The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, June 5, 2019 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.

PRESENT: Joyce Gordon, Joe Seminick, Cathy Hutsky and Jim Simon

ALSO, PRESENT: Solicitor Paul Steff, Chief Mercier, Engineer Jeff Frye, James Dunn, Richard Fehr, Terry Mason, Bob Taylor, James Seybert, Van Norman and Joan Malloy

ABSENT: Mayor Knox, Kendra Hill and Code Enforcement Officer John Clay

CITIZENS REPORT: Terry Mason asked about the status of the water issue. Mr. Frye said last month he was directed to look into options regarding the water issue and he will provide the information to council under Borough Engineer report. Mr. Mason thanked Mr. Seminick for helping to get the stumps removed from his property. He said the pipe on his property goes from 18 in. to 12 in. Mrs. Gordon mentioned that due to the recent rain she has 3-4 inches of water in her basement and so does her neighbor. She said she does not expect the Borough to take care of her water issue. These issues are the result of an "Act of God". Mr. Mason said flood insurance does not cover appliances. Mr. Mason said the water came from Lacock Dwellings and the situation needs to be rectified. He said the water is shooting across Landell Street. Mr. Mason said the Borough needs to find a way to fix the problem. Mr. Mason said he understands that everyone has a problem with water.

Mrs. Joan Malloy of 849 5th Street asked to address council regarding the water coming from the street into her driveway and then into her basement. She said when the Borough paved the street, they left a gully there and the water comes down the hill and onto her driveway and into her basement. She said something has to be done with the road. Mr. Frye said there is a wedge curb not there but blacktop paved there. Mr. Frye asked Mrs. Malloy if she had paved her driveway and she indicated that she had put blacktop on it. Mr. Frye said the curb is a little low there and he thinks when it was paved it came up to the road and now the water is coming down her driveway. Mr. Frye said the Borough could put a higher curb there with some more asphalt. Mrs. Malloy said in front of her house there is nothing and the water is coming into her front yard. She said she has never had a problem. Mr. Frye said the last time the road was paved was about 15 years ago. She asked if the Borough could put a higher curb there. She said there is no curb in front of her house. Mr. Seminick asked if Sam could build the curb up and Mr. Frye responded "yes". Mr. Frye said a lot of the problems are due to the amount of rain we have had over the last few months. Mr. Frye said the curb is flat there and that the road was paved about 15 years ago. Mr. Frye said the infrastructure in the Borough has been the way it is since the Borough has been in existence and now, we are finding these problems. Mrs. Malloy asked if something could be done and Mr. Frye responded it depends on how council directs him to do. Mr. Seminick said the fire department has been pumping out basements over the past few weeks due to the high amount of rain. He also said the fire department has been out trying to help the citizens with water issues. Mrs. Gordon asked Mr. Seminick how much water was pumped from the house on the corner next to the church. Mr. Seminick responded at least 3 to4 feet of water was pumped from the basement. Mr. Seminick said maybe Sam could build up the curb which may help solve the problem. Mrs. Malloy said that probably would help. Mrs. Gordon indicated to Mrs. Malloy that the Borough would try to build up the curb. Mr. Simon said he would talk to Sam about this.

Van Norman from Rochester Little Rams asked to speak about the use of the ballfield at East Washington Street. He said he has a few questions regarding the maintenance – the grass at the field. He said he knows that last year the hillside was cleaned off and that has grown back and that last year he had his friend who owns a landscaping company cut the grass there. But the gentleman is tied up this year so he was wondering if the Borough has a schedule of how the grass is cut and who would he speak to in order to get the Borough to maintain the field. Mrs. Gordon indicated to Mr. Norman that the Borough only cuts outside of the perimeter. He is asking if there is something that can be worked out; that the Little Rams is a nonprofit organization and everyone involved in the organization is from Rochester. Is there something the Borough can do to help them Asking for a little bit of help to take care of the area; are willing to pay compensation to have the grass cut. They do not want to worry about the grass not being properly maintained. Ms. Hutsky indicated that Sam (the borough man) cuts the grass as is needed. Mr. Seybert said that is why he called Ms. Hutsky about cutting the grass – thinking that since the borough man is there cutting the grass on the outside that maybe he could cut the grass on the inside. Mr. Norman said he is just asking for some help. Mrs. Gordon said the Borough only has one maintenance man who cuts all the grass throughout the Borough which pretty much takes up his week. Mr. Norman said he is asking if the Borough man could take care of the grass inside the fence of the field where they practice. He said the organization would pay compensation if the Borough is not willing to donate the maintenance man's time to have the grass cut. Mr. Seybert said that times when someone from the organization can cut the grass, he is not always around to unlock the gate and let them in. Mr. Seybert said he knows the Borough does not want the organization passing keys off to other people. The organization operates on donations and some of the lawn companies want a lot of money to cut the grass. Mr. Seminick asked why Sam cannot unlock the gate and let the Little Rams lawn person in there to cut the grass. Mr. Norman said the problem is that the lawn service is tied up due to the amount of rain we have had and there is a disagreement about the compensation. Mr. Norman said the main problem is getting the grass cut and maintained. Mr. Norman said they would be happy to throw some compensation out there unless there is another way this can be worked out and that the organization works with everyone. Mr. Seybert said they received a couple estimates of $75 to $100. Mr. Norman said he is hoping the Borough can help them out. Mrs. Gordon suggested talking to Sam and then report back to Little Rams and that the main issue is that the Little Rams wants the Borough to help maintain the field. Mrs. Gordon said the council will discuss and then get back to the Little Rams. Mrs. Gordon said the main issue is that Little Rams wants the Borough to take over maintaining the field and Mr. Norman said keeping it maintained. Mr. Seminick said if someone from Little Rams is available to cut the grass and does not have the key to the gate, to call the Borough Secretary and she will send someone there to open the gate. Mr. Seminick said council will discuss what can be done in the meantime. Mrs. Gordon said her problem with this is that the organization signed a contract which states that they will maintain the field. Mr. Norman said he is here to help work something out to maintain the field. Mr. Seybert since the borough man is there already to cut the outside perimeter why can't the Little Rams organization pay to have the borough man cut the inside of the perimeter. Mrs. Gordon said the residents are paying him to do the work in the Borough with their tax money. Mr. Norman said all the players in the organization are from Rochester and Mrs. Gordon asked Mr. Norman who many players are from East Rochester – Mr. Norman did not have an answer to her question. Mr. Seybert responded that his two boys play for the organization. Mrs. Gordon said that council will discuss this after the meeting and report back to the Little Rams.

Mr. Fehr spoke about 10th Street. He thanked the Borough for taking care of the street in a timely manner. If possible, the drain at the top to put a little patch there because it is lower than the

street itself. It caught most of the water with the last deluge we had but it still should be built up to the level of the road. Just a little bit of pitch would be appreciated. Mr. Fehr also inquired as to whether the Borough plans to continue maintaining 10th Street during the winter months. Mr. Fehr was told that it has always been plowed and that the plowing will continue. Mrs. Gordon said if it has always been taken care of, the Borough is not to stop plowing it. Mr. Fehr asked if anyone new of a surveyor he could contact to survey his property and put in boundary pins so that he can put a fence up between his property and the neighbor. Mr. Fehr said he had contacted a few surveyors but no one seem interested because of the area. Mr. Frye provide a few names. He said Widmer Engineering did the previous surveys and they may have information on it.

Mr. Fehr asked if the right-of-way (paper streets) are supposed to be 40' feet wide. Mr. Frye said it depends. Mr. Frye said he thinks it is 40 feet. Mrs. Gordon asked Mr. Fehr is he is asking for more gravel and he responded just more pitch. Mr. Fehr inquired about the plans for the ditch that was dug by the borough on the side of 10th Street. Mrs. Gordon responded that she will talk with Mr. Frye as there may be a legal problem.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: Mrs. Gordon called for a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Ms. Hutsky made motion to accept minutes of the previous meeting. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor of accepting the prior month's meeting minutes.

COMMUNICATIONS: Secretary indicated that she had received a telephone call from Ron Wagner at Valvoline. He said he has had several complaints from truck drivers regarding metal pieces on Railroad Street from All Metals Recycling and that a few drivers had gotten flat tires. Mr. Wagner indicated to the Borough Secretary that some time ago they had discussed the situation with All Metals and that All Metals started street sweeping, but has since ceased doing so. Mr. Steff suggested that Valvoline reach out to All Metals and see if the street sweeping can resume. Mr. Frye indicated that Railroad Street is a state road, namely State Rt. 1032. It was suggested that Valvoline contact All Metals Recycling to see if something can be worked out and then if receive no satisfaction, Valvoline should contact PennDot.

MAYOR and POLICE: Chief Mercier presented reports for April and May as follows: April – 92 calls, 3 theft, 6 DUI and 3 traffic citations. May – 85 calls, 3 criminal complaints and 5 traffic citations. Mrs. Gordon asked for motion to accept police reports. Jim Simon made motion to accept police reports, Joe Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

STREETS & SEWERS: Mr. Simon indicated that he will talk to Sam about 5th Street and 10 Street matters. Mr. Seminick said he has received complaints about the bush at the corner of Lacock and 5th. Mr. Seminick looked at Chief Mercier and said can the Borough not hack the bush down and Chief responded "no you cannot". You have a Code Enforcement Officer. Mrs. Gordon said there are 22 residences in the Borough with high grass. Mr. Simon said Mr. Clay needs to start doing his job and if not, we will get someone else. Chief Mercier mentioned that he tried talking to the man living at the residence but it did not work. The conversation did not go well. Mr. Steff that at last meeting the issue with the bush was discussed and the Code Enforcement Officer was supposed to address this. Mrs. Gordon said she will contact John Clay, Code Enforcement Officer.

Mr. Seminick asked what is going on with the Borough truck. The Borough truck is currently at 3 Rivers Marine for repairs. The turbo is being repaired and the cost will be approximately $2,000. Ms. Hutsky mentioned that maybe the Borough should start budgeting for a new truck. Mrs. Gordon

said there are abandoned cars everywhere in the Borough. Mr. Simon inquired about what vehicle Sam is using while the truck is in the shop. Mrs. Gordon said he is using his truck and she gave him permission to get gas for his truck at Martino's.

It was mentioned that the Borough Secretary had received a call from PennDot about replacing the lights on the bridge with LED lights. Turns out they are replacing the lights on Route 65 and not the bridge. Mrs. Gordon said she contacted Mr. Leone, the Borough Manager of Monaca Borough and discussed with him about changing all the lights on the bridge to LED and sharing the cost with Monaca Borough. Secretary said she placed a call to Roy Turney Electric who was going to replace the bulbs on lights on the Borough side of the bridge and asked them to hold off replacing the bulbs until decision made about changing to LED lights. Mr. Seminick made motion to work with Monaca Borough to replace all lights on the bridge with LED lights. Mr. Simon seconded. Roll call vote taken and motion was carried. LED lights save on electric and there are monetary benefits that can be applied for.

Mrs. Gordon indicated that a truck had hit the first light pole turning onto the bridge and it was completely damaged. Matter has been turned into to insurance company.

Ms. Hutsky mentioned about citations being issued for high grass. She heard that some of the towns actually use that as income to fine people who are not taking care of their grass. Mr. Steff said that will never be a source of income for the Borough. Sometime municipal liens are filed, but will never collect on it until the residence is sold. The other issue on citations is that by time you issue the citation and go through the hearing and the judge issues a fine the monetary return is relatively low. The citation will not be a good source of income. The idea of a citation is to get residents to take care of their properties which is the responsibility of the Code Enforcement Officer.

Chief Mercier spoke about abandoned cars within the Borough. A letter is sent and the person is given 30 days to address the situation. After 30 days, the vehicle can be towed. He said an officer will be riding through the Borough and tagging unregistered or uninspected vehicles. The newsletter mentioned about uninspected and unregistered vehicles in the Borough.

BUILDING PERMITS: Nothing at this time due to Mr. Clay's absence.

FINANCE & BUDGET TAX REPORT: The Secretary reported the tax collector collected $86,175.33 with a commission of $2,809.25. The total bills paid for the month were $23,377.44; payroll was $6,675.23; Mayor/Council salaries was $1,845.00 and Pennvest loan payment was $1,604.54. The Sewer Maintenance collection for 1st quarter of 2019 was $3,977.40 and $4,624.78 collected for the month of May (both residential and commercial).

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Tony Marchitelli presented the fire department report. There were 192 calls to date, 55 calls in May, 5 calls in East Rochester, 2 crashes, 2 basements were pumped out and one flood assessment. It was mentioned that Chief Mammone has been trying to reach Mr. Duffy from the fire department to discuss purchasing the generators and Mr. Duffy has not responded to Mr. Mammone about purchasing the generators and fire hoses.

Mrs. Gordon indicated that there are bags of garbage at the back of the firehall which need to be picked up since they are creating health problems.

SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION: Mr. Steff had nothing to report.

BOROUGH ENGINEERING: Mr. Frye indicated that he waiting to get bids for the bridge on 5th Street. Mr. Frye passed out a copy of two proposals to each council member for the issue regarding the water run-off on 5th Street. Mr. Frye said there are two options essentially from Stewart Avenue down to try to get all the water, because there are no catch basins the water is jumping the curb and doing damage to the road. The first option is to run a storm sewer along the north side near the hillside and put 15 inch pipe all the way down and broke it up with catch basins and actually it does not show, but there is one existing pipe where Landell crosses over which you can see on Option 2. Put catch basins by JR's to catch water there. Down near Mr. Mason's there is a pipe that goes underneath his house down to Oak and what would be done there is that a headwall would be installed there and 30-inch pipe run for about 210 feet. Then take it down and that would alleviate any water running underneath Mr. Mason's house and out onto Oak Avenue. He continued to explain more features of Option 1. The total would be approximately $60,000 without any pavement repair. Obviously, the trenches would have to be repaired. To pave that street, it would cost about $30,000 for a total of $90-100,000 for everything. Mr. Frye said Option 2 is not much better price wise. Personally, Mr. Frye said he wanted to provide another option which is not as much money, but essentially what he did was got rid of the pipe along the hillside and put the cross drain shooting out into the run. The reason he does not like this option is because now you are digging into the hillside and trying and stabilize the hill. He does not like the idea of digging into the hillside. Basically, it will come down to Mr. Mason's property with a 30-inch pipe and headwall and a debris catcher would be installed. The cost would be $50,000 without pavement repair. Mrs. Gordon said the Borough does not have the money. Ms. Hutsky said the water is flowing down Landell and Mr. Frye indicated that the water is coming from up above and it has always been that way since Lacock Dwellings was built. Mrs. Gordon asked if there are storm drains at Lacock Dwellings and Mr. Frye responded there are some. He said in the back there is a drainage ditch and the pipes are undersize. Mr. Frye said there is definitely a significant amount of money needed to fix things. Mr. Frye continued to discuss about the options he proposed.

Mr. Frye will set up a meeting with council to discuss the proposals.

RECREATION: Ms. Hutsky said thank you to whoever put the new flag up.

The Borough Secretary read the prices for topsoil and grass seed which will be needed to repair the damage done by the quad at East Washington Street ballfield. Topsoil would cost $28.00 per ton (suggested to purchase 15 ton) and grass seed would be $2.40 per pound for approximately 10 to 25#.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Mrs. Gordon read letter from Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority asking the Borough to name a replacement to the board created by the death of Frank Reda. His term expires December 2019. The sewer authority meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at the sewer authority offices. Mr. Simon indicated that he would be able to fill the remaining term of Mr. Reda. Ms. Hutsky made motion to appoint James Simon to fill the unexpired term of Frank Reda on the Rochester Area Sewer Authority board. Mr. Seminick seconded. Roll call vote taken as follows: Joyce – Yes; Cathy -Yes; Joe – Yes; Jim – abstain. All in favor, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Dalton Sanitary Systems has been contacted to come to the Borough and pump out the lift station. Just waiting to get on their schedule.

A motion was made by Mr. Simon and seconded by Mr. Seminick to adjourn, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM so council can go into Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Council went into executive session at 8:32 PM with no action to be taken.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary/Treasurer