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

ALSO, PRESENT: Solicitor Paul Steff, Engineer Jeff Frye, Officer John Farmer, Sam Landis

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, 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 indicated that she had received another Comcast communication regarding renewal of the Borough contract. Mr. Steff said that Comcast is initiating formal and informal process of renewing. He said historically they use an informal process. He said Comcast will submit a proposal for the borough's review. Mr. Steff said he will make contact with Comcast.

MAYOR and POLICE: Mayor gave report. There were 72 calls for service during the month of February; 3 arrests and 8 citations issued.

STREETS & SEWERS: Prices were presented for tires for the skid loader. Mr. Landis said 14 ply is the best and Meyer's Tire Service quoted a price of $1,040 for 4 tires which include mounting. A motion was made by Mr. Simon and seconded by Mrs. Gordon to purchase 4 14 ply tires from Meyer's Tire Service for the amount of $1,040. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mr. Landis indicated that the resident who lives at 117 Atlas Avenue complained that the house at 125 Pine Avenue has been broken into. He asked to purchase 2 x 4 wood to board the house up. Mayor Knox said he talked to Chief Mercier about this and that Chief indicated to him that the police will patrol the area. Mr. Steff said a simple solution was brought to the attention of another resident on Atlas about this house, and they did not pursue the solution. The house is currently in tax repository and Mr. Steff said he talked to the resident about purchasing the house from tax repository and getting it torn down. Mr. Steff said there are other avenues to pursue as an affordable way to get the house torn down for free. He said he would consult with Mr. Morrow, Code Enforcement Officer.

The resident at 117 Atlas Avenue also complained about his neighbor at 115 Atlas Avenue parking into the street so the garbage truck and other delivery trucks cannot drive on the street. The resident indicated that he would like a "No Parking" sign installed. He said there was previously a "No Parking" sign there. Discussion was held about this and this matter will be investigated further. Mr. Steff asked if this a designated "No Parking" area in the Borough's code book. Officer Farmer said he does not recall a "No Parking" sign ever being there. Police department will look into this.

Secretary said she received a request from Mr. Palakovich on 8th Street about getting some limestone to fill in the holes on the street by his house. Mr. Steff said the road is not part of street system in the borough and not taken care of. Mr. Landis indicated that he has always plowed the street when it snowed. Mr. Steff said therefore, we can take care of it. Mr. Landis was instructed to fill the holes in.

BUILDING PERMITS: A copy of Mr. Morrow's report is provided to council in their folders. Secretary provided summary as follows: sign permit issued for 1942 Taco's and Tequila; permit issued by Code.sys to Co-Go's for sign replacement and replace of steel poles over gas pumps; permit issued by Code.sys for barbershop and nail salon at 890 Ohio River Boulevard – they need final inspection and permit issued by Code.sys for solar panel installation at 146 Stewart Avenue.

FINANCE & BUDGET TAX REPORT: Taxes collected for February $9,927.92; Tax Collector Commission $496.40; Total Bills Paid $15,444.32; Payroll $5,907.78; Pennvest March payment $1,604.54.

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT: One call in February.

SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION: Mr. Steff presented Ordinance No. 339 updating the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System Defined Benefits Plan. It has already been agreed to by council and was advertised. Mr. Simon made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 339 updating the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System Defined Benefits Plan. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

BOROUGH ENGINEER: Secretary said she talked to the engineer and he indicated he was looking into piggybacking the street paving with Rochester Township. Discussion was held about this. Talked about using liquid fuels funds to pave Elm Street, Willow Avenue and maybe Curtland Street. Secretary read costs previously presented in 2020 for street paving (Stewart to Elm, Elm to Willow (to stop sign) and Curtland. Mr. Drumm said Elm, Willow to stop sign) approximately $17,000. Mr. Seminick said lower portion of Highland should be checked out. Secretary said if Curtland is added it will probably exceed $20,000.

Mr. Drumm said the borough has still not heard from Columbia Gas as to when they will begin replacing the gas lines in the borough. Mr. Drumm said our streets are getting tore up. Mr. Drumm said Elm, Curtland and Highland has been discussing for 2 years and nothing has been

done yet. Mr. Drumm said that Columbia Gas will replace lines and then pave Lacock Avenue. Secretary indicated that she had received drawings and street opening application from Columbia Gas and she forwarded the paperwork to Mr. Frye for his review. Mr. Jeff has been trying to get in contact with rep from Columbia Gas to review the plans.

RECREATION: Progress.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Secretary said she had a few phone calls with the County regarding the Block Grant Program. We are not able to apply for a grant to update the borough building. The rules do not allow for a grant for government/municipal, business or buildings. Discussion was held about applying for the grant to pave Atlas Avenue, Pine Avenue and Landell Street. Mr. Seminick made motion to revise the previous motion made at the February 3, 2021 meeting and change motion to apply for grant to pave Atlas Avenue, Pine Avenue and Landell Street. Mrs. Gordon seconded. By way of roll call vote, motion was carried. Borough Secretary will conduct surveys of residences on those streets as per Block Grant Guidelines and complete paperwork for Beaver County Block Grant.

Mrs. Gordon indicated that the playground is a breeding ground for mosquitos because of the poor drainage. Mrs. Gordon asked about removing the mulch from around the playground equipment. Mr. Drumm indicated that there is a requirement to have certified play surface. Discussion was held about converting the mulch areas to grass.

Mr. Drumm said he talked to John Barrett at Rochester Borough and indicated to him that East Rochester is not interested in attending anymore meetings regarding the merging of services – that East Rochester will continue to operate as we currently are.

NEW BUSINESS: Mayor brought up about the unregistered/uninspected cars in the borough. He said he knows of 15 cars that are unregistered or uninspected which Chief Mercier said previously that the police department is responsible for tagging abandoned, unregistered and unlicensed vehicles. Mr. Drumm indicated that Chief Mercier said it is up to the police to handle this and not the code enforcement officer.

It was asked about the fence at the gazebo. Mr. Landis indicated that he had priced it out at Lowes and the materials alone is approximately $2,000 without installation. It was suggested to install new fence and stone by gazebo. Lowe's has a contractor that installs the fence. Mr. Drumm mentioned about putting R-3 around the fencing area instead of concrete. Mr. Drumm asked for motion to install new fence and R-3 around gazebo. Decided to wait until next meeting to discuss. Get price and then can act on it at next meeting.

Mayor Knox said the "Welcome to East Rochester" sign that was on Case Street needs to be repaired and installed. He said also there was a similar sign coming from Freedom. Mayor Knox also asked about getting LED lights on the East Rochester/Monaca Bridge. Mr. Drumm said this will be taken care of when weather starts getting better.

Secretary said the light pole damaged on the bridge – a new one needs to be ordered and the company doing the repair said the new pole will not be in until May.

There being no further business a motion was made by Mr. Seminick and seconded by Mr. Simon to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary/Treasurer