The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lacock Dwellings Community Center, East Rochester, Pa.

PRESENT: Joyce Gordon, Kendra Hill , Jim Simon, Joe Seminick, Cathy Hutsky, and Mayor Bob Knox.

ABSENT: John Clay, Zoning/Code Officer

ALSO PRESENT: Solicitor Paul Steff, Engineer Jeff Frye, Civil Engineer Joseph Kudritz, Chief Frank Mercier, Debra Ahern, Tax Collector and Sam Landis, Maintenance Worker.

CITIZENS: Debbie Ahern thanked the maintenance worker for a good job during winter snow removal but asked that pot holes on Case Street be attended to. Ms. Ahern asked in reference to the budget for Sewer Maintenance was there an ordinance or resolution enacted regarding what the Pennvest loan is because she saw where money was transferred from the Sewer Maintenance account to make a payment to Pennvest and is Pennvest related to Sewer Maintenance? President Gordon stated that Pennvest is a Sewer Maintenance related account. Engineer Frye explained there is a consent order between the Borough and all the surrounding municipalities and East Rochester Borough had to do a sewer separation and we took out a Pennvest loan. At that time the Borough enacted the Sewer Maintenance fee and the money is to pay off the loan. Debbie Ahern asked how long the loan is for and the answer is 20 years. President Gordon explained that each year money is transferred from the Sewer Maintenance account into the Pennvest account. Debbie Ahern asked if council thought it would be possible to enact a fire tax to give the fire department a specific fund, she thought residents wouldn't have a problem paying the tax. Jim Simon said the situation was beyond that. Debbie Ahern asked that with the passing of Mayor Cable had any of his mayoral belongings been turned over from his widow? Ms. Ahern stated that as a tax payer she feels any documents should be given back to the Borough and the public should have access to them. The Solicitor stated that he was not aware of what Mr. Cable had – but if they were personal notes – those were his, not the Borough's. Kendra Hill stated that if he had a code book, that should come back to the Borough Office. Mayor Knox stated that he wasn't given anything. The Solicitor stated that if the Mayor had anything from the Mayor's Association, that would not be public. President Gordon stated that Mayor Cable kept his notes on his personal laptop. Debbie Ahern asked the Borough Secretary if when the EIT collector (Berkheimer) sends in information on residents, do they include personal information such as SS#'s etc. – the Secretary responded they do not.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: Ms. Gordon asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion was made by Joe Seminick to accept the minutes and seconded by Cathy Hutsky. By way of roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: The secretary informed council the minutes from the March 8,2018 meeting of Rochester Area Sewer Authority where in the office for review. The secretary gave an update of the Duquesne Lights that are not working on Route 65. The Borough Secretary informed council that she delivered the CDBG grant to the Beaver Falls county office for the March 29th deadline.

MAYOR and POLICE: Mayor Bob Knox presented the police report for March, there were 80 total calls. Mayor Knox confirmed with council that at the work session they decided to "hold-off" on

their decision on a donation to the war memorial project to Rochester Area War Memorial Project – council agreed they are holding off until they get "numbers" on each individual project.
Mayor Knox informed council that Valvoline wants to do an Earth Day in the Borough on Friday April 20th time to be announced..
Mayor Knox said that the police plan to start tagging un-inspected cars mid-April. Cars in yards won't be tagged – but code enforcement could act on those, cars on the street that are not inspected – will get tagged by the police department.
Mayor Knox is meeting with Senator Vogel on April 19, 2018.
Mayor Knox informed council that the scrap yard beside Valvoline is becoming a safety hazard, they are leaving metal parts/pieces of all shapes and sizes – its been causing flat tires in vehicles. He is going to speak to the owner, but it might be a letter is needed from Borough Council addressing the issue. Mayor Knox reported on the traffic light being out and fixed at the Plaza. Mayor Knox spoke to Borough Council about the possibility of using the upstairs at the borough office as office space. He stated that if he would ever want to meet with someone, he wouldn't want to do it in his home, so he would like to do it in the space above the borough office. Everyone on council agreed to his request.

Chief Mercier spoke to a letter that was received at the Borough from New Sewickley Township regarding police protection. He wanted to make sure the letters intention was "clear" and explained that it's intention is not to remove Rochester Borough as our police protection, but that eventually combining multiple surrounding police departments into 1 department. He explained that this is in the very prelimary stages. He also explained that our contract with Rochester Borough isn't up until 2019, but he would encourage council to pursue other departments to see what they have to offer as far as what they have to offer with their protection package and at what price compared to what we get and pay to Rochester.
Cathy Hutsky asked how many officers are on duty, Chief explained there are 3 officers on during the daylight shift – 3 during the 3-11 shift and 2 on the midnight shift.
Motion was made to accept April's report by Kendra Hill and seconded by Jim Simon. By way of roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

STREETS & SEWERS: Jim Simon said Sam Landis is doing a decent job of filing pot holes, he asked how much cold patch has been purchased, Sam said 6 tons. Cathy Hutsky asked why he isn't using hot patch and Jim & Joe explained that hot patch can't be used until warm weather gets here, Joe explained that the plants that make the hot patch shut down during winter months.
President Gordon stated that Joe Seminick found out that New Brighton Borough had a truck out for bid, and that we could get the truck without going through the bid process because it could be sold from municipality to municipality if we were interested, so the Borough bought the truck after a phone call was made to all council persons, but now it needed voted on. Kendra Hill spoke and said she was upset that the truck wasn't in as good a shape as she believed it to be and heard it might not even pass inspection. Jim Simon asked about selling the old truck, and the Solicitor said yes, it would need to be advertised for sale of Borough property with all the information and it would go out for bid.
President Gordon stated she would like to see the new truck lettered with East Rochester Borough on it. Mayor Knox asked it anyone test drove the truck before it was purchased? Joe Seminick said he drove it at the New Brighton sewage plant. Mayor Knox asked if he saw the hole in the floor? He asked if Same drove it before it was bought? Joe said he looked at it and felt we were in need of a truck, it wasn't the greatest, but it was better than what we had. Jim Simon said he just drove past it.
Motion was made by Kendra Hill to purchase the Ford 1997 F150 from New Brighton Borough seconded by Joe Seminick roll call Joyce – yes Joe – yes Cathy – no
Jim – yes Kendra - yes

Jim Simon asked if Sam has council's approval to service the skid loader? They responded yes. Jim gave Sam permission to purchase filters for the skid loader.

BUILDING PERMITS: Code Enforcement Officer, John Clay was not in attendance.

FINANCE & BUDGET: The secretary reported the Schedule of Bills presented to each councilperson totaled $24,620.88 for the month.

TAX REPORT: There was $32,892.09 in taxes collected in March 2017 and the tax collector's commission is $1,122.85. Kendra Hill made a motion to approve the bills and to approve the tax collector's report and commission. It was seconded by Cathy Hutsky. By way of roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Jim Simon had nothing to report. Cathy Hutsky asked if there was anyway that the department could remain. Jim Simon explained they don't have enough members and the trucks are out of inspection. The question was asked about membership and sending out letters to increase the membership and both Jim and Kendra said the time for that has passed. It was also discussed how difficult it is to get manpower during the daylight hours and how expensive it is to get the new radio equipment needed to be in compliance today. Mayor Knox told Jim Simon that the department had done a great job.

SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION: Solicitor Paul Steff reported he has been in contact with Mr. Keeling to get the tax collectors bond resolved, there was a misspelling of her name on the original bond. The tax collector asked the Solicitor if he had given the Secretary the breakdown of the percentage on the bill for the bond and the Solicitor explained that once the bond is corrected, Mr. Keeling is checking on a corrected invoice, the Solicitor will get that invoice with the breakdown to the Secretary to do the invoice to the School District.

BOROUGH ENGINEERING: Jeff Frye introduced Joseph Kudritz of Michael Baker to Borough Council. Joe will be attending the minutes as the representative from Michael Baker starting in June.

Engineer Frye told Borough council that he and the Secretary did get the second group of paperwork for the CDBG grant in to the county by the deadline of March 29, 2018.

Engineer Frye stated that after the last council meeting upon council request – he did look at 5th Street where the pavement is eroding – and it appears something is getting under the pavement, he will check again to determine the source and make a recommendation – if need be he will contact BFMA to see if there is chlorine in the water. It looks similar to the other side of 5th Street and that problem.

Engineer Frye told Borough Council ERB got the MS4 waiver he applied for, it will have to be applied for again in 2022.

RECREATION: Cathy Hutsky stated she wants to pursue any grants when they come available and will work with Jeff/Joe when they come available. She said she saw where sometimes in small communities they don't always have to match monitarily. Engineer Frye said that's true, that sometimes you can match with volunteers. He continued by saying you have to have a solid plan to submit when you apply.

Jim Simon told Cathy that the mulch for the playground has to be State approved.
Council told the Secretary to contact the Manager from Rochester to ask about getting mulch with them. Sam Landis mentioned to Engineer Frye the drainage problem at the playground, the engineer explained he would have to grade it and French drain the hillside to solve the drainage issue.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business.

At 8:15 a motion was made by Jim Simon to go into executive session with no action to be taken and seconded by Kendra Hill. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Mohrbacher, Borough Secretary