

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, June 7, 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:** Mayor Knox, Solicitor Paul Steff, Sgt. Dawn Shane

**ABSENT:** Code Enforcement Officer Frank Mercier, Engineer Jeff Frye

**CITIZENS REPORT:** None

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

**COMMUNICATIONS:** 1. Invitation from Michael Baker to attend Annual Summer Solstice Client Gathering on June 21, 2023 from 4:00 to 7:00 at the Hotel Monaca, 620 William Penn Place, Pittsburgh, PA

2. Communication from Tetra Tech regarding installation of new fiber optic cable for 50-mile portion from East Palestine, Ohio to Pittsburgh.

3. Email from Eric Bock, Secretary-Treasurer of Daugherty Township regarding a meeting of certain fire departments to discuss regionalization of fire service. Several dates were provided in July for a meeting. Mr. Drumm asked what is the feeling of council about the fire department. He is satisfied with what is in place now and he does not want to be changing anything. Mr. Seminick said we are under a 5-year contract now and what they are looking into is regionalization which would benefit Beaver County. Mr. Seminick was asked to see who would like to attend. Both Mrs. Gordon and Mayor Knox said they would like to attend.

4. Secretary read letter from PennDOT regarding Borough's request for no left turn from businesses along Route 65. PennDOT indicated that the borough did not meet the requirements for installation of "No Left Turn" signs. At this time, Mayor Knox addressed the matter. Mayor Knox said that PennDOT has an occupancy permit for the businesses which cannot restrict left turns. He said GetGo contacted him and indicated that they want a "No Left Turn". If a business wants a "No Left Turn" they can contact Michael Simmons from PennDOT and he will review the matter and the decision can be overturned. PennDOT is not actually denying it. PennDOT said there are fewer than 10 accidents in that area. Sgt. Shane said there are more than 10 accidents. Mayor Knox will obtain more information from the police department, which he will provide to PennDOT. PennDOT claims they have to be recordable accidents. Sgt. Shane said that GetGo can call PennDOT. She said the accidents

coming from their business are the worst ones – the worst left-hand turns. She suggested we keep a copy of the response letter from PennDOT on file and provide a copy to her because if there is a fatality there, the police can refer to the letter from PennDOT which shows that the borough tried to get “No Left Turn” from GetGo. Sgt. Shane said if PennDOT installs “No Left Turn”, the police can enforce it. If GetGo installs “No Left Turn”, the police cannot enforce it. Mayor Knox spoke with the manager of GetGo and they will contact Mr. Simmons of PennDOT.

Mr. Drumm asked where else would be a problem other than at GetGo. Mayor Knox said at 1942 Tacos & Tequila. Sgt. Shane said that sometimes when you turn left in that area or if you turn left from Lacock. Mr. Drumm said the vehicles should turn right and go to the plaza turn around and come back out. He said Lacock is tough enough to pull out onto Rte. 65. Mr. Wagner said there is a sign at GetGo at the entrance, but people still make the left turn. Sgt. Shane said GetGo put the sign up themselves, which is not enforceable because it is not a PennDOT approved sign. The sign has to be a PennDOT approved sign and installed by PennDOT in order to be enforceable.

PennDOT recommended in their letter about installing stop bars. They suggested we correct the lines at the stop signs on Walnut, Lacock and Stewart – 4 feet from the highway where the stop sign is located. Mr. Drumm said where the stop sign is on Walnut, when vehicles come down Rte. 65 to enter Stop ‘n Go, they cross over on Walnut sideways to get into Stop ‘n Go. He said PennDOT trucks do that sometimes.

**MAYOR and POLICE:** Mayor Knox gave the police report. There were 64 calls in May, 1 arrest and 6 citations issued.

Sgt. Shane said he mentioned to Mr. Drumm about installing camera at the ballfield. She said there have been patrols in that area, but they are not there when the crimes are being committed. At this time, a discussion was held about the vandalism occurring at the East Washington Street Ballfield. Per Mr. Drumm’s instruction, secretary contacted Comcast about obtaining quotes to install internet at the ballfield in order to have cameras which would then feed to the borough building computer. Secretary read the quotes which were way to high.

Sgt. Shane mentioned about purchasing trail cameras which would be aimed at the areas where we have seen the most vandalism or at the dugout or entrance. Mr. Simon was asked to look into various pricing for trail cameras and report back to council. Sgt. Shane suggested aiming a camera at the dugout. Mr. Drumm said the cameras should be installed up high.

**STREETS & SEWERS:** Mayor Knox indicated that he spoke with Duquesne Light and that the two additional LED street lights, namely at 1<sup>st</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, will be installed someone in June,

It was mentioned that someone installed what looks like a speed trap wire on Third Street. Sgt. Shane said the police department did not install any wires.

Mr. Drumm said he will speak with Rochester Borough about street sweeping.

Secretary was asked to contact Mr. Frye again about a list of residents who are on the lift station sewer line.

Mr. Drumm said that Mr. Frye is currently working on the list of catch basins to be repaired and will have paperwork at next council meeting. Mr. Frye indicated to Mr. Drumm that he is still waiting to get a return call from PennDOT about Stewart Avenue.

Mr. Steff said he will contact Mr. Frye about preparing an easement agreement for the property from 6<sup>th</sup> Street to 5<sup>th</sup> Street in order to have new catch basins installed.

Secretary indicated that the new garage door had been ordered from Electric Garage Door Sales. She noted that Doors By Ike indicated that they do not install door seals for the warehouse type garage door – so secretary was instructed by Mr. Drumm to order the door from Electric Garage Door Sales.

**BUILDING PERMITS:** No permits were issued in May. Since a report was filed by the police department regarding property at 818 Third Street (open storage and grass issues), Code Enforcement Officer Frank Mercier suggested to the borough secretary that a letter should be sent to the resident asking them to clean up their property within a certain time length or a citation will be issued. If a citation is issued, then the resident will be scheduled to appear before the District Magistrate. Mr. Steff asked who from the borough would attend a hearing at the magistrate's office. Mr. Drumm indicated that the Code Enforcement Officer would have to attend the hearing. Mr. Steff indicated that the first step is start with a letter to the resident. Discussion was held about the resident at 818 Third Street having too many dogs in the home, per the borough ordinance. Mrs. Gordon feels they are in violation of the ordinance. Sgt. Shane indicated that in Rochester Borough, puppies are not counted toward the number of pets in the household until they are 8 weeks old.

Discussion was held about obtaining citation forms that can be used by the borough if needed. Sgt. Shane indicated that Rochester Borough gets the citations they use from the Beaver County Court Administrator's Office, but said she could provide the borough with some non-traffic citation forms.

Mrs. Gordon said that there is a gentleman in her neighborhood who walks his dog between 7:00-8:00 AM daily and notices that he unleashes the dog who then proceeds to do his business in resident's yards. Sgt. Shane suggested that she call the police.

**FINANCE AND BUDGET/TAX REPORT:** Tax Collection for May \$91,183.10; Tax Collection Commission for May \$2,919.07; Total bills paid from May 4 to June 7 - \$51,414.92; Payroll from May 4 to June 7 \$7,548.65 (net pay - includes street, secretary, zoning, tax collector, mayor and council); Pennvest June payment \$1,024.95; Received for May from Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority \$3,759.82

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

Mrs. Gordon made motion to pay invoice in the amount of \$1,439.00 for repair of the old pump. Mr. Wagner seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mrs. Gordon made motion to approve 2022 Audit conducted by Herman & Loll and pay their invoice in the amount of \$2,2925.00. Mr. Wagner seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** 1 fire call, 1 rescue, 1 service call and 1 false alarm call for the month of May.

**SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION:** Mr. Steff indicated that he will schedule a time to talk with Mr. Frye and Code Enforcement Officer Frank Mercier.

**BOROUGH ENGINEER:** Mr. Drumm said that Mr. Frye will continue to set up meeting with PennDOT regarding Stewart Avenue. Will wait to hear from PennDOT before installing new catch basins on Stewart Avenue.

**RECREATION:** Discussion held about the water seeping from underground at the East Washington Ballfield from the retention pond. Mr. Drumm said he spoke with Frank Dodson from the Rochester Joint Sewer Authority and indicated to him that we are getting water on the ballfield.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Discussed about the condition of the area on 4<sup>th</sup> Street where the Beaver Falls Municipal Water Authority replaced the water line. They installed cold patch, but something else needs to be done in that area. Also mentioned that cut was previously made on 3<sup>rd</sup> street. Secretary was instructed to contact the water authority.

Mr. Wagner asked about the water issue at the playground. Mrs. Gordon said that there was never a water problem until the mulch was installed. Mr. Drumm said that mulch was installed because it was required under the grant that was received several years ago when the playground was updated. Mrs. Gordon said she feels it is not worth putting money into the playground when it is not used regularly. Secretary was instructed to contact contractors to obtain quotes for fixing the drainage issue.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Progress

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 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary/Treasurer