

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, July 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, Engineer Jeff Frye, Brooke Burtner and Katie Prest

**ABSENT:** Mayor Knox and Code Enforcement Officer Frank Mercier

**CITIZENS REPORT:** Ms. Burtner came to the meeting with the paperwork indicating that she purchased from County Tax Repository the property owned by George and Dorothy Richards and was requesting Council's exoneration of the taxes from 2006 to present. Mr. Steff said he needs to prepare a written resolution for the next council meeting so that council can approve the tax exoneration. Mr. Steff indicated to Ms. Burtner that she has until July 2024 to pay back taxes. Mr. Seminick made motion to have Solicitor Steff prepare a written resolution for August council meeting indicating that council will exonerate the taxes from 2006 to present. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

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

**COMMUNICATIONS:** 1. Invitation from Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority for a tour of the new sewage treatment facility on Thursday July 13 at 6:00 PM.

2. Communication from Eric Bock of Daugherty Township regarding meeting to discuss regionalization of fire services. Meeting to be held on July 13 at 6:00 PM at Daugherty Township Municipal Building.

3. Communication from Michael Walther of PA Department of Agriculture regarding treatment for latternflies. Consent was forwarded to borough which requires signature. Solicitor Steff indicated that he would like to review the communication and do some research and will report at next meeting.

**MAYOR and POLICE:** Sgt. Shane gave report. There were 67 calls in June for service and 2 citations issued.

Sgt. Shane mentioned about the issue with the Ralston property. Mr. Steff said he has not spoken to Code Enforcement Officer Mercier about the issues.

**STREETS & SEWERS:** Mr. Drumm indicated that a tree is hanging over the road on Second Street and it is on borough property and needs to be taken down.

Mr. Seminick indicated that he had received a request from a resident on Stewart Avenue about getting a LED street light on the pole in the area of 170 and 174 Stewart Avenue . He will get the pole number so borough secretary can contact Duquesne Light.

Secretary indicated that Mayor Knox said he spoke with the electrical contractor in charge of installing the LED lighting on Route 65 who indicated to him that LED lights will be installed on the East Rochester/Monaca bridge at no cost to the borough.

Mr. Simon asked about grass growing along the side of the streets in the borough and where Greg should cut. Mr. Simon said he asked Greg to start cutting the grass along the guardrails. Mrs. Gordon said it should be cut telephone pole to street. Oak Avenue is really overgrown.

**BUILDING PERMITS:** Code Enforcement Officer reports in council's folder.

**FINANCE AND BUDGET/TAX REPORT:** Tax Collection for June \$951.75; Commission for June \$28.55; Total bills paid June 8 to July 5 - \$32,289.91; payroll from June 8 to July 5 - \$5,599.42 (net pay - includes street, secretary, zoning, tax collector); Pennvest July payment \$1,024.95

Mr. Wagner made motion to pay tax collector's commission. Mr. Simon 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.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** No report received

**SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION:** Mr. Steff indicated that he and Mr. Frye had spoken about certain matters. Solicitor Steff indicated that he will get in contact with Code Enforcement Officer Mercier to discuss matters.

**BOROUGH ENGINEER:** Mr. Frye said that in regard to installing a catch basin on 5<sup>th</sup> Street – will have to pipe from 6<sup>th</sup> Street to 5<sup>th</sup> Street and probably an easement will be needed to be prepared and signed in connection with running down from 6<sup>th</sup> Street along property of resident on 5<sup>th</sup> Street. He said the catch basin would be installed at the top and come down the street. He is in the process of preparing drawings.

Mr. Frye also indicated that an easement will need to be prepared in order to install catch basin on Ramsey Way.

With regard to Stewart Avenue, Mr. Frye said he received a call from PennDOT, but needs to return the call. He said layout will be prepared for catch basins along Stewart and will be put

out for bid.

Discussion held about paving Atlas, Pine and 4<sup>th</sup> Street (from church to end of street by Cable residence). Discussed about moving water on 5<sup>th</sup> Street from against guardrail to other side of street. Mrs. Gordon indicated that definitely Pine, Atlas and 4<sup>th</sup> Street should be paved.

Mr. Frye said he looked at the water issue at the ballfield and indicated that the road may be the point of issue. He said the roadway is tilted incorrectly – the road going along side of ballfield is rolling off into the area where the water is laying. Mr. Drumm indicated that there was a trench there before and that possibly the sewer authority may have destroyed it. Mr. Frye said that maybe the ditch needs to be opened back up and grate toward the hillside. Mrs. Gordon asked if the sewer authority would take care of this. She said the problem started when the pond was installed. She said maybe the sewer authority will grate it back.

**RECREATION:** Secretary said she spoke with Chaffee Excavating and Scott Chaffee indicated that he would look at the issue at the playground.

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:** Mrs. Gordon asked about when the borough will hear about the grant for the traffic light at the bridge. Secretary said she thinks July. Sgt. Shane indicated that negotiations are starting again between Rochester Borough Police Dept. and Rochester Township Police Dept. to merge. She said she will be representative for the borough.

Mr. Seminick asked about all the debris washing down Stewart Avenue. Mr. Frye said he is waiting to hear from PennDOT. All the debris is laying at the end of the street. Mr. Simon said he will ask Greg to take the skid loader and scrape the road.

**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 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary/Treasurer