

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, August 2, 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 and David Wagner

**ALSO PRESENT:** Solicitor Paul Steff, Officer Krawchyck, Engineer Jeff Frye, Olivia Drumm, Giana Warren and Lina Greco.

**ABSENT:** Mayor Knox, Code Enforcement Officer Frank Mercier, James Simon

**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, 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 was carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Secretary read email from Department of Community and Economic Developing regarding Local Share Account Program which opens September 1, 2023 for non-matching grants. Projects include infrastructure work, purchase of vehicles and equipment, construction, demolition, engineering design and inspection fees for construction projects. Application time frame is September 1, 2023 to November 30, 2023.

Mr. Wagner suggested applying for infrastructure work. Secretary said we could apply for a new borough truck. Discussion held about projects to apply for. Mr. Drumm said he will talk with Mr. Simon.

**MAYOR and POLICE:** There were 65 calls in July, 3 citations and no arrests. Secretary indicated that Mayor Knox has been concerned about the burning at All Metals. Mr. Seminick indicated that they are using a burning torch.

**STREETS & SEWERS:** Secretary said Mrs. Reda came into the borough office to talk about the tree at the end of her driveway. Mr. Drumm said he looked at where she is concerned about and the tree is not on borough right-of-way. It is far away from the borough right-of-way – it is on someone else’s property. After discussion about this issue and past issue regarding sewage run-off, it was decided that tree is not on borough property.

Secretary said that Mayor Knox asked her about the light on the flagpole. Mr. Drumm said the issue is that an LED light had to be ordered and he has not heard anything more. Trying to find an LED spotlight. It is a spotlight and not a flood light. Economy Electric trying to obtain light. Secretary also said that Mayor Knox told her that one of the contractors who is installing the LED lights on Route 65 will donate LED lights for the concession stand at the ballfield.

The Borough will have to install them but the contractor is donating the lights.

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

**FINANCE AND BUDGET/TAX REPORT:** Tax Collection for July \$3,135.61; Commission for July \$120.19; Total bills paid July 6 to August 2 - \$21,072.78; payroll from July 6 to August 2 - \$4,254.00 (net pay - includes street, secretary, zoning, tax collector); Pennvest August payment \$1,024.95

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

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** 4 calls in July. Mr. Seminick brought up about the ordinance previously submitted by the fire department with regard to charging for car wrecks and false alarms. Mr. Steff indicated that this was discussed but never moved forward. Mr. Steff said he previously talked to the Rochester Township solicitor. Mr. Seminick indicated that the insurance companies would be billed not the residents. Mr. Steff said he can prepare a draft for the next meeting for council's review.

**SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION:** Discussion held about the Department of Agriculture consent agreement to spray for latternflies, particularly around the ballfield area. It was mentioned that the latternflies attach themselves to sumac trees. The Department of Agriculture would spray the sumac trees which probably will cause the sumac trees to die. Mrs. Gordon said what is the difference whether the bugs kill the trees or the spray does. Mr. Wagner said if council feels necessity to do it, then proceed.

Mr. Wagner made motion to execute Department of Agriculture consent agreement allowing the department to spray the sumac trees to kill the latternflies. Mr. Seminick seconded. Roll call vote taken as follows: Mr. Drumm – Yes; Mr. Seminick – Yes; Mrs. Gordon – No; Mr. Wagner – Yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Steff presented Resolution 8-2-23 which provides for tax exoneration of the taxes from 2006-2022 on Tax Parcel No. 20-001-0344.000 which was purchased by Brooke Burtner and Katie Prest from Beaver County Tax Claim. The property will be put back on the tax rolls beginning 2023 going forward. Mrs. Gordon made motion to adopt Resolution 8-2-23. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mr. Steff indicated that he had talked to Code Enforcement Officer Mercier regarding the Ralston property. Pictures have been taken and he has been in contact with the Ralstons. They are making progress and it may take time because they are handicapped and older.

**BOROUGH ENGINEER:** Mr. Frye indicated that he was preparing the drawings for the catch basins to be repaired.

He said the 2023 street paving project will have to be put out for bids, and he is the process of preparing the packages. The streets to be paved are Atlas, Pine and Fourth Street from Church to Cable residence.

He indicated that he did follow-up with PennDOT regarding the Stewart Avenue issue. He visited the area and took and sent pictures to PennDOT and asked for a meeting. Waiting to hear back. It was mentioned that maybe the borough could appeal to Senator Elder Vogel or State Rep. Robert Matzie. Mr. Drumm suggested adding into the bid package installing a wedge curb from Lacock to Lyons Avenue. Mr. Frye said that can be done. Mrs. Gordon said after wedge curb is installed and signs indicating "Do Not Park On Curb" should be installed in that area.

Mr. Frye said he spoke with Scott Chaffee regarding the drainage issue at the playground. He said they talked about having the water drain along the hillside toward the creek. Mr. Drumm said it is dry in that area right now, but in early spring there is usually water there.

Mr. Drumm asked about an extra catch basin on the lower end of Fourth Street toward Lyons Avenue. Mr. Frye said he thinks one can be installed there; he will review that area. Also discussed about catch basin on Ramsey Way, Sixth Street to Fifth, Fifth Street and Stewart Avenue. Mr. Frye said the borough does not have enough money to do all of those mentioned. Secretary said there is approximately \$63,000 in the county ARP fund account remaining.

Mr. Drumm suggested maybe using Local Share Fund money for all of Fifth Street. Discussed about installing catch basins on opposite side of Fifth Street. Mr. Frye also mentioned about replacing catch basins on Oak.

**RECREATION:** Waiting to hear back from Chaffee Excavating about drainage issue at playground.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Mrs. Gordon asked about when the garage door for the salt shed will be installed. Secretary said she called and they are waiting on the door to be delivered. Mrs. Gordon said she fears that the salt will evaporate since the salt shed is open. Mr. Drumm said it will be okay since it is inside the shed.

Mrs. Gordon asked about whether bids had been received for a new furnace and air conditioner for the borough office. Secretary was instructed to obtain bids. Also asked to get price for new flooring for the borough office. Secretary said there is \$1,800.00 left in the American Rescue Funds from the federal government.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Secretary indicated that Mr. Gozur make a list of signs in the borough that either need replaced or new ones installed. She read the list of signs needed and reviewed a quote received from Stephenson Equipment of approximately \$1,400 to purchase the signs that we do not have. Mr. Wagner indicated that there is no street sign for Sixth Street. List to be reviewed by Mr. Simon for his approval.

Mr. Drumm said he talked to Mr. Gozur about renting paint machine to install stop lines on borough roadways.

There being no further business a motion was made by Mr. Seminick and seconded by Mr. Wagner to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary/Treasurer