The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, February 5, 2020 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: John Drumm, Joseph Seminick, Joyce Gordon, Cathy Hutsky and James Simon

ALSO, PRESENT: Solicitor Paul Steff, Officer Murphy, Code Enforcement Officer Randy Morrow, Engineer Jeff Frye and Rico Elmore (Candidate for State Representative)

ABSENT: Mayor Knox

BUILDING PERMITS: A copy of Mr. Morrow's report is provided to council in their folders. At this time, John Drumm asked Mr. Morrow to give his report. Mr. Morrow said Workout Anytime has had all permits issued and will be opening soon. Mr. Morrow indicated that he took pictures of the inside of the space previously occupied by Pizza Hut and now to be occupied by El Paso Mexican Restaurant. He said El Paso needs to have Code.sys inspect their hood system and approve same and to obtain a permit for their sign. Mr. Morrow said he has been working with the company that owns the plaza to get things cleaned up behind Shop "n Save and Big Lots. He said there has been an ongoing issue with a resident in the apartments on Pine Avenue and is working to get the situation under control. He said the apartment building is a fire hazard and is in bad shape and he will be sending a letter to the landlord. A question was asked about the Brkovich residence on 1st Street. It was noted that the second floor of the residence has collapsed. It was mentioned that the owner passed away and the relatives do not want to be bothered with the property. Mr. Morrow said he will check the county repository list and advise council of what he finds out. He is in the process of getting the burnt-out house on Atlas condemned. At this time Mr. Morrow was excused from the meeting so he could go to work.

CITIZENS REPORT: Rico Elmore introduced himself and indicated that he is running against State Rep. Mattzie. He said he is attending council meetings of municipalities in his district so he can learn about what is going on.

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

COMMUNICATIONS: None

MAYOR and POLICE: Officer Murphy read the report. 96 calls for service last month. Mrs. Gordon made motion to accept the police report. Ms. Hutsky seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor of accepting the police report.

STREETS & SEWERS: Mr. Landis indicated that a couple trees were taken down by Matt Sharpless at the gazebo. Mr. Drumm said he would like to obtain council's permission to get milling

from Rochester Borough for the Borough and to store same at the dump. Mr. Seminick made motion to get millings from Rochester Borough to be used in our Borough. Mrs. Gordon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Drumm said that trees need to be cut that are leaning at the ballfield. He said he knows a man that will cut and take way the wood and dispose of the brush for free but needs a waiver from the borough regarding any damage or injury, Another choice would be to use Matt Sharpless who previously said he would chip up the brush and spread the mulch on the hillside at the ballfield for the price of $400. Mr. Simon said it is better to use Mr. Sharpless for the job since he has a chipper and he could put the mulch from the chipper on the hillside. Mr. Simon made motion to ask Matt Sharpless to do the cutting at the ballfield. Ms. Hutsky seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Landis asked about filling in the ditch at 10th Street. A discussion was held about filling in the ditch. Mr. Drumm said he would talk to Mrs. Cable about getting permission to fill the ditch in and putting down topsoil. Mrs. Gordon said that Mrs. Cable has talked to the state about "Clean and Green" and about the new state law to mark trees with purple paint on trees in lieu of "No Trespassing" sign.

FINANCE & BUDGET TAX REPORT: The Secretary reported that the tax collections were $2,695.88 for the month of January and the tax collector's commission was $134.79. The total bills paid for the month were $23,354.57; payroll was $4,821.30; Pennvest loan payment was $1,604.54. The amount of $4,195.73 was collected by Rochester Area Sewer Authority for the month of January. Cathy Hutsky made motion to accept report. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Mrs. Gordon indicated that in looking at the balance in the general fund that it would be a good idea to transfer $30,000 from the EIT account to the general account. Mrs. Gordon made motion to transfer $30,000 from the EIT account into the General Fund account. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Secretary read report. There were no fire calls for the Borough for the month of January.

SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION: Mr. Steff presented the proposed Street Opening Ordinance and Resolution. The fee imposed would cover inspection and any engineering fees. The fee would be $250.00 up to 10 sq. yards and an additional fee of $5 for anything over 10 sq. yards. The drawings were updated and are attached to the ordinance. The pavement restoration would be a full lane restoration so there will not be a checker board effect. Mr. Steff said if council is in agreement with the proposed ordinance, he will then advertise same and have ready for signature at the next council meeting. Mr. Hutsky made motion to advertise new street opening ordinance. Mrs. Gordon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Steff said that at the last meeting it was discussed about parking on Spruce Avenue and Walnut Street. He said there was a letter from 2008 from the borough engineer where a traffic study was done. The letter was not about parking on Spruce but was about stopping at the intersection of the two streets. Mr. Steff said the ordinance modifying the parking was No. 330 regarding Lacock Avenue. The current ordinance regarding parking on Spruce and Walnut indicated no parking on both sides of Spruce 200' northwest from Walnut. Mr. Steff said another modification would have to be done by ordinance. Mr. Landis was asked if he has trouble getting through on Spruce with the cars parked on the street. He said it is tight but he can get through. It was indicated that at Mrs. DePace's residence

the wall in front of her house is over the catch basin. Mrs. Gordon asked if Mrs. DePace removed her wall if it would help Mr. Landis when driving on that street. Ms. Hutsky asked about making the street one-way. Mr. Drumm suggested that this matter be tabled until he has a chance to speak with Mrs. DePace.

BOROUGH ENGINEER: Mr. Frye said he received an email regarding the PA Small Water & Sewer grant the borough applied for. He was informed that final approval will be given around July 14, 2020 and if received the work will be slated for fall. Mrs. Gordon asked about Community Economic Development grants and Mr. Frye said he had received an email from the borough secretary but need to have a project in order to apply for grant. He said the grants through Community Development are based on residents' income and the grants are usually around $50,000. Mrs. Gordon said she thinks Pine and Atlas would qualify. It was mentioned that Elm Street is the worst street in the Borough. Mr. Frye said an income survey has to be completed. Would qualify if project would benefit the whole borough. Mr. Frye said a preapplication is completed then if approved we submit the formal application. Mrs. Gordon said we applied before as a low-income area. Mr. Frye said the borough previously applied but did not meet the income requirements. Mr. Frye said he thinks the low income is around $33,000. Mr. Frye said previously the borough received one when we did the sewer separation, part was paid for by Pennvest and part by Community Economic Development. Mr. Drumm asked about Spruce Avenue. We could push the wall back and get the street paved. Question was asked about tar and chipping. Mr. Frye said it is about $2.50 a square yard for double seal and about $1.75 a square yard for single seal. Mr. Frye said the borough can use liquid fuels funds if paving is under 1". Mr. Frye said if the paving is over 1" then need to apply to PennDot for project number. Mr. Drumm mentioned about doing something with 5th Street. Mr. Frye said 5th Street is part of the grant application we submitted. Mr. Frye said recently he has been figuring about $90.00 a ton for paving. Mr. Drumm said Columbia Gas needs to come back and fix what they tore up on Second Street. Mrs. Gordon asked if Columbia Gas is supposed to come back and open the streets and replace the lines they previously put in. Mr. Drumm said Columbia Gas is supposed to come back in and replace the lines because high pressure was put in where low pressure was supposed to be and vice versa. A discussion was held about streets in the borough that need paved. The streets of Atlas, Pine, Elm and Landell were indicated as needed to be paved first. All the streets in the borough need replaced. Mr. Steff said the street opening ordinance will be advertised for next meeting and will go into effect after the next meeting. If work is ongoing or future work, the new ordinance will be used. Mr. Frye said Columbia Gas put temporary paving in and they will come back and put permanent paving in, would the new ordinance go into effect for this. Mr. Steff said we would say this is our new standard.

Mr. Seminick asked about 5th Street drain issues. It was indicated that the resident at 851 5th Street installed French drains. Borough is concerned that at the residence the water will come down at the wall that the resident installed. If the resident tore it out he will have to fix it and be responsible for any issues. Mr. Seminick also asked about the holes on Stewart Avenue. Mr. Landis mentioned that he previously had put blacktop in the holes. It was noted that Penndot is responsible for the lower end of Stewart Avenue to Route 65.

RECREATION: Mr. Drumm asked Ms. Hutsky if she would be chair of the Recreation Committee. She said "yes". It was discussed about getting new locks for the concession stand at the East Washington Street ballfield, together with the gate and bathrooms. There are 2 refrigerators and a cooler in the concession stand that was used by the baseball organization which needs to be removed. Ms. Hutsky said that baseball indicated they do not want anything left at the ballfield. New locks need to be installed at the gate with a key that cannot be duplicated. Little Rams Organization still has not returned the keys to the borough. Mr. Drumm suggested that the Little Rams' sleds be put at the top of

the road. Mr. Drumm said he feels the deposit for use of the ballfield should be raised to $1,000 and the deposit will be returned at the end of the season if the field is kept in good order and that their equipment is removed. This would give the organization more incentive to keep the area clean and maintain the area. They would be responsible for keeping the grass cut. A discussion was held about raising the amount of the deposit. Ms. Hutsky was asked to meet with Mr. Steff and prepare a new agreement for usage of the field which includes a substantial deposit.

Mr. Seminick made motion to change locks at ballfield and to raise the security deposit to $1,000. Ms. Hutsky said she feels that $1,000 deposit is too high. Mr. Drumm said the idea of a high security deposit is to protect the borough. Mr. Steff asked what it would cost the borough to take care of the field if an organization does not follow through with the terms of the agreement or any damage. Mr. Steff said a $50 deposit is a joke because people walk away from $50.00. Mr. Steff said the borough should pick the number, but even with a deposit of $50 to $500 that is now substantial. Mr. Steff said in anticipation of $1,000 the response is going to be "this is for the kids" if the organization ties up $1,000 then there is no money to do other things. Need to emphasize what we are going to get a deposit on, what will the borough be out if the organization fails to comply. Mr. Steff said we should find a number that we are comfortable with. He looked over the current agreement we use and the rules for usage of the field. He can redo the agreement and put in the agreement whatever the borough wants to have in the agreement. Mr. Steff asked what is the cost of changing the locks. Their sled needs to be removed. Borough secretary said the deposit is currently $100.00. There was no second to Mr. Seminick's previous motion so he withdrew his motion. Mr. Drumm suggested that the borough purchase the covers for the doors and remove the handles. After further discussion, a new motion was made by Mr. Simon to change the locks at the ballfield. Ms. Hutsky seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Drumm said the matter of the security deposit would be tabled until the next meeting. Mr. Landis asked about changing the padlocks on the gates. He said the lock on the shed below was broken into previously. Little Rams put a new lock on the shed. He asked whether that lock should be changed also. Mr. Drumm asked about the lime at the field in the box. Mr. Landis will take skid loader down and remove the lime

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Drumm mentioned that the East Washington Street ballfield is currently not insured and would like to get it insured. He said he is afraid that trees may fall and damage the concession stand. Borough secretary inquired with our insurance carrier and it was confirmed that the ballfield is not insured. An estimate was provided by the insurance company of about $1,000 a year premium. The insurance carrier needs measurements of the building and dugout at the building along with photos. Mr. Drumm said he will get the measurements. Mr. Drumm asked council to consider the insurance coverage. Ms. Hutsky inquired about the area where the water washed out the fence poles. Mr. Drumm said the fence needs to be repaired.

Secretary asked if Mr. Drumm wanted to talk more about the Duquesne Light LED project. He said the Mayor is not here tonight and he previously talked about the program. Mr. Drumm said that the Mayor previously asked to put 10 street lights into the program. The cost is $109.00 per pole. Mr. Drumm asked if council would consider adding more poles to the list. Ms. Hutsky said she feels we should do more. The Borough would be billed for the cost. Secretary read list of poles that Mayor obtained pole numbers for which ended at 5th Street and Oak. Asked council if they want to pick up the lights where Mayor left off. Go up the rest of 5th Street and then down Stewart Avenue. Mrs. Gordon made motion to add 10 more lights to the Duquesne Light LED program. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Seminick asked about raising billboard rental fees. The fee is currently $25.00 per billboard. Mr. Steff said this was discussed previously and most recently, he suggested that the borough look at other fees. Mr. Steff said this has been an ongoing matter, because the borough has a list of fees for permits and various fees in the borough and for a long time there has been a discussion to look at the fees and one of the things was that he asked Mr. Morrow to make a list of the various fees that should be increased and make recommendations. Mr. Steff indicated that new fee schedule can be drafted since a lot of the Borough's fees are outdated and suggestions for what is thought the fee should be. Mr. Steff suggested that the borough take a look at the fees we currently have in place and look at them for suggestions. Ms. Hutsky mentioned about raising mercantile tax. Mr. Steff said that we should look at our fee schedules and review same.

Mr. Drumm said he appointed council members to committees as follows:

Recreation: Cathy Hutsky and Joe Seminick

Streets: Jim Simon and Joe Seminick

Finance: Joyce Gordon and John Drumm.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Simon and seconded by Mr. Seminick to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary/Treasurer