The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, September 2, 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 Cathy Hutsky

ALSO, PRESENT: Solicitor Paul Steff, Chief Frank Mercier, Engineer Jeff Frye, Sam Landis and Mike Mamone, Jr.

ABSENT: Mayor Knox, James Simon and Code Enforcement Officer Randy Morrow

CITIZENS REPORT: None

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

COMMUNICATIONS: Secretary read letter from Yorke Insurance Agency which indicated that Nationwide Insurance would no longer be handling the borough's group life insurance and that the policy would be transferred to Reliance Standard at the same cost and same level of benefits.

Letter from Duquesne Light regarding the average monthly usage on the electric meter for Oak Avenue pump station. Since the average monthly usage has decreased to less than 1,000 kilowatt hours, Duquesne Light will be changing the rate for the service to bill for only kilowatt-hour (kWh) usage which is in accordance with Duquesne Light's tariff.

Letter from Tom Keeling Insurance requesting if council has posted information regarding the November election and what will be the protocol instructions for voting. Secretary indicated she called the Election Bureau and was informed that masks and social distancing will be required. It was mentioned that the Borough has no control over the Election Bureau's rules for the upcoming election. Secretary will send a note to Mr. Keeling indicating that he should contract the Election Bureau for their protocol regarding the election.

MAYOR and POLICE: Chief Mercier read the report. There were 74 calls for service for the month of August, 2 criminal complaints and 24 citations issued. Ms. Hutsky made motion to accept police report. Mr. Seminick second. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion carried.

STREETS & SEWERS: Mr. Landis indicated that he called several fence companies about the cost to replace the split rail fence at the gazebo area. He was told by Lowe's that treated lumber is hard to get right now. He received pricing from difference companies with

prices ranging for a metal fence from $1500 for vinyl to $4500. Mrs. Gordon asked about pricing for aluminum fence. Mr. Landis will check on pricing for aluminum fence.

Mr. Landis said the fence along the 3rd base line is washing out at the East Washington Street ballfield.

The "Young Lungs at Play" signs were installed; 4 at the ballfield, 2 at the playground and 1 at the gazebo.

Mr. Landis said he contacted Duquesne Light about the trees on Oak Avenue and was told that the tree limbs hang on the telephone lines and that Verizon will not clear them.

Secretary said she received call from JR's Warehouse about trouble with water in the parking lot after the last hard rain. It was mentioned that the catch basins along Penndot property need to be cleaned. Mr. Drumm said he talked to the manager at JR's about this. The borough engineer was asked to look into this matter and see about putting catch basins in.

BUILDING PERMITS: A copy of Mr. Morrow's report is provided to council in their folders. Secretary read summary as follows: Permit for new shed issued to resident at 822 6th Street; fence permit issued for 790 4th Street; permit for new porch issued for 313 Highland Street; "No Dumping" signs installed behind Shop 'N Save and fence permit issued for 859 5th Street.

FINANCE & BUDGET TAX REPORT: Taxes collected for August $9,865.72; Tax Collector Commission $486.00; Total Bills Paid $25,314.56; Payroll $4,635.02;
Pennvest September payment $1,604.54; $4,167.90 received from Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority for month of July.

Mrs. Gordon made motion to accept finance and budget report. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Mr. Mamone provided report. He indicated that several calls have been received regarding mulch fires at the entrance of the plaza. A request has been made to the plaza to have the mulch removed.

Mr. Mamone presented to members of council two proposed ordinances for consideration. The first one is regarding nuisance alarms/false alarms which provides a penalty fee for three and above false alarms within a one-year period. The second ordinance would authorize the Rochester Fire Department to recover costs and/or expenses for its services through claims submitted only to individual owners' insurance policies. The individual's insurance company would be billed not the individual. There will be a third party billing service which would handle the billings. Mr. Steff will check to see if the borough already has a similar ordinance in effect.

SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION: Mr. Steff said he is assisting the secretary in collecting a delinquent Business Privilege tax.

BOROUGH ENGINEER: Mr. Frye said he looked at the catch basin on 4th and Lyons near Mrs. Braddock's home. He said the whole catch basin needs rebuilt. He also looked at the alley way at Atlas – there is a 20-foot right-of-way but not sure if it is borough property or belongs to the cemetery.

Mr. Frye said he has received no bids for the paving project. He did indicate that Youngblood is doing the paving in Rochester Township and would like to see about piggy backing our project with the Township's. He asked Mr. Steff about this and Mr. Steff said our street paving projects was not advertised along with the streets the Township is having paved so we are not able to piggy back with the Township this year. Mr. Frye said he will talk to Youngblood. It was discussed that in the future the Borough would consider piggy backing with Rochester Township to pave streets.

Mr. Frye said he will know about the grant sometime this month.

RECREATION: Mr. Drumm mentioned to Ms. Hutsky that the borough could get donations from Lowe's and Home Depot to install a new pavilion at the playground, but due to the Covid-19 issue, no donations can be made at this time by vendors.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Mr. Drumm said he talked to Mrs. Cable and will take the limbs down for her. He also discussed with Mrs. Cable about logging her property and join her property together with the Borough's 14 acres to have logged. Secretary was instructed to contact the forester about this.

NEW BUSINESS: None

There being no further business a motion was made by Mr. Gordon and seconded by Ms. Hutsky to adjourn the meeting. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary/Treasurer