

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, January 4, 2023 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, James Simon and David Wagner

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

ABSENT: 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, Mrs. 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 December there were 51 calls for service and 3 arrests. Also, for the year 2022 there were 930 calls for service and 128 arrests.

Mayor Knox indicated that he had talked to Rep. Matzie and PennDOT about a traffic study regarding "No Left Turn" from businesses on Route 65. He was instructed to have the Borough send a formal letter requesting the traffic study and also to include a list of the amount of accidents which has been prepared by the Rochester Police Department. He was told that PennDOT would absorb the costs of the traffic study. Mr. Wagner said that "No Left Turn" signs should be installed. Mr. Simon asked if the traffic study would include all businesses. Sgt. Shane said that all businesses down Route 65 in the Borough should be the focus of the study (namely, Coen Markets to Taco & Tequila).

After discussion of this issue, Mr. Wagner made motion for the borough to send a formal letter requesting a traffic study of Route 65 in the borough. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mayor Knox said he inquired with Duquesne Light about the LED light program. He was informed that the program has been suspended. Mayor Knox said he talked to Attorney Morgan at the county regarding the installation of LED lights on Route 65 in the Borough and on the East Rochester/Monaca Bridge. He was informed that the county is working on a 5 year plan to have LED lights installed.

Discussion held about the issue with the traffic signals at the East Rochester/Monaca Bridge. Mrs. Gordon asked if street repairs will have to be put on hold until the traffic signal is repaired. Mr. Drumm said he is not sure at this time. Mr. Drumm said the pole at the hillside across from the bridge is in very bad shape. He was informed by Traffic Control Systems & Equipment that PennDOT offers a grant for signal repair and installation. Mrs. Gordon made motion to look into the repair process with Traffic Control Systems & Equipment. Mr. Wagner seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

STREETS & SEWERS: It was indicated that a quote had been obtained from Uline for 6 portable stop signs, including posts and base. The quote was for \$1,327.77. Discussion was held about how heavy the base would be and whether it would blow over if there was severe wind. It was mentioned that the base could be held down with sand bags if needed. Comment was made that signs can be purchased with liquid fuel funds. Mrs. Gordon made motion to purchase 6 portable stop signs. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion as carried.

At this time, the invoice for purchase and installation of the second pump at the lift station was presented for payment. The invoice is for \$8,052.79. Mr. Simon made motion to pay the Reno Bros. invoice in the amount of \$8,052.79. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried. The invoice will be paid from Sewer Maintenance account.

Mr. Drumm indicated that the new hire for street laborer quit after 3 weeks of work. Interviews will need to be conducted. Mr. Simon indicated that he had reviewed other applications. After discussion, it was settled that interviews would be conducted on January 10 beginning at 5:00 P.M.

Borough received the invoice from Youngblood Paving in the amount of \$40,200.00 for the streets the borough had paved. Mr. Frye said he talked to Youngblood and that they probably won't be able to come back until spring to do any sealing where the borough requested. Mr. Frye said the invoice is lower then what was anticipated because Columbia Gas took care of paving Lyon Avenue. Mr. Seminick made motion to pay Youngblood Paving invoice in the amount of \$40,200.00. Mr. Wagner seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried. The invoice will be paid from American Rescue Plan funds.

Mr. Drumm said that since the street laborer quit, Chip Drumm has been doing salting of the roads when needed. He said there is a flat tire on the skid loader and it needs to be repaired. Mr. Drumm indicated Drumm & Sons will continue taking care of the streets in bad weather until a new street laborer is hired.

BUILDING PERMITS: No permits issued in December.

FINANCE AND BUDGET/TAX REPORT: Tax Collection for December \$861.48; Tax Collection Commission for December \$43.07; Total bills paid in December \$23,764.91; Payroll for December \$2,258.91 (net pay - includes street, secretary, tax collector, zoning); Pennvest January payment \$1,024.95.

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

Mrs. Gordon asked to take \$40,000 from Earned Income Tax account and transfer to General Fund. Mr. Wagner made motion to transfer \$40,000 from Earned Income Tax account and put into General Fund. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Two calls for month of December. For the year 2022 there were 14 calls for the borough.

SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION: Progress

BOROUGH ENGINEER: Mr. Frye said he can assist with the grant application for the traffic signal update.

RECREATION: Progress

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Progress

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Drumm indicated that hopefully a new street laborer will be hired before the next council meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary/Treasurer