

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, October 4, 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

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: Borough received notification from PennDOT that the Borough's 2024 liquid fuel allocation will be \$20,499.61 which will be received in March 2024.

Secretary read anonymous letter from a resident on Atlas Avenue regarding the condition of the property at 125 Atlas. They indicated that the grass and weeds are high and need to be taken care of.

MAYOR and POLICE: There were 86 calls for service in September; 9 citations issued and 3 arrests.

Mayor Knox said the lights on Route 65 are now working. Duquesne Light indicated to him that the breakers had been tripped.

It was mentioned that the roadway on Canton Way needs to be addressed as it is hard to drive in that area. Also, the chain at the ballfield needs to be reinstalled. This chain was removed when the work at the rain garden was done by the contractor for the Rochester Sewer Management Authority.

STREETS & SEWERS: Mr. Drumm presented proposal for the purchase of a new Ford F-550 Regular Cab Dump truck (a copy of the proposal is in council member's folders). The proposal was submitted by Moon Ford in Moon Township, PA in the total amount of \$120,388. The truck has a stainless-steel bed, central hydraulics, together with plow and salt spreader which will be installed by Sabre Equipment, Inc. and is included in the total purchase price.

After discussion, Mr. Wagner made motion to purchase Ford F-550 Regular Cab Dump truck from Moon Ford in the amount of \$120,388 and to put a down payment down of 30%, i.e., the

amount of \$36,116.40 and to finance the balance of the purchase price with First National Bank, Beaver, PA. The truck will have plow and salt spreader installed by Sabre Equipment, Inc. which cost is included in the total purchase price of the truck. The check for the down payment will be drawn from the Sewer Maintenance Account. Mr. Simon seconded the motion. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mr. Drumm said the borough will advertise for bids for sale of the current borough truck. Solicitor Steff indicated that if he is provided specifics of the current truck, he will advertise same for bids. It was decided to hold off with advertising the current truck until the borough takes possession of the new truck. Mr. Simon said we would probably open bids in December or January.

It was mentioned that the roadway on a portion of Spruce Avenue is sinking.

Mr. Drumm said diesel fuel is needed for the generator at the lift station. Mr. Frye said he thinks it is a 100-gallon tank. Secretary was instructed to call around and see who can deliver diesel fuel to the lift station. Mr. Seminick suggested getting anti-gel.

Mayor Knox indicated that the LED lights had been installed on 1st Street and 2nd Street and are now working. Mr. Simon said the first light on Case Street going up the hill won't turn off. Mayor Knox said he would contact Duquesne Light about this.

BUILDING PERMITS: Solar panel permit issued for 805 Walnut Street – issued by Code.sys.

Secretary read letter of resignation submitted by Frank Mercier, Code Enforcement Officer. His resignation is effective October 1, 2023. Mr. Seminick made motion to accept resignation of Frank Mercier as Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Wagner seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mr. Seminick asked Solicitor Steff if the Code Enforcement Officer needs to live in the borough. He responded “no”. Solicitor Steff indicated that he knows someone who may be interested. He said this person is Code Enforcement Officer in Rochester Borough and for a few other municipalities. He will speak to him to see if he is interested in the position for our borough.

FINANCE AND BUDGET/TAX REPORT: Tax Collection for September \$1,201.51; Commission for September \$32.61; Total bills paid September 7 to October 4 \$34,370.35; payroll from September 7 to October 4 - \$3,720.36 (net pay - includes street, secretary, zoning, tax collector); Pennvest October payment \$1,024.95; Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority collection for August \$4,134.59

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

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

Mr. Seminick made motion to pay from Sewer Maintenance account invoice to Tri-State Maintenance in the amount of \$1,084.00. Mr. Wagner seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mr. Simon made motion to transfer \$15,000 from the Sewer Maintenance Account to the Pennvest account. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: 1 call in September.

SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION: Solicitor Steff said he advertised the two ordinances discussed at the September meeting.

Ordinance No. 343 pertains to the regulation of false fire alarms in the borough. Mr. Wagner made motion to adopt Ordinance 343 which pertains to the regulation of false fire alarms within the borough. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Ordinance 344 authorizes the Rochester Fire Department to recover costs and/or expenses for its services through claims submitted only to individual owners' insurance policies. Mr. Seminick made motion to adopt Ordinance 344 authorizing the Rochester Fire Department to recover costs and/or expenses for its services through claims submitted only to individual owners' insurance policies. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

BOROUGH ENGINEER: Mr. Frye indicated that he was unable to get the bid packages out for the October meeting. The bids will be opened before the November meeting.

Mr. Frye said he will assist borough secretary in preparing the Local Share Account grant application.

Mayor Knox indicated that he talked to Rep. Matzie's office who indicated that they will meet with the new director for PennDOT to discuss the situation on Stewart Avenue.

Mr. Drumm asked Mr. Frye about the water in the ballfield. Mr. Simon said the chain is missing from when the work was started on the rain garden and the chain was not reinstalled.

RECREATION: The trees have been cut down at the ballfield. Mr. Simon will check to see if the trees were removed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: At this time the Secretary read two letters of intent from residents to fill the vacant council seat due to the passing of Mrs. Gordon.

The first letter was from Caleb Knox and the second letter was from George Davies. Mr. Drumm said it would be nice to have someone on council from Lacock Dwellings. Mr. Davies is a resident of Lacock Dwellings. After discussion, Mr. Seminick made motion to appoint

George Davies to fill the vacant council seat. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Solicitor Steff then presented Resolution 10-4-23 filling the vacancy in the office of councilman created by the passing of Joyce Gordon. He also provided to the secretary which needs to be completed the Oath of Office and Affidavit of Residency. Mr. Simon made motion to adopt Resolution 10-4-23. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion held about bids for new furnace for borough office and for the garage. Secretary said she contacted Albert's Heating and they provided a revised bid of \$6,900 for both furnaces. Mr. Wagner indicated that he has obtained the services of Albert's Heating in the past for his home and they did a good job and were priced reasonably.

Mr. Wagner made motion to accept bid of Albert's Heating for furnace for the borough office and for the garage. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mr. Wagner asked about how to use the \$63,000 still available from the County ARP grant. It was mentioned that the LSA Grant will allow the borough to install the catch basins and do the paving where catch basins are installed. Mr. Frye said this should include 5th Street, Ramsey Way, 6th Street and Stewart. He said the borough will probably use the \$63,000 for Ramsey Way and 6th Street.

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