The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, February 3, 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, Cathy Hutsky and James Simon

ALSO, PRESENT: Solicitor Paul Steff, Engineer Jeff Frye, Chief Frank Mercier, Sam Landis

ABSENT: Mayor Robert Knox 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, Mr. Seminick made motion to accept minutes of previous meeting. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: Secretary provided information regarding the damaged pole repair at the East Rochester/Monaca Bridge. Proposal presented for repair by Bronder Technical Services in the amount of $8,209.92. Insurance company will issue check for $7,209.92 and once pole is repaired, they will go after driver's insurance company to collect deductible of $1,000. Motion was made by Mr. Seminick and seconded by Mr. Simon to accept proposal of Bronder Technical Services for repair of the pole at the bridge. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Secretary read information received from County regarding Block Grant Program. Discussion was held about doing upper part of 5th Street (namely, installing a wedge curb). Also discussed applying for grant to update the furnace and electrical at borough building. It was mentioned that either of these projects would qualify as they are a benefit to the borough. Ms. Hutsky made motion to apply to Beaver County Block Grant Program to update the borough building and repair the upper part of 5th Street. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

MAYOR and POLICE: Chief Mercier gave report. There were 82 calls in the month of January; 34 citations issued and 2 criminal arrests. He also provided to each council member the annual police report for 2020. There were 977 calls answered; 144 citations and 3 criminal arrests.

Chief said that John Barrett, Manager of Rochester Borough asked him to provide to each council member a copy of notes from a joint meeting held on February 1 at the Rochester Borough Building. The meeting was held as an informational meeting to discuss the opportunities of merging the 3 Rochester's to work together with the intention of cost savings and improved services. Also, during that meeting a discussion was held about combining recreation committees to form one joint committee to provide activities to all three Rochester's.

A discussion was held by council concerning the meeting that was held on February 1, 2021. Ms. Hutsky said she would participate in a meeting regarding the combination of the recreation committees. Mr. Drumm said he will talk to Mr. Barrett.

STREETS & SEWERS: Mr. Landis said that salt has been ordered and we are waiting for delivery. There was a water line break on Stewart Avenue on January 30th.

Mr. Landis said the clutch needs adjusted on the truck. Mr. Drumm said he is not sure if it can be adjusted. Also indicated that tires are needed on skid loader. Mr. Landis was asked to call Cherry's Auto Sales to get prices for the tires.

BUILDING PERMITS: A copy of Mr. Morrow's report is provided to council in their folders.

FINANCE & BUDGET TAX REPORT: Taxes collected for January $765.34; Tax Collector Commission $38.27; Total Bills Paid $31,318.88; Payroll $4,722.64; Pennvest February payment $1,604.54; Rochester Area Sewer Authority $4,909.51.

Mr. Simon 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 $20,000 from EIT to General Fund to cover expenses until real estate tax payments are received. Mrs. Gordon made motion to transfer $20,000 from EIT fund to General Fund. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: No calls for January

SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION: Mr. Steff said he had received from Borough Secretary a sample ordinance regarding adopting the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System Defined Benefits Plan. He said that when updates are made an agreement is signed and an ordinance is prepared. The ordinance needs to be advertised. Mr. Simon made motion to Mr. Steff to advertise ordinance adopting the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Services Defined Benefit Plan. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried. The ordinance will be advertised and ready for adoption at the March council meeting.

BOROUGH ENGINEER: Mr. Frye said he is still looking for all the information to provide to Mr. Mills of the Department of Environmental Protection regarding the Case Street Combined Sewer Separation Project.

RECREATION: Mr. Drumm mentioned that when Columbia Gas does start the work in the Borough, he would like to ask them to make a donation to the Recreation Fund which can be used to make upgrades to the playground.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Progress

NEW BUSINESS: Progress

There being no further business a motion was made by Ms. Hutsky and seconded by Mrs. Gordon to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary/Treasurer