The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, October 7, 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, James Simon and Cathy Hutsky

ALSO, PRESENT: Mayor Robert Knox, Solicitor Paul Steff, Officer Murphy and Mike Mamone, Sr.

ABSENT: Joyce Gordon, Jeffrey Frye 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. Simon 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 engagement letter from Herman & Loll, P.C. for the 2021 auditing services. Mr. Seminick made motion to accept engagement letter from Herman & Loll, P.C. for auditing services for 2021. Ms. Hutsky seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion carried.

MAYOR and POLICE: Mayor Knox gave report. 101 service calls, 6 criminal arrest and 22 traffic citations. Halloween will be October 29, 2020 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Mr. Mamone said there will be no Halloween parade.

Mr. Knox said he received a call from a resident regarding allowing a fire pit. Allowed as long as not using to burn garbage, strictly to cook food over. Mayor Knox also inquired about the 'No Parking" signs on Lacock Avenue. He feels there is no need for the signs except around the bend to the borough building. If person parks against flow of traffic, it will be handled by the police department. Mr Simon indicated that in the past issues arose about parking on Lacock when snow plowing was done. Mr. Steff said he will check the ordinance and report at next meeting.

STREETS & SEWERS: It was indicated that more streets were submitted to Duquesne Light to replace street lights with LED lights. A motion was made by Ms. Hutsky and seconded by Mr. Simon to continue replacing borough street lights with LED lights through Duquesne Light. Roll call vote taken and all in favor. Motion carried. It was mentioned that some lights are still out on Route 65. Secretary said Duquesne Light has special form they require to be completed to report street lights issues. Secretary will submit to Duquesne Light.

Mr. Drumm said there are two catch basins on Oak that are very deep and it is hard to be serviced since they are so deep. Mr. Drumm said that Mr. Landis has asked for permission to obtain a load of No. 4 limestone to put on each side of Oak Avenue. Ms. Hutsky made motion for No. 4 limestone to be purchased and spread on Oak Avenue. Mr. Seminick seconded. Roll Call vote taken and all in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Drumm said that the hillside behind the borough building near the gazebo needs fixed. He said that concrete and rock could be placed there. Mr. Drumm said the estimated cost for an aluminum fence at the gazebo would be around $2,000. He also said it would be safer to have the fence. Mr. Drumm said that a call to Duquesne Light was made to inquire about running a meter to the gazebo and flag pole.

Mr. Drumm also said that Mr. Frye is still trying to find a contractor to do the paving. Mr. Steff said that he talked to Mr. Frye and that Youngblood Paving is willing to hold 2020 prices into next year. He also said that the engineer for Rochester Township is working with Mr. Frye about getting our streets paved.

Mr. Drumm said he was informed that the borough did not receive the Pennsylvania Storm Water grant that was previously applied for. It was decided to apply again in 2021 for the grant.

BUILDING PERMITS: A copy of Mr. Morrow's report is provided to council in their folders. Secretary read summary as follows: Permit issued by Code.sys for solar panel installation at 158 Lyons Avenue.

FINANCE & BUDGET TAX REPORT: Taxes collected for September $470.58; Tax Collector Commission $23.53; Total Bills Paid $22,685.98; Payroll $5,036.91;
Pennvest October payment $1,604.54; $4,318.95 for August and $4,270.69 for September received from Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority.

Mr. Simon made motion to accept report and pay tax collector commission. Ms. Hutsky seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Mr. Mamone provided report. Three calls in East Rochester. Mr. Mamone asked if council had reviewed the ordinances that were submitted at the last meeting. Mr. Steff said he reviewed them and has comments and will give a call to the solicitor for Rochester Township to discuss. Mr. Mamone said the goal is to have the ordinances in place by the end of the year.

Mr. Mamone said that Santa Claus will ride on the fire truck through the borough on December 19, 2020.

SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION: Mr. Steff said he did review the ordinances presented by the fire department and will contact the solicitor for the township. Mr. Steff said he will review borough ordinances regarding keep trees trimmed, and other vegetation issues. He said that high brush at an intersection does fall under zoning ordinance.

BOROUGH ENGINEER: No report

RECREATION: Ms. Hutsky mentioned about applying for grants. Mr. Drumm mentioned that Lower's and Home Depot will donate materials for repairs or new construction, but not until 2021. It was mentioned that Little Rams removed their equipment and tackling sleds from the East Washington Street ballfield.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Drumm indicated that he attended a meeting with the council for Rochester Borough and commissioners for Rochester Township regarding the merger of services. He said it was discussed about conducting a survey to see how each municipality would benefit. Mr. Drumm said he would like to see a copy of the financials for Rochester Borough and Rochester Township so Mr. Steff could review them. Mr. Drumm said East Rochester provided a copy of its financials previously. Mr. Drumm asked Mr. Mamone to provide us with a copy of the Township's audit.

Mr. Mamone said he would like to schedule a meeting with the respective council members and commissioners with Michael Foreman of the Governor's Center for Local Government Services to discuss how the merging of services would work and how it would benefit each municipality. Mr. Seminick made motion to participate in a meeting with Rochester Borough council members and Rochester Township commissioners and Mr. Foreman to discuss any future combination of services. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion carried.

Mr. Mamone will contact Mr. Foreman to set up a meeting.

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 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary/Treasurer