The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, July 1, 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 and James Simon

ALSO, PRESENT: Solicitor Paul Steff, Chief Frank Mercier, Engineer Jeff Frye, Sam Landis, Gary Slyman, Todd Smith and members of Rock Christian Fellowship Church.

ABSENT: Mayor Robert Knox, Cathy Hutsky and Code Enforcement Officer Randy Morrow

CITIZENS REPORT: Gary Slyman asked to speak. He is inquiring about the borough's property behind the Rochester VFW, He would like to lease the property in order to store his recreational trailer for a period of 4-6 months of the year. Mr. Drumm indicated that the property is not for sale and asked Mr. Steff to look into the request regarding leasing the property. Mr. Drumm said that the borough's solicitor would look into this and the borough secretary would get back to Mr. Slyman with an answer.

Todd Smith from Rock Christian Fellowship Church said he came to the meeting to see if council would donate the vacant firehall to the church so the church could use it as a community center (i.e. place for youth to gather, food distribution center, meeting space, etc. It was indicated that the borough needs a lot of repair work. Mr. Drumm said that Mr. Smith would have to talk to the President of the fire department, Pat Duffy, about this. Mr. Simon indicated that this is not a matter for council to handle, but is a fire department matter and not a borough issue.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: Mr. Drumm asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting. There being none, Mrs. Gordon made motion to accept minutes of previous meeting. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: Secretary read letter from Beaver County Assessment Office that they had contracted with Tyler Technologies to conduct the reassessment project for the county. The letter also contained the names of the individuals who would be in the borough doing the reassessment. Chief Mercier asked for a copy of the list. Secretary will provide.

MAYOR and POLICE: Chief Mercier said there for 67 calls for the month of June; 3 arrests and 4 citations issued. Mrs. Gordon made motion to accept police report, Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion carried.

Mr. Drumm indicated that the Mayor has been calling the Code Enforcement Officer about the metal coming off the trucks from All Metals on Railroad Street, which is a state road. The state police were contacted and they indicated that they would take care of the situation; but the

Mayor is still getting complaints from Valvoline and calling the Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Drumm said he was at the borough office when the Code Enforcement Officer talked to the state police. Mr. Drumm said that the Code Enforcement Officer has no authority to do anything with the trucks. The state police indicated at that time that they were going to take care of the situation. Mr. Drumm said that the Mayor is still calling the Code Enforcement Officer about the situation. Chief Mercier said he was not aware of any complaints and that no official complaint was made to his office. Chief Mercier indicated that he can call the state police but a complaint needs to be made through the police department. He indicated that every police officer has a right to inspect the trucks. Chief Mercier said that if there is a complaint, it needs to come through the police department and they will address it accordingly. Mr. Drumm said the code enforcement officer should not be having interaction with All Metals. Mr. Drumm said going forward the police should be called and then they can communicate with the state police if needed. Chief Mercier said every police officer has a right to inspect the trucks and if there is a violation the trucks would be cited. Chief said the police would be the entity to call the state police when needed and ask them to send DOT officer to the borough who then can inspect the trucks for any violation, namely, no tarping, metal falling off the trucks, inspection violations, etc. Secretary instructed to notify Code Enforcement Officer that he should not be dealing with this matter from hereon.

STREETS & SEWERS: Mr. Drumm indicated that trees broke off and on laying over borough property on Willow Avenue behind Ted Silosky's house. Contacted Matt Sharpless to provide bid to cut tree and drop. He will charge $500 to cut and drop the tree. Also asked Mr. Sharpless to provide bids for cutting trees on each side of 5th Street that are leaning over the roadway and also provide price to cut trees leaning over road on Oak Avenue. He quoted $1,000 for 5th Street and $1,000 for Oak Avenue. Mrs. Gordon suggested getting other bids. Mr. Seminick made motion to get trees taken down on Willow Avenue by Matt Sharpless and get other bids for other work. Mrs. Gordon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion carried. It was mentioned that Mr. Sharpless needs to provide quote with more detail of how much he is cutting in certain areas and provide description of area to be cut in his bids.

Mr. Landis said that New Brighton came in an blew out the catch basin on 4th Street. So far all running good and no problems.

Secretary said she received bid from Precision Signs for lettering for the F-150 purchased from Rochester Sewer Authority. Cost is $77.00 for both doors and color will be royal blue. Mr. Seminick made motion to have truck lettering down by Precision Signs for the price of $77.00 for both doors. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, call in favor and motion carried.

Mr. Drumm brought up the issue with 6th Street Ext. and the holes in the road leading from the plaza. He said it is private property. He said that to date the owner of the apartments, Kellar Properties, has refused to fix the road and to provide key for emergency services to unlock the gate in case of an emergency. Mr. Simon said that previously council demanded a key to the gate for the fire department and police department. Mr. Simon said if he not going to give access to the police department and fire department, then he is violation of the agreement the borough had with Kellar. Mrs. Gordon said he also agreed to maintain the road. Mr. Steff said Mr. Kellar did ask permission to put the gate up, but also the borough required him to provide a key to the police and fire departments. Chief Mercier said at one time the police had a key, but

the owner changed the lock and that the police and fire department do not currently have a key. Mr. Steff indicated that this situation has been discussed several times. It is private property and the borough does not maintain the road, that it is the owner's responsibility. Secretary was instructed to send Kellar Properties a letter asking him to issue keys to emergency services and to fix up the road. Mr. Steff said that Kellar Properties was asked to maintain the road and was given permission by the borough to install the gate on his property. Mr. Simon said it is noted in the Code Enforcement Officer's monthly report that on June 22 he spoke with Mr. Kellar about the condition of the road and Mr. Kellar informed him that he was going to have gravel put on the road. It is not the Code Enforcement Officer's responsibility to take care of this situation because it is private property. He should not have to be dealing with any of the tenants or nearby residents regarding the condition of the road to the apartments. Chief Mercier he would prefer to have the gate removed and for him to maintain the road. Unable to get emergency vehicles up the road to the apartments.

Mr. Drumm said that Duquesne Light installed a new LED light at the flagpole. Quote of $83 for ½ day was obtained from D & G Rentals to rent a ditch witch to dig trench for electric to the gazebo area. Mr. Seminick made motion to rent ditch witch from D & G Rentals for $83.00 for ½ day. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion carried.

BUILDING PERMITS: A copy of Mr. Morrow's report is provided to council in their folders. Mrs. Gordon made motion to accept Code Enforcement Officer's report. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion carried.

FINANCE & BUDGET TAX REPORT: Taxes collected for June $5,730.61; Tax Collector Commission $255.55; Total Bills Paid $31,424.33; Payroll $4,448.05.
Pennvest July payment $1,604.54

Mr. Simon made motion to accept finance and budget report. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion carried. Mrs. Gordon suggested that $10,100 be transferred from EIT account to general account to cover purchase of F-150 truck from Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority. Mr. Simon made motion to transfer the amount of $10,100 from EIT account to general fund account. Mrs. Gordon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: No report

SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION: Mr. Steff apologized for not having the Little Rams agreement ready, but still having computer and internet issues at his office. Mr. Steff said it was previously mentioned about no parking and one way on Spruce Avenue. One way on Spruce is identified in Chapter 15, Section 207 designates the area of one way on Spruce. The no parking on Spruce is Chapter 15, Section 402 of the Code. Looked for any updates since and they do not pertain to Spruce Avenue. Mr. Steff said as far he can tell what is in the Code Book regarding Spruce Avenue is the status of the situation right now. Mr. Steff said he also had a note about time limit for trailers on streets and has asked secretary to provide him with copy of ordinance.

BOROUGH ENGINEER: Mr. Frye said that he investigated the catch basin on 4th Street and the driveway on 5th. He checked Lacock Dwellings and the ditch has been redirected with pipe and the water is going down 5th Street toward Terry Mason's house. Mr. Drumm asked Mr. Frye is there is enough money in the grant the borough applied for to redirect the pipe from Lacock Dwellings. Mr. Frye said he will look into that. Mr. Simon asked if we could ask Lacock Dwellings to fix the problem. Mr. Drumm said Lacock Dwelling issue should be part of 5th grant project. Mr. Simon said why can't we address the issue with the dwellings and ask them to divert their water somewhere. Mr. Steff commented that this topic should be discussed outside of a regular monthly meeting and should be discussed with the engineer in order to avoid problems with Lacock Dwellings.

Mr. Frye said the issue on Spruce Avenue has nothing to do with borough storm sewers. He said there is a catch basin and he cannot find where it goes out.

Mr. Frye said he contacted several paving companies regarding paving for the borough. The bigger paving companies are not interested because it is a small job for them. The little contractors do not do FB because it is a cold mix. Mr. Frye said he would contact some of the smaller paving companies and change the job from FB to hot mix. He said the bigger contractors are so backed up right now and would not be able to do the work for us.

Before the meeting, he said at the request of Mrs. Ahern on 6th Street, he went to check out a sinkhole in front of her home. He checked the valve box and there is a pipe running in her vent and no water coming out. He said the tank in there maybe septic (round tank) on her property. He talked to Mrs. Ahern and suggested she have someone dig down about 1 foot and check before filling in the sinkhole.

RECREATION: Mr. Drumm said the pavilion at the playground needs totally replaced. He said that Lowes' and Home Depot will donate materials if the borough sends a letter indicating what is needed and what is being built. But due to the Covid-19 pandemic they are not doing any donating of supplies at this time. Will have to contact them at a later date.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: It was mentioned that a resident on Spruce Avenue has chicken and ducks on her property. Mr. Steff said he checked the Code Book and under Chapter 2, Section 202, there is a section regarding noise disturbances. He said as far as keeping chickens and ducks, Section 403 of the code indicates that they must be kept in quarters no part of which shall be closer than 25 feet from the exterior limits of any property line or dwelling and must comply with noise restrictions, removal of droppings and keep food in a sealed container. Mr. Steff said it does not say you cannot have the animals, but you must comply with noise restrictions and you have to keep them 25 feet from a dwelling or from a property line. There are restrictions about the enclosure and sanitary drainage facilities and any litter or droppings. Mr. Steff there is not an all out ban on the birds, but you must comply with the regulations in order to have them. Discussion held about resident having any type of farm animal. It was decided to hold off on discussion of this matter.

Secretary said she had an inquiry from a resident about the borough hiring summer help. Discussion held about this including insurance and workmen's compensation insurance for any

summer help. It was mentioned that no money was budgeted for hiring summer help. It was decided to hold off until next year.

There being no further business, Mr. Simon made motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Gordon seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary/Treasurer