The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, December 4, 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: Cathy Hutsky, Joe Seminick, James Simon and Kendra Hill

ALSO, PRESENT: Mayor Robert Knox, Solicitor Paul Steff, Engineer Jeff Frye, Chief Frank Mercier, John Drumm and Sam Landis

ABSENT: Joyce Gordon and Code Enforcement Officer Randy Morrow

CITIZENS REPORT: None

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: Ms. Hutsky called for a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Mr. Simon 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 read letter from Rochester Public Library regarding making a holiday donation. She indicated that nothing had been received for the annual donation which council usually makes. Council indicated they did not want to make a holiday donation.

MAYOR and POLICE: Mayor Knox read the November police report. There were 137 calls, 1 arrest and 8 citations. A motion was made by Mr. Seminick to accept the November police report. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor of accepting the November police report.

Mayor Knox brought up about the Duquesne Light LED Light Program. He mentioned that it was discussed at the last meeting but no action was taken by council to participate. Mayor Knox said he would like to know if the Borough wants to be involved in the program. Last month he indicated that he would donate his mayor salary for the next two years toward the program and talked about the Borough matching the donation. He said that the Borough would have to purchase 10 lights. Mr. Seminick asked if we are required to purchase them. Mayor Knox said "No". The idea is to change the street lights to LED lights which would save the Borough money on its electric bill. Mr. Drumm indicated that the Borough of Rochester participated in this program and changed all the street lights. He said that the mayor does not need to donate his salary toward the lights. Mr. Drumm said this program would save the borough money within the next few years. Mr. Drumm said that the Borough will save a lot of money on its electric bill. Ms. Hutsky said a lot of towns have LED street lights and save money on the electric bills. Ms. Hill said it is a nice gesture of the Mayor to offer to donate his salary but it is not necessary. Mr. Simon made motion to participate in the Duquesne Light LED Light Program and to start with 10 lights. Ms. Hill seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor of participating in the Duquesne Light LED Light Program.

Mayor Knox asked about Beaver Concrete leaving the Borough. He has noticed that Champion Concrete trucks are at the former Beaver Concrete site. Mayor said he is not sure if Champion is leasing the property or selling from the Borough location. Mayor Knox said he has asked the Borough tax collector to check into this. Mr. Drumm said that Champion tore the plant down in Midland and that they service the Cracker Plant.

Mayor Knox said he went to the Workout Anytime job site and introduced himself to one of the co-owners. Mayor said he feels that when new businesses come into the Borough it would be nice to send them a letter welcoming them, also the same for new residents moving into the Borough. He said that they plan to a ribbon cutting ceremony when the facility is opened and would appreciate anyone from council attending.

Mayor said he will provide information to Ms. Hutsky regarding the tree program through Rep. Mattzie's office. It is a match program.

STREETS & SEWERS: Sam said the tires were purchased for the truck and the truck was aligned. He said the fire department donated their air compressor to the Borough as the Borough's air compressor is no longer working. Sam said the new compressor needs wired for 220 service. Sam asked permission to take the old compressor for scrap. Permission given for Sam to take the old air compressor for scrap.

Ms. Hutsky indicated that Columbia Gas is replacing the gas line from Route 65 and Lacock to their pump station on Spruce Avenue. Sam said that according to Team Fishel in the spring they will change the lines previously installed and run main line up Lacock Avenue to Rochester Township.

Mr. Simon asked about Street opening permit amendment. Mr. Steff said he needs new drawing. A draft was passed out at the last council meeting. Mr. Steff said he will have final draft ready for January meeting, together with new ordinance setting forth street opening fees. Sam asked Mr. Frye about whether it is 6 inches on each side of the road when a cut is made. Mr. Frye said usually a foot. Whatever is tore up must be put back to have the whole road paved. Under the new resolution an updated drawing is necessary. Mr. Frye said the drawing is being updated and he wants to review the fees. Mr. Steff said a final draft of the street opening ordinance will be finalized at next meeting and then will be advertised.

Sam asked Mr. Steff about weight limit ordinance/resolution. Mr. Steff said weight limits are set forth in the code book. Sam said there are no weight limit signs in the Borough. Mr. Steff said he will look through the code book and provide copy to Borough office. By way of placing weight limit signs on the street, Mr. Steff that is done by Pennsylvania code by way of statute. Mr. Steff said that what Sam is referring to is that the streets are not marked with weight limits and Sam said the streets are not marked. Mr. Steff said he knows no additional streets have been added since he has been solicitor. An engineering study is required, together with a core sample taken and the engineering study is needed to back up the ordinance. Mr. Steff he will provide to the Borough office outlining what the Borough has in effect at present. Sam said there have been triaxles coming through the Borough since the Township does not allow them going through their municipality. Chief Mercier said he thinks the weight limit on Borough streets is 7 ½ ton. Ms. Hutsky asked if there is a set standard by the state. Mr. Steff said the weight limits are set by the local ordinance. The municipalities are responsible for them by local ordinances; doing engineering study and core samples.

BUILDING PERMITS: A copy of Mr. Morrow's report for November is provided to council in their folders. Mr. Seminick indicated that Mr. Morrow mentioned to him that he would like to have taxes taken out of his paycheck the same as taxes are taken out for council and the mayor. Mr. Steff said Mr. Morrow mentioned that to him. The other places that Mr. Morrow serves as code enforcement officer take taxes out of his compensation. Secretary was asked to set up Mr. Morrow on payroll and ask him to complete a Form W-4.

FINANCE & BUDGET TAX REPORT: The Secretary reported that tax collections were $4,634.35 with a commission to the tax collector of $231.72. The total bills paid for the month were $20,091.26; payroll was $6048.06; Pennvest loan payment was $1,604.54. Mr. Seminick made motion to accept finance report and pay bills. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Secretary indicated that she has received invoice for work completed by Drumm & Sons on Fifth Street. Mr. Frye was provided copy of invoice and has approved same. Motion was made by Mrs. Hill to pay Drumm & Sons the amount of $18,250.00 for the Fifth Street project out of liquid fuels account. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried. The invoice will be paid out of Liquid Fuel account.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Mr. Seminick said that on Saturday, December 21st, Santa will be in the borough with the fire department.

SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION: Mr. Steff said he advertised the final 2020 budget and advertised the tax ordinance for 23 mills. Mr. Steff that prior to the tax ordinance, council approves and passes a resolution adopting the final budget for the year 2020 and that is Resolution No. 12-4-19 which has attached the final 2020 budget at 23 mills. Mr. Simon made motion to pass Resolution 12-4-19 setting the Borough's 2020 taxes at 23 mills. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and the motion was carried. Mr. Steff said the next thing is to make a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 336 which is the tax ordinance and sets the taxes at 23 mills. Mr. Simon made motion to adopt Ordinance No. 336 setting forth the taxes for 2020 at 23 mills. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor, motion carried.

BOROUGH ENGINEER: Mr. Frye said a dye test was conducted at the Reda property on Lacock Avenue. Nothing came out of the hillside at that time. He said the pipe as previously mentioned is not very good – has dimples in it but is not cracked. Mr. Frye said that apparently it is not cracked and possibly that when it leaked before it found that path and with the rain it is just finding that path as before. The line was completely flooded when the test was done and nothing came out and showed. Mr. Frye asked Sam if he checked later on and Sam said he saw nothing. Mr. Frye said it was completely checked and verified that it is not leaking.

Inspected Drumm & Son's work on 5th Street. He asked Mr. Steff about moving forward with the grant. Mr. Frye said he received verbal approval from council. Mr. Steff said he thinks as part of the grant application package council has an authorized resolution which does have the borough secretary certify that it is a duly accepted copy of the resolution. Mr. Steff said that a motion should be made to authorize the borough secretary to sign the application then he can move forward with the grant application process. Mr. Hutsky made motion to authorize borough secretary to sign grant application. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion carried. Mr. Frye said there are other items he will need for the grant and the borough secretary already provided him with an authorization letter from the Borough Planning Commission. Will get a letter from Beaver County Planning Commission. Will also get project description and an ownership letter from the Borough. A letter will be drafted. There is also a letter that the borough will pay the 15% match which is needed. Mr. Frye said he will work with borough secretary to get other items together. Mr. Frye said he assumes that the borough can use the grant funds for engineering fees. The grant is due by Friday, December 13, 2019.

Mr. Frye said he also looked at the plugged drain on 4th Street. He said he is worried that if unplugged

it will affect the wall down below on 5th Street. Mr. Frye said he is not sure how to handle this. Mr. Drumm said that people on Spruce will have issues if it is unplugged – could start taking the hillside out. Mr. Drumm said that when it rained the other night, he watched how the water flowed. Runs by Bogolea's and runs over top and there is a trough there and a wedge curb. The borough wanted him to fix the wedge curb, but there is nothing that can be done. The owner of the residence of the house next to Mr. Bogolea parks their vehicle over the curb and has created ruts along the 5th Street in front of the residence. Mr. Bogolea has trouble since he is handicapped getting over the wedge curb. Mr. Drumm said blacktop needs to be moved and bring curb back to catch basin. Mr. Drumm said the water is leaking out of the hillside and rolling down the street. The catch basin is plugged now and the water is going over top of the hillside. Mr. Drumm said from Mr. Bogolea's residence down 5th Street is bad. Mr. Drumm said that Mr. Frye should look at it. He said if moved back and made straight down to first basin it would help. The lady parking on the side in front of her house is making a gully. Sam said there is no parking sign on 5th Street from Lacock to bottom of 5th Street and coming up 5th from Spruce there is a no parking sign. Mr. Drumm said that once fixed there should be no parking on 5th Street. Mr. Drumm said he thinks the problem is further up on 5th Street and it is somewhere in the middle and working it way down. Mr. Seminick said there is nothing that can be done until spring now. Mr. Drumm said the engineer is going to have to look at the whole situation.

Mr. Drumm said the bridge at Oak is all ash. Mr. Drumm said his crew took out at much as he could. Ms. Hutsky said that someone said the catch basin that sits there is too high. Mr. Drumm said the water just pours out of there. Mr. Drumm said the water is pouring underneath the bridge. Ms. Hutsky said she was told that it is a spring that runs on someone's property. Mr. Drumm said he took pictures of what he could. The borough secretary asked about if Mrs. Malloy calls about the water issue in front of her rental property, indicate to her that the borough ran into problems and that the borough engineer needs to address it. There will be issues with the resident on 5th Street who is in the process of having a new driveway installed.

Discussion held about parking on 5th street – currently there are two no parking signs on 5th Street.

RECREATION: Ms. Hutsky said the flag was taken down for the winter.

Little Rams still have not returned the key to East Washington Ballfield and the garbage is still there. Secretary said she called their secretary and gave them deadline to get their stuff out of there. Secretary said that the gate lock should be changed. Their deposit will not be returned since the locks will be changed and they have not cleaned up the garbage and removed their equipment. Secretary instructed to send Little Ram organization a letter.

Mayor Knox asked about next year getting volunteers to do some painting and clean up the ballfield.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Borough Secretary indicated that Mrs. Gordon was home from the rehab center and wanted to pass on holiday wishes to all members of council.

Ms. Hutsky indicated that she did some research and found out that it costs approximately $7,000 to do shoot and chip and maybe this is something that can be done next year. Mayor brought up about gravel roads program. Mr. Frye said Darlington Township has used this program over the last few years. Mr. Frye said if you use this program you have to keep road as gravel road for 3 years before you can seal it.

Mr. Steff brought up about the 2020 meeting advertisement. Not sure if the meetings will be held at the same place. He will do meeting advertisement for organizational meeting in January. Borough Secretary said she has the list of council meetings for 2020 already prepared and she will email him the list for advertisement.

There being no further business, Mrs. Hill made motion to adjourn. Mr. Simon seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary/Treasurer