise the meeting dates. The borough has not heard back from Rochester Township regarding our request to hold our meetings at their municipal building. Mayor Knox indicated that he would talk to Mr. Iannini.

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 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary/Treasurer