The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, September 1, 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, Chief Frank Mercier, Ben DiNardo (Rochester Alumni Association), Brooke Burtner, Katie Prest, Ina Braddock and Janice Cable

ABSENT: Mayor Knox, Code Enforcement Officer Randy Morrow and Cathy Hutsky

CITIZENS REPORT: Mr. DiNardo introduced himself as a member of the Rochester Alumni Association. He said the purpose of the association is to take care of the students at Rochester Area School District. He extended an invitation to council to attend the tailgate party on Friday, September 3rd before the Rochester/New Brighton high school football game. He also extended an invitation of support to the community by the Alumni Association and presented a letter to council with the Alumni Association information.

Mrs. Cable asked Mr. Drumm about whether he is going to obtain a zoning variance for the firehall and whether a Certificate of Insurance has been provided to the borough. Mr. Drumm indicated he provided the Certificate of Insurance to the borough secretary. He said he is not sure about the zoning variance. Mr. Steff indicated that the zoning officer should be consulted. Mrs. Cable said the area around the firehall is currently zoned Residential. Mr. Steff said the first step is to consult with the zoning officer. Mrs. Cable asked who should talk to the zoning officer. Mrs. Gordon said that Mrs. Hoffman approached the zoning officer about the variance and that the zoning officer seemed not to know whether the firehall property is zoned residential or commercial.

Mrs. Cable asked about the zoning officer not attending the meeting. Mr. Steff said he is not required to come to the council meetings as it is not part of his employment. Mrs. Cable said we have all had to follow the ordinances and so should Mr. Drumm. Mr. Drumm said that he will talk to the zoning officer and if a zoning variance hearing is required, he will follow through with one. Mrs. Braddock asked Mr. Drumm if he applied for a building permit for the garage door and he replied "yes" he did.

Brooke Burtner said she came to the meeting to ask for council's approval so she can purchase the lot next her garage that is currently in tax repository. It is parcel no. 20-001-0346-001. She went to the county tax claim bureau and picked up the paperwork to purchase said lot. Mr. Steff presented the repository statement indicating the taxes and other charges to be the amount of $1,701.39. He explained to Ms. Burtner that she also needs to get signatures from the Rochester Area School District and the county. Mr. Seminick made motion to approve the purchase of Lot and Parcel No. 20-001-0346-001 for the total amount of $1,701.39 from Beaver County Tax Claim. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

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 read request from Rochester Quarterback Club for a donation to the football program. Secretary said she also received an email from Pennvest that our monthly payment would be reduced based on the new amortization schedule provided.

MAYOR and POLICE: Chief Mercier read the report. 73 calls for month of August, 2 major arrests and 6 citations.

Mr. Drumm said that the new fence had been installed at the gazebo area and would like the police when patrolling in the borough to make sure the children in the borough are not hanging on the fence.

STREETS & SEWERS: Mr. Drumm said Mr. Landis is back at work and he talked to Mr. Landis about the way he is doing the mowing. He talked to Mr. Landis about using the weed wacker and the hand mower on the slopes and hillsides.

Mrs. Gordon commented about the opening at the end of the new fence. She said someone should also talk to Mr. Landis about how he uses the riding mower and that he should transport it to the ballfield using the trailer.

It was mentioned that Columbia Gas is having Youngblood Paving dig up the coal patch that Team Fishel installed on the side of Lacock and mill and seal with asphalt. Mr. Drumm said he talked to Columbia Gas and they will install new slab for pavilion at playground. He said he is still looking into prices for the new pavilion and will have information at the next council meeting.

Secretary said she has been in contact with Bronder Technical regarding the pole repair on the bridge. The new pole has been installed, but the wiring needs to be repaired. She is waiting for quote for the repair of all of the wiring so she can forward the estimate to the insurance company.

BUILDING PERMITS: A copy of Mr. Morrow's report is provided to council in their folders. A permit was issued for addition to residence at 150 Lyons Avenue and permit issued for porch enclosure for 868 Spruce Avenue.

FINANCE & BUDGET TAX REPORT: Taxes collected for August $5,915.02; Tax Collector Commission is $295.75; Total Bills Paid $17,841.74; Payroll $2,855.45 (includes street, secretary, zoning, tax collector); Pennvest $1,024.95 (September – new payment amount).

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT: No report

SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION: Progress.

BOROUGH ENGINEER: Mr. Frye said that Youngblood Paving will do the paving project in the borough when they are in the Borough doing the paving for Columbia Gas. Chief Mercier said he will handle alerting residents on the streets to be paved when he is notified of when the paving will be done.

Mr. Drumm said he is hoping that Youngblood can remove the old basketball court. Once the debris is removed the borough can reseed the area.

RECREATION: Progress

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Mrs. Gordon said a motion is needed by council to accept the 2020 audit. Mrs. Gordon made motion to accept 2020 borough audit. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mrs. Gordon suggested that the borough's auditor be contacted to inquire if the borough needs to set up a separate bank account for the American Rescue Plan funds. She feels the money should be kept separate from other borough funds. Mr. Steff said there have been a lot of questions about the use of American Rescue Plan funds.

Secretary said 2020 liquid fuels audit had been completed and approved.

Mr. Frye said that when final paving is going to be done for the Columbia Gas project, he will be contacted.

Mr. Simon indicated that Duquesne Light did not install a new LED street light in front of 717 Second Street and also missed one on Spruce. Secretary will contact Duquesne Light.

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 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary/Treasurer