The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, August 2, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the East Rochester Fire Hall, East Rochester, Pa.

**PRESENT:** Joyce Gordon, Kendra Hill, Terry Mason, Frank Reda, Jim Simon, and Mayor James Cable.

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Solicitor Paul Steff, Chief Mercier, Engineer Jeff Frye, and John Clay, Zoning/Code Officer, Debra Ahern, Tax Collector, Sam Landis, Maintenance Worker, Residents Tina Crile and Maryann Crile.

**CITIZENS REPORT:** None

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:** Terry Mason asked for a motion to accept the minutes from July 5, 2017 meeting. Motion was made by Kendra Hill to accept the minutes and seconded by Jim Simon. By way of roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Rochester Library wishes to thank council for the $200.00 donation made in July. Rochester football program is looking for donations. Also being brought up from the Boroughs Auditor and Council President, Dawn Librich, borough secretary was asked to presented a comparison chart and explanation of having Berkheimer collect the Mercantile/Business Privilege and LST taxes and what the savings to the borough would be compared to what is being paid currently to the borough tax collector for the same collections, Joyce Gordon is not interested in doing this stating that the new tax collector hasn't settled in and we haven't heard back from our audit we also will need to look at the Ordinance before we can enact anything like this and residents like to pay taxes in person. It was explained that this was only a discussion for the future and nothing needs to be acted on at this time. Joyce would like to see fee charges from Berkheimer in writing before ever considering them to collect these taxes.

**MAYOR and POLICE:** Mayor James Cable swore in Debra Ahern as the new Borough Tax Collector. Mayor James Cable presented the police report for July. There were Fifty Eight total calls, 3 Retail Thefts, 10 Vehicle Citations, Motion was made to accept July report by Frank Reda and seconded by Kendra Hill. By roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried. Jim Simons had concerns about getting into a gate that the gas company operates, fire department had a call and had no access. Chief Mercier reported that the accutrack speed sign will be placed next week, it was in need of some repairs that are in the process of being done. The mayor also reported that he and the Borough Secretary have been working with Duquesne Light to get the 14 street lights on Ohio River Blvd turned back on, we should check into getting a billing credit. It was also reported that Monaca Borough received a check for reimbursement from a grant to repair 2 street lights on the bridge.

**STREETS & SEWERS:** Frank Reda reported that everything is in good shape, no complaints.

**BUILDING PERMITS:** Code Enforcement Officer, John Clay reported 19 calls, 3 zoning inquiries and 5 permits were issued. He has also been receiving a lot of calls concerning information with the sink hole where Advance Auto is currently located he is referring these inquiries to Penndot, they are who took care of it this is not a Borough problem.

**FINANCE & BUDGET:** The secretary reported the Schedule of Bills presented to each council person totaled $17,714.95 for the month. Kendra Hill made a motion and was seconded by Jim Simons. By way of roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried. A bill has been submitted by Chester Engineering for $2150.00 to be paid from Sewer Maintenance Account. Joyce Gordon questioned what billing for Tower Street is, Jeff Frye stated that it shouldn't be on the Boroughs bill and will have it corrected, Joyce also wanted to know how many more permits are needed to complete this project as the tax payers in East Rochester do not have the money to pay large engineering bills on a monthly basis, Jeff Frye stated that all permits have been submitted to DEP to move forward with repairing the plaza culverts and supplied the Borough with a copy of all permits and applications for their files. Motion by Jim Simons and seconded by Kendra Hill to approve payment less $45.00 for Tower Street. By way of roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried. Joyce Gordon questioned a fee of $180.00 being paid to Engineer, Jeff Frye for attending monthly council meetings, Jeff stated that the billing is done per hour of his time, He was invited to stay for executive session for further discussion.

**TAX REPORT:** There was $4736.40 in taxes collected in July 2017 and the tax collector's commission is $227.87. Frank Reda made a motion to approve the tax collector's report and commission. It was seconded by Jim Simons. By way of roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** No Report.

**SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION:** No Report.

**BOROUGH ENGINEERING:** Jeff Frye reported he is continuing with the process of getting bid for a new roof on the Borough Building, Sam Landis has supplied the engineer with a couple of bids. So far Jeff only has a bid from Chaffee for Fifth Street and Landell Ave work. Jeff Frye has also reported that he has the maps that Sam Landis has requested and will drop them off at the Borough Building next week.

**RECREATION:** Joyce Gordon reported she spoke with John Drumm on July 20th concerning repairing the fence at East Washington ballfield, he asked her to be patient he will looks at it to see what materials he will need and get back to her. Joyce also reported that the water weeds located near the bleachers have been cut back.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** Terry Mason has asked permission from council to advertise and sell the John Deere Zero turn lawn mower. The solicitor stated that if the Borough believes the value to be more than $1000.00 it would need to be advertised in the newspaper, Sam Landis is to get all the particulars (make, model, hours, year) concerning this lawn mower to the Borough Secretary so that the advertisement for bid can be made and bids will be opened at the next council meeting. A Motion was made by Jim Simon and seconded by Frank Reda to place advertisement in the newspaper. By way of roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried. We have to figure out who has keys to the dump gate, it is being left unlocked and a lot of people are using it and this has been an ongoing problem.

**Executive Session:** Meeting called back to order, Maintenance worker, Sam Landis was given a $1.00 per hour pay increase along with 6 Holidays (New years Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day) and one week of vacation after one year of employment.

Council has tabled a pay increase, holidays and vacation for Borough Secretary, Dawn Librich until the September meeting and will allow pay increase to be retroactive to August 22 which is the end of her 90 day probation period.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Librich, Borough Secretary/Treasurer