The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, August 7, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at Rochester Borough Council Chambers, Rochester, PA.

Meeting was called to order and Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll call was taken.

**PRESENT:** John Drumm, George Davies, James Simon, Joseph Seminick and David Wagner

**ALSO PRESENT:** Solicitor Paul Steff, Sgt. Dawn Shane, Mayor Robert Knox, Engineer Jeff Frye, Code Enforcement Officer Patrick McGuire and Borough Secretary.

**ABSENT:** None

**CITIZENS REPORT:** Mr. Drumm noted that Rochester Borough granted East Rochester permission to use their council chambers for our monthly meetings. He asked that the Borough Secretary send a letter to Rochester Borough thanking them for their allowing our borough to use their council chambers for your meetings.

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

**COMMUNICATIONS:** 1. Letter from Rochester School District asking for assistance financially from our borough to cover the salaries of the crossing guards. Sgt. Shane indicated that the school district formerly employed 8 crossing guards and now only employees two and that Rochester Township assists in paying for their salaries. Solicitor Steff suggested that the borough table this matter until further information is obtained.

2. Letter received from Beaver County Commissioners indicating that the borough has until October 31, 2024 to use the county ARP funds, or the money will go back to the county.

3. Letter from Huntsman Funeral Home regarding air quality application with the state for the cremation facility. Mr. Frye indicated that there is nothing the borough needs to do.

**MAYOR and POLICE**: Mayor Knox said there for 100 calls for service, 2 arrest and 44 citations in June; 88 calls for service, 2 arrest and 51 citations in July. Mr. Seminick made motion to accept police reports for June and July. Mr. Davies seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

**STREETS & SEWERS:** At this time discussion was held regarding the catch basin issues on Stewart Avenue. It was discussed that in order to afford work to be done on Stewart that the Borough should abandon the Ramsey Way project at this time. Mr. Frye indicated that he spoke with Youngblood Paving and that they will be doing a project in Rochester Township

soon and would like to pave Stewart at the same time. He indicated that the catch basin work needs to be taken care of before Youngblood does the paving. He suggested that the catch basin work at the lower end of Stewart be done before paving can begin.

Mr. Wagner asked about getting quotes for the work. Mr. Frye said we have approximately 3 weeks to obtain quotes. He said the work can be given to the lowest bidder and would like council to approve him to advertise for bids and award to the lowest bidder and then ratify action at the next council meeting. The bids would be (1) to replace culvert across Stewart and (2) install 3 catch basins on the upper portion of Stewart. He would like to advertise so bids could be opened on August 21 and then get started on the project. Mr. Seminick made motion to allow Engineer Jeff Frye to obtain bids for the drainage work on Stewart Avenue and award project to lowest bid. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Discussion also held about canceling the Ramsey Way project. Also, in order to save money discussion was held about just paving Atlas Avenue this year. Liquid Fuel funds would be used to pave Atlas and for the paving after drainage issue work on Stewart. The prior motion to pave both Atlas and Pine made at the May meeting was rescinded and a new motion was made by Mr. Davies and seconded by Mr. Simon to just pave Atlas Avenue for a total cost of $32,439.65. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried. A motion was made by Mr. Seminick to forego the Ramsey Way project and seconded by Mr. Wagner. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mr. Drumm said the Borough's service truck is still out of commission. It has been at Zirat's for many months. It was mentioned that the problem with the truck could be one of many issues. He said the borough man needs the lift on the service truck in order to lift manhole covers. Mr. Wagner suggested tabling this matter until September meeting. Mr. Drumm said the new borough truck was recently inspected and no problems.

**BUILDING PERMITS:** A permit was issued for a fence at 168 Lacock and a permit was issued for a new deck at 166 Lacock. Mr. McGuire gave his report. He drove through the borough and left courtesy notices regarding grass and debris issues at several properties. He said most have complied. He has 23 open cases. He will be checking on these matters around August 22.

Regarding 160 Stewart about the trash truck dragging over the driveway onto borough street and said the owner of the property was asked to move the dumpster to avoid the issue. He also noticed that around Second and Third Street the trash truck is spilling sludge from its truck onto the street.

**FINANCE AND BUDGET/TAX REPORT:** Tax Collection for June $4,270.28; tax collection for July $3,724.64; Commission for June $128.11 and commission for July $164.74; Total bills from June 6 to August 7 - $61,985.30; total payroll from June 6 to August 7 - $7,734.94; Pennvest installment for June and July - $1,024.95 each; collection from Rochester Area Joint for June - $3,823.58.

Mr. Wagner made motion for pay tax collector's commission for the month of June and July. Mr. Davies seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

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

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** July fire report – 3 calls (1 fire and 2 hazardous conditions).

**SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION:** Progress

**BOROUGH ENGINEER:** Mr. Frye indicated that the preliminary paperwork to begin the Green Light Go project for the new traffic signal is being completed.

**RECREATION:** Progress

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Discussion was held about selling the 2 generators that the borough purchased in 2021. The borough needs to purchase generators with inverters. Borough secretary said the generators were purchased for the price of $499.00 each. Solicitor Steff indicated that no advertisement is required to sell the current generators. Mr. Wagner suggested selling them on Facebook Marketplace or the municipal website. Mr. Seminick said he would like to purchase one. A sell price of $300 was approved. Mr. Drumm indicated that he would like to purchase the other generator.

Secretary and road foreman will look into pricing for new generators.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Mr. Wagner inquired about ordinance for height of hedges. He indicated that the resident next to him has not cut the hedges all season. Mr. Wagner suggested amending the ordinance. Solicitor Steff said he did research concerning hedges and said that at this time there is no violation. There are special circumstances for clear site triangle on a roadway. A discussion was held regarding this matter. It was mentioned that a resident is allowed to have hedges as long as they are not blocking roadway or impeding sightline. Mr. Wagner feels that a required height of 4 feet should be enacted. Solicitor Steff said such a height restriction may be unconstitutional. Mr. Wagner asked what can be done.

Solicitor Steff said he cannot make proper recommendation on proper height because currently hedges would be too high if affected sightline. He said if council feels a change should be made, then he will do so by ordinance amendment.

Mr. McGuire indicated that there would be approximately 30 properties in the borough that would be affected if height restriction is enforced. It could be challenged in court. He said the challenge would be to define difference between bush or hedge.

Mayor Knox said the catch basin on Spruce and Lacock needs to be cleaned out. It is packed with dirt and debris.

Mr. McGuire suggested to council to look at the fee schedule for certain permits. He said they are set very low. Mr. Steff a change can be made by Resolution. Secretary was instructed to provide permit pricing list to Mr. Steff.

Mr. Simon asked about the timing of the traffic signal at the plaza. He said he noticed that only 3 cars get through green light. Sgt. Shane said would look into this.

A motion was made by Mr. Seminick and seconded by Mr. Wagner to change new location for monthly borough meetings to Rochester Borough Building. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

There being no further business a motion was made by Mr. Simon and seconded by Mr. Davies to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary/Treasurer