

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, February 1, 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 Lizzi, Mayor Robert Knox, Engineer Jeff Frye, Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary.

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: Received request from KLH Engineers to complete Chapter 94 report. Request sent to Mr. Frye for completion.

MAYOR and POLICE: Mayor Knox gave the report. In January there were 70 calls for service, 1 arrest and 9 citations.

Mayor Knox indicated that the stop sign at Spruce and Walnut needs put back up and also stop sign at Sixth Street needs to be put back up. Discussion was held about where to store portable stop signs. Mayor Knox said they should be kept close to Route 65. Mrs. Gordon suggested keeping them in the shed at the borough building.

Mayor Knox asked if the project by the Rochester Sewer Management Authority is completed at East Washington. He inquired about putting "No Trespassing" signs on the fence that was installed around the rain garden. Mr. Frye said he will check to see if project has been completed and if the Sewer Management Authority can install signs.

Discussion held about how to use the parking lot at the East Washington Street ballfield since the rain garden has been installed. Mrs. Gordon asked how the parking lot can be used since the rain garden was put in the parking lot area and that it should have not been put there. Mr. Drumm said it was the most logical place and knows that parking will be an issue. Mr. Frye said we can approach the sewer authority about making a new parking area.

It was discussed about Rochester Area Baseball and Softball's request to use the ballfield. Secretary was instructed to contact the organization to see if they are still interested in using the

ballfield. Council mentioned about installing parking lot behind the ballfield into the plaza. Mr. Frye said that maybe the Community Block Grant program grant could be used for this.

Mayor Knox said he is currently working with Rep. Matzie's office with regard to grants. Mr. Frye indicated that there are recreation grants and that the borough's match would be donating time in place of money.

STREETS & SEWERS: Mr. Seminick indicated there is a pothole on Stewart Avenue across from Stewart Arms apartments. Also, there is a pothole at the end of JR's parking lot on 5th Street.

At this time Mrs. Gordon made motion to hire Gregory Gozur as street laborer at the hourly rate of \$17.50 per hour with increase after 90-day probationary period, 1 week vacation after one year and 6 paid holidays. Mr. Wagner seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Secretary presented PennDOT Traffic Maintenance Agreement for signature by council. Copy was forwarded to Solicitor Stef for his review and approval.

Mayor Knox said he met with Jim Brunner of Traffic Systems regarding the traffic signal poles at the bridge. Mr. Brunner said the poles under the bridge are okay but the poles on the hillside need replaced. Mayor Knox said there is a grant that could help the borough subsidize the borough's match in regard to the PennDOT Green Light Go grant which the borough applied for in order to modernize and update the traffic light system at the bridge.

Secretary received complaint about the potholes at the end of Stewart Avenue toward Route 65. Resident complained to borough and called PennDOT. PennDOT told resident that East Rochester is responsible for the maintenance of Stewart Avenue. Secretary asked Mr. Frye to verify if this is case. He verified that the borough is responsible for maintenance of Stewart Avenue. Street laborer will put cold patch in the potholes.

Mayor Knox said he was told that the LED installation of the lights on Route 65 will begin soon. He said that on Railroad Street past where the cement company once was located there is the need for extra street lighting. He said he talked to Duquesne Light and was told that lights could be put on the poles already there at no cost to the borough. The borough would only have to pay for the electric.

BUILDING PERMITS: No permits issued in January.

FINANCE AND BUDGET/TAX REPORT: Tax Collection for January \$1,077.81; Tax Collection Commission for January \$53.89; Total bills paid in January \$68,892.28; Payroll for January \$1,501.22 (net pay - includes street, secretary, tax collector, zoning); Pennvest February payment \$1,024.95; December collection from Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority \$4,350.17.

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

Discussion held about closing Pennvest Escrow account at Citizen's Bank. The account has been dormant for several years. Mr. Seminick made motion to close Pennvest Escrow account at Citizen's Bank. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried. The money will be deposited into the borough's Sewer Maintenance Account.

Mr. Drumm said the borough truck is back from having the subframe repaired. Now it needs new leaf springs which have to be special ordered. The truck also needs to be inspected which will be done at the time the leaf springs are installed.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Three calls in January.

SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION: Progress

BOROUGH ENGINEER: Mr. Frye said he will complete the Chapter 94 report and file with KLH Engineers.

RECREATION: Mr. Wagner asked about getting the playground drainage issue fixed. Was told something will be done in the spring. Probably will have to run a pipe down to the creek. It was discussed about the water running down the side of 5th Street. Probably will have to install a new catch basin in that area.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Mr. Drumm brought up about the catch basin project. He asked if the borough could advance the cost of the materials for the project, namely the grating. Mr. Seminick made motion to pay for materials for the catch basin project and to store same at the borough building. Mr. Wagner seconded. Roll call vote taken as follows: Mr. Seminick – Yes; Mr. Drumm – abstain; Mrs. Gordon – Yes; Mr. Wagner – Yes and Mr. Simon - Yes

Mr. Steff said it is legal to pay for materials in advance.

NEW BUSINESS: Secretary presented for approval the 2023 engagement letter from Michael Baker International. Mr. Drumm signed same.

Mr. Steff said he prepared letter to put catch basin on 6th Street which was given to Mr. Wagner to present to homeowner on 5th Street for his signature, since the water would run onto the back of his property.

Mrs. Gordon asked why there is no catch basin on Lacock and 4th Street. Mr. Frye said there is no pipe on Lacock. Discussion was held about installing other catch basins. Mr. Drumm and Mr. Frye will meet and look over 4th Street.

Mayor Knox asked about installing LED street light on 1st Street. He said there is not one there now and it is a safety issue.

Secretary indicated that 2 positions need to be filled on the Zoning Hearing Board and one position needs to be filled on the Planning Commission.

There being no further business a motion was made by Mr. Wagner and seconded by Mr. Simon to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary/Treasurer