

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, March 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, Mayor Robert Knox, Deborah Ahern, Tax Collector

ABSENT: Code Enforcement Officer Frank Mercier, Jeffery Frye, Sgt. Dawn Shane

CITIZENS REPORT: Deborah Ahern asked about adding a page on the Borough's website with regard to tax collection information. She said she had spoken to the borough secretary indicating that Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs has a program that updates websites for a one-time fee. Secretary said she had received email from current web design company indicating that the borough's website needs to be updated, but did not remember the exact fee quoted. At this time discussion was held about looking into how Pennsylvania Association of Boroughs could help with the borough website and secretary was instructed to contact the PSAB.

Mrs. Ahern said she is concerned about the hours that the borough office is open. She said she is concerned about mail delivery since the office is closed on Fridays. The borough secretary said she works the number of hours required so the street laborer could have disability and life insurance. Mrs. Ahern suggested that the borough office be open for a certain number of hours on Friday. It was mentioned that the disability and life insurance has always been paid by the borough. Mayor Knox said he spoke with Brian Yorke of The Yorke Agency about the disability and life insurance. Mr. Steff said it is in poor taste to debate that benefits of an employee at a public meeting and should be addressed in executive session.

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

COMMUNICATIONS: Secretary read letter from Beaver County Commissioners which is a reminder from the county to use the funds from the American Rescue Plan Municipal Infrastructure Grant before December 31, 2024.

MAYOR and POLICE: Mayor Knox said no report since Sgt. Shane is not present. Mayor Knox said he has talked and will set up a time with PennDOT regarding the deterioration of the roadway at the lower end of Stewart Avenue. Mr. Drumm said he instructed our street laborer to not doing anything with the roadway until discussion is held

with PennDOT. Mayor Knox something needs to be done so that no one goes off the road into the ditch. If that happens the borough would be held liable. Mr. Seminick said the side of the roadway has washed out. It was suggested to put traffic cones alongside the roadway until a decision is made on how to repair the roadway.

At this time Officer John Farmer arrived (7:20 pm).

Mayor Knox indicated that Mr. Frye was to look at the area of the traffic signals at the bridge and report back. According to email sent to borough secretary, it was looked at and determined that the damage to the bridge was superficial and not an immediate emergency.

Mayor Knox said the road study on Route 65 will be done in April. He also indicated he had spoken with Duquesne Light and that Led street lights would be installed on the poles and First and Second Streets sometime in March. He also indicated that Duquesne Light indicated that they could LED lights on the poles at the East Washington Street Ballfield. Mr. Drumm said the borough is waiting to hear if the water and electric had been reinstalled. Mayor Knox said the fencing is missing down by the creek at the ballfield. Mr. Drumm said there was no fencing there before. Mayor Knox said that fencing should be installed in that area. Mrs. Gordon mentioned that it is unfair to the taxpayers that the ballfield cannot be used because of the Rochester Joint Sewer Maintenance Authority's installation of the rain garden in the ballfield parking lot. Mayor Knox indicated that there is a Greenway Trails Grant available. It is a matching grant, but if the borough volunteered time to do the work, that would cover the matching part of the grant. Mr. Drumm said that the ballfield projects need to be put on hold this year.

At this time Mayor Knox read the police report. There were 55 calls for service in February, 1 arrest and 1 citation issued.

STREETS & SEWERS: Mr. Simon indicated that the borough's skid loader needs serviced. Mr. Simon said the battery is dead. Will have Doyle come and take care of the skid loader. He said that Greg Gozur has started keeping a record of all repairs and maintenance to the borough's equipment.

Discussion held about the matter of wipes and other debris being cleaned out of the lift station. Mr. Drumm said he will talk to Mr. Frye and set up a time to meet with him regarding this matter and other items.

BUILDING PERMITS: Two permits issued in February – one for remodeling work at Shop 'N Save and one for new signage at Co-Go's.

FINANCE AND BUDGET/TAX REPORT: Tax Collection for February \$10,005.16; Tax Collection Commission for February \$500.26; Total bills paid in February \$29,357.87; Payroll for February \$2,943.64 (net pay - includes street, secretary, tax collector); Pennvest March payment \$1,024.95;

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

Discussion held about changing refuse collection to weekly instead of biweekly. Purpose for change is that debris from lift station can be disposed of on a weekly basis. The cost for weekly service would be \$65.00 with Valley Waste. Mrs. Gordon made motion to go from biweekly to weekly refuse disposal. Mr. Wagner seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Discussion was held about sending letters to residents who live near the lift station.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: No report.

SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION: Progress

BOROUGH ENGINEER: No report

RECREATION: Mr. Wagner said hopefully the borough can get the drainage issued at the playground taken care of.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Mr. Drumm said he ordered a 10-foot track and door opener for the salt shed. It can be installed by the street laborer.

NEW BUSINESS:

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