

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, April 5, 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, Brooke Burtner, Katie Prest and Colleen Kellar, Engineer Jeff Frye (via phone).

ABSENT: Code Enforcement Officer Frank Mercier and Mayor Knox

CITIZENS REPORT: Brooke Burtner said she came to the meeting to ask council to sign the paperwork from the Beaver County Tax Claim Bureau regarding Tax Parcel No. 20-001-0344.001 owned by George and Dorothy Richards on Walnut Street. Mrs. Gordon made motion to sign the County paperwork regarding the purchase of Tax Parcel No. 20-001-0344.001 from the Tax Claim Bureau. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried. Mr. Steff noted that the paperwork showed taxes owing from 2006 to present. He told Ms. Burtner that once she receives the proof of purchase from the county showing that she owns the property, she can come to council to request an exoneration of the back taxes.

Mrs. Keller came to the meeting with regard to obtaining council's approval to install billboards along Route 65 on property she and her husband recently purchased, namely Tax Parcel No. 20-001-0342.000. There were previously billboards at that location which were owned by Lamar Advertising, but she had them removed and now wants to install her own billboards. She presented an architect drawing of the billboards which also show the exact location. Mr. Drumm asked Mrs. Keller if the billboards would interfere with the sewer line. Mr. Drumm indicated that someone had installed a "Do Not Block Intersection" sign along there which council will address at this meeting. Mr. Steff said he talked to the borough secretary about the installation of the billboards and according to Sections 901 and 902 of the Zoning Ordinance, billboards are only permitted in the Commercial or Industrial District of the borough and shall not exceed 200 square feet in area and not over 20 feet in length and not more than one shall be placed on any one property with a frontage of less than 200 feet and on each 100 feet of frontage for larger properties. Secretary was instructed to have drawings provided to Code.sys for their review and to approve permit application for billboards. Secretary also indicated that Mrs. Keller told her that PennDOT requested a letter from the borough indicating that the billboards conformed to borough ordinance. Secretary was also instructed to provide copy of zoning ordinance relating to billboards to Code.sys.

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, M. Wagner seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

MAYOR and POLICE: Sgt. Shane gave the police report. There were 69 calls for service in March, 3 arrests and 2 traffic citations.

STREETS & SEWERS: Mr. Simon brought up about purchasing T-shirts for the street department laborer. Discussion was held and it was decided to purchase 5 T-shirts and one sweatshirt. Mr. Seminick made motion to purchase 5 T-shirts and 1 sweatshirt for the street department laborer. Mrs. Gordon seconded. Mr. Simon presented quotes for a commercial zero turn mower. The current mower is in operable and is a residential mower not commercial. Mr. Simon presented three quotes as follows: Vernon Dell Tractor - \$7,986.67; M & R Power Equipment - \$8,900 and Town & Country - \$6,788.27 (each bid is at a discounted price). Discussion was held and it was decided that Town & Country was the best price. He said that Greg had received an offer of \$1,000 for the current mower. Mr. Wagner made motion to purchase 54" Cub Cadet commercial mower from Town & County at the price of \$6,788.27. Mrs. Gordon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried. Mr. Seminick made motion to sell current mower for a price of \$1,000. Mrs. Gordon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mr. Simon indicated that since there have been issues with down trees coming across the roadways in the borough, he would like approval to purchase road closure signs and safety cones. Mr. Simon made motion to purchase road closure signs and safety cones. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion as carried. Secretary was asked to see if these purchases could be made through liquid fuels.

Mr. Simon said the price to have the old pump repaired by Reno Bros. would be \$1,342.00. Mrs. Gordon made motion to have the old pump repaired. Mr. Wagner seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mr. Simon indicated that borough received quote of \$72.00 from Precision Sign in Rochester to make "Property of East Rochester" stencil. This stencil would be used to mark various items owned by the borough. Mr. Seminick made motion to purchase "Property of East Rochester" stencil from Prevision Signs in Rochester. Mrs. Gordon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mr. Drumm indicated that borough received info from police regarding debris and garbage behind Big Lots on the trail to the ballfield. He checked the matter out and found mattresses, food cans, shopping carts, etc. He said the borough purchased "No Trespassing, Violators will be Prosecuted" signs and the street department posted them in the area. The debris can be gathered up and taken to the Valley Waste dump in Beaver Falls for a fee per load. Mr. Drumm said he has the rolls of plastic that can be used to wrap the mattresses.

BUILDING PERMITS: Mr. Mercier's report in folder. Permit issued to Rock Christian Church.

FINANCE AND BUDGET/TAX REPORT: Tax Collection for March \$61,095.06; Tax Collection Commission for March \$1,851.66; Total bills paid in March \$37,151.38; Payroll for March \$4,632.81 (net pay - includes street, secretary, tax collector); Pennvest April 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. Ms. Gordon made motion to pay bills. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mr. Simon made motion to pay invoice of \$3,979.23 to Groff Tractor Equipment for repair of the skid steer. Mrs. Gordon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mr. Simon made motion to pay invoice of \$2,755.00 to Tri-State Maintenance for two visits to Route 65 and Walnut for sewer problem. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: No report.

SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION: Progress

BOROUGH ENGINEER: At this time, Mr. Frye joined the meeting via phone call. Mr. Frye indicated that the Chapter 94 – Municipal Wasteload Management Report was filed.

He discussed the issue with the traffic light pole at the bridge that was hit recently by a vehicle. He had a specialist look at the pole and it was determined that the pole is structurally sound.

Mr. Frye said he met with Mr. Drumm regarding the drainage issue on Stewart. He said the majority of the issues are coming from PennDOT. He said there is a catch basin that has collapsed and one catch basin is totally blocked. He said part is borough, but the majority is on PennDOT property. Mr. Frye said he would like to meet with PennDOT and show them the issues. If necessary, he said that maybe the solicitor should write a letter to PennDOT indicating that the water is coming from PennDOT property. Mr. Frye said we could use the county ARP funds to install two catch basins.

Discussion was held about putting a catch basin on Sixth Street. Mr. Frye suggested putting catch basin in through property on Fifth Street and come down Fifth Street which would eliminate the spring. Mr. Drumm said he is leery about putting pipe on Sixth Street which would go through property owner's property on Fifth Street. Mr. Frye asked Mr. Steff if the letter he prepared previously for Mr. Wagner to get permission to have water run on property owner's property would take care of this or would the borough have to get an easement. Mr. Steff said the letter was the most cost-effective way to go, but in order to do this project, would need an easement agreement.

Mr. Frye said he will speak to Mr. Steff about these matters.

It was indicated that the water on Ramsey Way comes from Fourth Street. It was mentioned that there is a paper street beside the Hoffman residence and 2 catch basins there. Mr. Drumm said there are three projects, namely, Ramsey Way, Sixth Street and Fifth Street – install pipe beside property on Fifth Street and pipe down Fifth Street to catch basin on Fifth Street; 2 catch basins to be installed on Stewart Avenue.

Mr. Simon said he will help the street laborer install orange fence along area on Stewart Avenue where road has eroded.

Mr. Drumm said has completed 5 catch basin repairs. He said that the one on Third Street could not be done because there is a gas line where the catch basin was to be installed.

Mr. Drumm gave a report of the issue along Route 65 where the sewer line is plugged. He said it will have to be dug up, cut the pipe and open up the sewer line. This needs to be done as soon as possible. Mr. Seminick made motion to have Drumm & Sons Contracting take care of the sewer issue along Route 65. Mrs. Gordon seconded. Mr. Drumm abstained from voting. All other council members were in favor of the motion and the motion was carried.

Based on the discussions above, relative to catch basins, Mr. Simon made motion for Mr. Frye to proceed with drawings and specifications. Mr. Wagner seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

RECREATION: Progress

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: At this time, Mrs. Gordon presented information on website updates. She said the current vendor for our current website, Abigail and Tony Pieta, only charged the borough \$456.74 last year for their services. They submitted an estimate of \$800 to refresh and update the borough's website. Secretary contacted+ Pennsylvania Association of Boroughs regarding their website program. It would cost \$1,517.00 to update the borough website, with an annual charge of \$617.00. They would provide 7 hours of free support. Anything over the 7 hours would be at a cost of \$75.00 per hour. After discussion, Mrs. Gordon made motion to continue with the current website vendor, Abigail and Tony Pieta. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Simon indicated that the service truck broke down in Monaca. He called Sulli's Towing and asked them to take it to Zirat's.

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 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary/Treasurer