The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, March 6, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lacock Dwellings Community Center, East Rochester, Pa.

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

ALSO, PRESENT: Solicitor Paul Steff, Chief Mercier, Engineer Jeff Frye, Code Enforcement Officer John Clay, James Dunn and Robert Taylor

CITIZENS REPORT: None

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: Mrs. Gordon call for a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Kendra Hill made a motion to accept minutes of the previous meeting. Jim Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor of accepting the prior month's meeting minutes.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

MAYOR and POLICE: Mayor Knox said there were 65 calls for service last month. 20 citations were issued and among those 2 were for theft and 3 were for DUI. Mrs. Gordon asked for motion to accept police report. Kendra Hill made motion to accept police report, Jim Simon seconded. By roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

STREETS & SEWERS: Jim Simon said there is a problem with the lift station on Oak Avenue. Sam has been going down 3 or 4 times days to take care of it. There was a power surge which caused the panel to burn out. Reno Bros. were called and said that a new panel will have to be installed. Jim Simon said still finding wipes in the system. Mrs. Gordon read two previous invoices from Reno Bros. for work done on the lift station, namely service to attend to a grinder switch issue and due to wipes being flushed into the system.

Mr. Simon indicated that he was told that the pump is not working properly. Mr. Simon asked about putting a surge protector on the system. Mrs. Gordon read the estimate Reno Bros. provided in the amount $7,630.00 to remove and install new control panel and also install a surge protector. The estimate also includes labor and a standard one-year warranty. Reno Bros. said to allow 2 weeks to get new control panel and new surge protector. The cost of the repairs will be turned into our insurance company.

Mrs. Gordon indicated that Joe Seminick and Jim Simon helped out on the weekends with the lift station. They would go to the lift station a few times during the day and in the evening to manually pump it. Sam Landis is going to the lift station 3 to 4 times a day and in the evening. It was mentioned that Sam should get a hepatitis shot.

John Clay indicated that manhole covers were pulled on Oak Avenue and wipes were found in the system. He indicated that wipes are not flushable. Mr. Seminick and Mr. Simon both indicated that they had pulled wipes out of the system also. Mrs. Gordon said she would hope everyone would get rid of their wipes. Mrs. Gordon said that even though the wipe packaging indicates they are flushable, they are not. Mr. Simon said he thought some of them looked like t-shirts.

Jim Simon said that he had received a complaint about Sam's plowing. He evidently hit the corner of a resident's lot with the plow and tore up some of the yard. Mr. Simon said the damage is minimal and it can be fixed with some grass seed. Mr. Simon said the corner of the snow plow clipped the corner of the resident's lot.

Mr. Seminick mentioned that there is a tree that is rotting and ready to fall down on the power lines. Not sure if Mrs. Delanko is living in the home. Not sure if anyone is living in the residence. Mr. Seminick suggested that Mrs. Delanko be contacted. Mr. Steff said generally with the storms, the power companies fix the situation. It was mentioned that utility companies are not quick to respond to complaints about power line issues. Mr. Steff said that if we take care of this then the Borough ends up in the tree service business. Not sure if Mrs. Delanko has any insurance.

Mrs. Gordon said that during the recent high winds, a tree fell on Seventh Street near the Vogel residence. Sam did cut part of the tree up. He only cut up the part of the tree that was laying on Seventh Street.

BUILDING PERMITS: Mr. Clay said two building permits were issued for Big Lots. He received 3 zoning inquiries and 10 complaints. On 608 Lincoln Street the resident is discharging his sump pump water into the street and it runs down the street and also runs into the resident's yard and basement across the street – 609 Lincoln. The resident at 608 Lincoln just purchased the home. Can the person who just bought this house go back to the realtor. Because of the cold weather the water freezes and makes the street very icy. Sam has been to that area several times to spread salt. Mr. Clay said he has visited the residence at 608 Lincoln Street several times and has indicated to them that they need to run the water into the sewer system. He advised them to call a plumber. Mr. Clay said that then the dye test was performed for the recent purchase of the residence at 608 Lincoln, the sump pump was connected incorrectly.

He has never had any calls about this issue before and in checking out this issue, he found another sump pump matter on Lincoln.

Jim Simon indicated that the neighbor next to Mr. Bogolea's property is also running his sump pump onto Mr. Bogolea's property.

It was also mentioned that the bush at the end of the property at 802 Fourth Street is blocking vision for vehicles making the right turn from Lacock onto Fifth Street. Chief Mercier said this resident has been warned about the tree that it is obstructing vehicles at least 3 times. Chief Mercier even offered assistance to the homeowner to take care of this matter. Chief Mercier suggested that John Clay site the resident. Mr. Clay said he will also check about the sump pump issue on Mr. Bogolea's property.

FINANCE & BUDGET TAX REPORT: The Secretary reported the tax collector collected $9,309.23 with a commission of $465.46. The total bills paid for the month were $13,384.11. Motion was made by Jim Simon to accept the tax report and pay all bills. Joe Seminick seconded the motion. By way of roll call vote. Motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: None

SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION: None

BOROUGH ENGINEERING: Jeff Frye informed council that the PEMA Flood Plain paperwork was completed and he provided two copies of same to Borough Secretary. One to be sent to PEMA and the other as office copy. Mrs. Gordon mentioned that the homeowner at 892 Oak Avenue indicated that the storm sewer is crumbling. Mr. Frye was asked to look into it. Mrs. Gordon said she would meet him so they could look at the storm sewer.

RECREATION: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: The street lights are still out on Route 65S. Duquesne Light was previously informed about the outages. Chief Mercier said he will notify them again. These are the lights from end of Lacock Avenue and across from Co-Gos.

Mrs. Gordon indicated that we had received an invoice from COG regarding 2019 membership. She said she had previously attended a COG meeting and felt that our borough did not receive any advantages to being a member of COG. The membership fee is $436.00. The discounts offered by COG are not an advantage to our borough. After discussion, it was decided not to join COG. A letter will be written to COG indicating that our borough is not interested in continuing membership.

NEW BUSINESS: The Borough secretary talked about a program with the state that she was informed about. It is called Peer to Peer which provides free of charge administrative training to borough secretaries. A motion is required of counsel in order to participate in the program. Jim Simon made motion for Borough Secretary to participate in the state Peer to Peer Program. Kendra Hill seconded. By way of roll call vote, motion was carried.

A motion was made by Cathy Hutsky to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Kendra Hill. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary/Treasurer