

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, September 6, 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, James Simon, Joseph Seminick and David Wagner

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mayor Robert Knox, Solicitor Paul Steff, Sgt. Dawn Shane, Engineer Jeff Frye

**ABSENT:** Code Enforcement Officer Frank Mercier

At this time, a moment of silence was observed to honor council member, Joyce Gordon, who passed away on August 21, 2023.

**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. Seminick made motion to accept minutes of the previous meeting, Mr. Wagner seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Secretary revisited the DCED Local Share Account Program. She indicated that she spoke with the Director of the DCED regarding multiple applications for the program. The Director indicated that it would be to the borough's advantage to only make one application instead of multiple applications for different projects. She indicated that it would not be to our advantage to apply for a grant for a new truck. After discussions, it was determined to make application for the other catch basin work needed in the borough and to see if paving could be done where the catch basins are installed. Discussion held about catch basin installation on Lacock and 5<sup>th</sup> Street.

The suggestion was made to submit grant application to pave all streets. Mr. Frye will provide figures to do paving of all streets. Mr. Wagner made motion to submit grant application to pave all streets. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mr. Drumm said it is time to trade in the borough dump truck and get a new one. He asked Mr. Steff if a portion of the purchase amount could be withdrawn from the sewer maintenance account. Mr. Steff said he would look into this. Mr. Seminick indicated that the fire department is planning to purchase a truck through the Baierl Ford dealership in Cranberry. He said he would obtain more details about this.

Mr. Simon said the truck is currently in for repair due to an issue with the brakes. Mr. Wagner said that council should do what we can to purchase a new truck. Mr. Simon will meet with

Mr. Gozur who has been checking with different dealerships. Mr. Steff indicated to come back to the next meeting with prices using CoStars.

Mr. Drumm said not sure whether to sell the current dump truck outright or to trade. Should explore the options.

**MAYOR and POLICE:** There were 64 calls for service in August; 10 citations issued. Mayor Knox indicated that he received several complaints about the smell and smoke from burning at All Metals. He said he contacted DEP and they checked out the issues and shut All Metals down until they comply with DEP regulations. He said if All Metals does weld at their site, they need to weld with a hood over where they weld. Mr. Seminick asked if All Metals pays mercantile tax. Secretary indicated they pay real estate tax and Business Privilege Tax. Mayor Knox said they are burning titanium without a hood. Mr. Seminick indicated that they are a taxpayer and provide tax dollars to the borough.

Mayor Knox indicated that the LED lights installed on Route 65 are not working. He spoke with Mr. Moyer from Duquesne Light and was told there is a glitch with the lights and Duquesne Light is working to solve the issue.

Mayor Knox said he spoke with Rep. Matzie's office about a Resolution to honor Mrs. Gordon for her years of service to borough, and if council has no objections, will have Rep. Matzie prepare same. Council approved.

**STREETS & SEWERS:** Mr. Drumm said he has pictures which show that the water is running out of the hillside at the East Washington Street ballfield. He suggested that Mr. Gozur put dye in the pond to see if the colored water runs out of the hillside.

Secretary said she received a call regarding a hump in the roadway on Canton Way.

**BUILDING PERMITS:** No report available.

**FINANCE AND BUDGET/TAX REPORT:** Tax Collection for August \$9,012.41; Commission for August \$450.62; Total bills paid August 3 to September 6 - \$22,283.86; payroll from August 3 to September 6 - \$3,934.21 (net pay - includes street, secretary, zoning, tax collector); Pennvest September payment \$1,024.95; Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority collection for July \$3,316.84

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

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

Secretary asked for motion to approve 2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation for Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System in the amount of \$466.00. Mr. Simon made motion to approve 2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation payment in the amount of \$466.00 to the Pennsylvania

Municipal Retirement System. Mr. Wagner seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** 3 calls in August.

**SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION:** Mr. Steff presented a draft of Ordinance No. 343 pertaining to false alarms. The purpose of this ordinance is to have people pay a fine after two false alarms in a calendar year. Also presented was a draft of Ordinance No. 344 which would allow the fire department to recover costs and/or expenses for its services through claims submitted only to individual owners' insurance company. Mr. Steff said that Rochester Township and Rochester Borough already passed these ordinances. He said he reviewed their ordinances and tailored the drafts for East Rochester Borough. Mr. Steff said if council is fine with these drafts, he will advertise same and have final versions prepared for next council meeting. Council approved the drafts and Mr. Steff will advertise and have final versions ready for next meeting.

Mr. Steff said at the request of the borough secretary, he sent out letters to a few landlords who owe the landlord fee and also letters to business who has not paid the business privilege tax and license fee.

Mr. Drumm asked who would send out the invoices for the false fire alarms. Mr. Steff said the Code Enforcement Officer would send the letters out and if the letter is ignored, then a citation will be issued.

**BOROUGH ENGINEER:** Mr. Frye indicated that he will send out bid packages for the catch basins project and will open bids prior to next meeting and present results.

Discussion was held about catch basin installation on 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Part of 5<sup>th</sup> Street is currently tilting over toward the hillside.

Mr. Frye indicated that he had contacted Rep. Matzie's officer regarding the issue with PennDOT concerning Stewart Avenue.

**RECREATION:** It was mentioned that Chafee Excavating submitted a bid for \$8,970 to fix the drainage problem at the playground. Mr. Drumm said he will also submit a bid.

There are downed trees at the ballfield and a bid was submitted by Sharpless Tree Service of \$4,500 to take down 10 trees. Mr. Simon indicated that he has another tree service in mind and will contact them to provide a bid and if acceptable, get them to take down the trees.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Secretary said the door on the salt shed will be installed on September 12. She also said that revisions to the borough website has been completed.

**NEW BUSINESS:** At this time, a vacancy on council was declared due to the passing of Mrs. Gordon. Mr. Steff said council has 30 days from this meeting to appoint a new council member. Letters for the position will be accepted. Mr. Steff indicated that a resolution will be

prepared and ready for next meeting. Mr. Simon made motion to declare council seat vacant. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Secretary said she received bids for new furnace and air conditioning for the borough building. Mr. Drumm said he contacted another contractor and asked him to submit bid. It was discussed and decided to only get new furnace for borough office area and for the garage

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 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary/Treasurer