The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, January 6, 2021 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, Joyce Gordon, Joseph Seminick and James Simon

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

ABSENT: Cathy Hutsky and Code Enforcement Officer Randy Morrow

CITIZENS REPORT: No citizens present

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 said she received retainer letter from Michael Baker International regarding services for 2021. Mrs. Gordon made motion to retain Michael Baker International as engineer for 2021 and accept the retainer letter. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Secretary presented Memorandum of Understanding for solicitor's review which was sent to the borough by the Beaver County Conservation District. Mr. Steff said he reviewed the Memorandum and said it outlines different areas that the Conservation District covers and what they are responsible for and what the borough has to do. He said the Conservation District is giving municipalities guidelines and he recommends that the borough sign the Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Simon made motion for the borough to sign the Memorandum of Understanding drafted by the Beaver County Conservation District. Mrs. Gordon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Secretary said the borough received $14,110.69 from the Beaver County CARES Act municipal assistance grant which was deposited into the general fund.

MAYOR and POLICE: Mayor Knox gave the police report. There were 81 calls for the month of December in the borough; 11 arrests and 5 citations.

Mr. Drumm asked Chief Mercier if the traffic light box at the bridge is able to take generator hook-up. He asked when replaced due to an accident, is the unit put back into the system if needed. Chief Mercier said he is not sure if plug was replaced so generator can be turned on. Mr. Drumm asked Chief Mercier to check. Could purchase generators and leave at Rochester Borough shed so police would have easy access. Chief Mercier said he would check if plugs are in boxes. Mr. Seminick asked if Honda generators are still at the fire department.

STREETS & SEWERS: Mr. Landis said the plow broke down during first big snowfall and has since been repaired. He said an accident on Case Street on Christmas Eve took out stop sign, weight limit sign and the Welcome to East Rochester sign.

Mr. Seminick said that Mr. Landis had trouble getting someone from Rochester Borough to plow in East Rochester. Mr. Drumm said there is no agreement with Rochester Borough to get assistance for plowing in an emergency. Rochester Borough has no extra manpower. Mr. Drumm said he will talk to John Barrett about getting an agreement. Mrs. Gordon said there was something in writing years ago, but not sure of the timeframe. Mr. Seminick said East Rochester needs a back-up.

Mr. Drumm said that Mr. Landis has 4 days' vacation from 2020 that he was not able to use and he would like to carry those days over to 2021. Mr. Drumm said there will be a limit to how many days can be carried over. Mr. Seminick made motion to allow Mr. Landis to carry over his 2020 vacation days to 2021. Mrs. Gordon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

BUILDING PERMITS: A copy of Mr. Morrow's report is provided to council in their folders. No permits were issued.

FINANCE & BUDGET TAX REPORT: Taxes collected for December $766.59; Tax Collector Commission $38.33; Total Bills Paid $20,795.14; Payroll $7,087.66; Pennvest January payment $1,604.54; Rochester Area Sewer Authority (January collection) $4,038.50.

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

Mrs. Gordon said we need to transfer $19,500 from sewer maintenance account and deposit into Pennvest account to cover 2021 Pennvest payments. Mr. Simon made motion to transfer $19,500 from sewer maintenance account and deposit into Pennvest account to cover Pennvest payments for 2021. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Tony Marchitelli gave report. There were 4 calls in the borough for the month of December. Mr. Marchitelli indicated that Santa Claus went through the borough on December 19 passing out treats to children.

SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION: Mr. Steff said he had a conversation with Brian Brkovich regarding the purchase from repository of 824 First Street. Mr. Steff presented the settlement sheet which was prepared by Beaver County Tax Claim office for Parcel No. 20-001-0713 which includes unpaid taxes from 2013 to present which approximately amounts to the sum of $2,113.54. A discussion was conducted by Mr. Steff as to how the process of purchasing property through the county tax repository works. He said Mr. Brkovich needs approval of the sale by the Borough. Once Mr. Brkovich purchases the property and has title to it, he can then come back to council to ask them to exonerate the unpaid taxes. Mr. Steff said he feels the borough should approve the sale. Mr. Simon made

motion to approve the sale from county tax repository by Brian Brkovich of 824 First Street. Mr. Seminick seconded. Mrs. Gordon asked about the unpaid taxes and Mr. Steff said the borough will probably exonerate the back taxes as will the school district and the county. Mrs. Gordon indicated she is not happy about exonerating the back taxes. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

BOROUGH ENGINEER: Mr. Frye said Mr. Mills of the Department of Environmental Protection did the inspection to the Case Street Combined Sewer Separation Project. He said Mr. Mills asked to be provided with certain documents which Mr. Frye said he will provide to him in order to get final approval of the project.

Mr. Frye said nothing yet is available to reapply for the grant for 5th Street.

Mr. Drumm said he was informed that Columbia Gas will start replacing the gas lines in the borough, but not sure exactly when.

RECREATION: Progress

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Progress

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Seminick asked about using the CARES Program money received for the new pavilion at the playground. It was mentioned that donations from Lowe's and Home Depot for materials to replace the pavilion will be received.

There being no further business a motion was made by Mr. Simon and seconded to adjourn the meeting. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary/Treasurer