The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, October 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, Code Enforcement Officer Randy Morrow, Brian Brkovich, Rick Krepps, Debra Ahern, Sam Landis, Ina Braddock and Janice Cable

ABSENT: Cathy Hutsky

CITIZENS REPORT: Mr. Brkovich came to the meeting to ask council for tax exoneration for the property at 824 1st Street, which he recently purchased from the Beaver County Tax Claim Bureau. Mr. Steff said that a Resolution needs to be drafted in order to approve a tax exoneration. He indicated that council can take official action at this meeting and that he will draft the resolution and send to borough secretary for signature and to provide a copy of same to Mr. Brkovich to provide to the county. The request for tax exoneration includes the tax years 2013 to 2020. Mrs. Gordon made motion to exonerate taxes for the years 2013 to 2020 for Tax Parcel No. 20-001-0713.000. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried. Once resolution is received and signed, borough secretary will provide copy to Mr. Brkovich.

Rick Krepps came to the meeting to complain about 1122 Pentland Avenue. The house was destroyed by fire 2 years ago and to date, it has not been demolished. He said there is an issue with rats and other animals going into what is left of the house. He said the house is falling in. It needs to be torn down. Mr. Krepps said he heard that the property was sold to another person. Code Enforcement Officer Morrow indicated that he will contact the current owner of the property and find out what is going on with the property and talk to her about tearing the house down.

Mrs. Cable asked Mr. Drumm about the zoning issue of the firehall. Code Enforcement Officer Morrow indicated that he reviewed several documents and maps regarding the firehall. He said that a map dated July 7, 1970 indicates that the firehall was rezoned as commercial property along with the church next to the firehall. Mrs. Cable also asked about an occupancy permit. She said that when there is a change of business, or a new building an occupancy permit is required. Mr. Morrow said that Mr. Drumm does not own the firehall, he is leasing it and no occupancy permit is required. Mr. Drumm suggested to Mrs. Cable that she contact Mr. Duffy who is president of the fire department. Mr. Morrow said he is not biased on this matter that he went strictly by the maps.

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 engagement letter from Hermann & Loll, the borough's auditors, regarding services for 2021 annual audit. They will provide audit services for the fee of $2,650. Mr. Simon made motion to accept engagement letter of Hermann & Loll for 2021 annual audit. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Secretary also read email received from County regarding American Rescue Plan grant. The grant is 80% by county and borough is responsible for 20%. The grant is to be used for infrastructure work. Discussion held about applying for the grant and using the funds for storm water work on 5th Street, since we have not heard from the state regarding the grant previously applied for. Applied to the state grant in 2020 and was denied at that time. Mr. Simon made motion for the borough to apply for the American Rescue Plan grant through Beaver County. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion carried.

MAYOR and POLICE: Mayor Knox read the report. There were 71 calls, 5 arrests and 7 citations issued for the month of September. Mayor Knox mentioned about the Tree Program through Senator Matzie's office. He would like to see trees planted behind the guardrails on the hillside near the borough building and any where else that council would like to see trees planted.

STREETS & SEWERS: It was indicated that there are two lights out on the East Rochester-Monaca Bridge. Secretary said that the police sent her a report indicating what lights are not working. Mr. Simon asked about the LED light that was not installed on Second Street. Secretary said she contacted Duquesne Light and that the LED light program is closed for 2021, but that Duquesne Light will be in the borough checking street lights either later on this year or early next year and may address the issue at that time.

Team Fishel is continuing the project for Columbia Gas of replacing the gas lines in the borough.

Mr. Landis said that a tree fell on the wires at the lift station on Oak Avenue and snapped off the pole. New pole has been installed. Got in contact with an electrician to help reconnect the wires from the old pole to the new pole. The issue has been reported to the borough's insurance company and waiting to hear from them.

Mr. Landis said the manhole cover popped off a catch basin on Stewart Avenue. Tried several times to keep the lid on, but it keeps popping off. Mr. Landis said he purchased new casting from Sewickley Pipe and needs to have new casting installed as soon as possible. Mr. Drumm said he can replace the casting. Mrs. Gordon indicated that someone else should install the new casting. Mr. Frye provided names of contractors to borough secretary to contact. Mrs. Gordon made motion to hire out to have the casting replaced on the catch basin on Stewart Avenue. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mr. Drumm said he asked Mr. Landis to obtain information and prices for a pole saw to be used to trim the trees in the borough, especially on 5th Street. It is cheaper to purchase a pole saw instead of paying a tree service to do the work. The information was given to Mr. Drumm

and it was decided to purchase a pole saw from Town & Country for $689.99. It is a 11 ft. 6 in in length and has a 14 in. bar. Mrs. Gordon made motion to purchase pole saw from Town & County for the price of $689.99. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Drumm and Sons Contracting replaced the catch basin on 5th Street, per previous bid. Mr. Drumm said the catch basin outside of Lacock Dwellings was full of cement. He said the headwall was broke and he had to replace the pipe. He said that JR's Warehouse is getting water when it rains hard from Penndot. He said that a wedge curb is needed. Mr. Frye said that maybe when Youngblood Paving is in the borough to pave our streets, they can run something along the curb. Mr. Seminick said there is a big hole in the fence at Penndot near JR's Warehouse. Mr. Frye said that maybe the borough needs to put Penndot on notice. Mr. Frye suggested getting some pictures and that maybe the borough solicitor will need to write a letter.

Mr. Drumm said that conduit has been installed at the gazebo area.

BUILDING PERMITS: Mr. Morrow said permit was issued to Mr. Drumm to close in door at the firehall. He said he participated in an audit with the state regarding certain businesses in the borough. He talked to Code.sys about the audit and they signed off on same.

He said he spoke with someone who is thinking of installing a modular home on Pentland Avenue. After research, it was found that the person wanting to install the modular home will have to use a septic system as there is no way to tie into public sewer system.

Mr. Morrow indicated that he can help Mr. Brkovich get a grant through the county to tear down the house at 824 1st Street. Mr. Seminick asked Mr. Morrow about houses on Atlas and Oak. Mr. Morrow indicated that there are no relatives to sign off on the properties. Mr. Steff said that since there is no heirs or estate for either property, that there are proceedings that need to be followed. Mr. Morrow said he believes there is a relative for the Atlas Avenue property, but not sure, and that person is not coming forward to sign off on demolition.

At this time Mr. Morrow left that meeting to go to work.

FINANCE & BUDGET TAX REPORT: Taxes collected for September $4,454.83; Tax Collector Commission is $222.74; Total Bills Paid $55,527.96; Payroll $4,956.24 (includes street, secretary, zoning, tax collector); Pennvest $1,604.54 (October – state reverted back to this monthly payment amount).

Mr. Simon 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: Secretary read report. 3 fire calls in August and 4 calls in September. Halloween Trick or Treat will be observed on Thursday, October 28 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION: Mr. Steff said he will prepare resolution in connection with the borough's tax forgiveness of the taxes for 824 First Street. He will send resolution to borough secretary for signature and to provide a copy to Mr. Brkovich.

BOROUGH ENGINEER: Mr. Frye said that he will assist with the Beaver County American Rescue Plan grant. He has talked to Mr. Youngblood and that paving should take place at the end of October. He will ask Youngblood to provide a curb along the catch basin on 5th Street near JR's Beer Warehouse.

RECREATION: Mr. Drumm said he talked to Ms. Hutsky about the pavilion at the playground. She said she found pavilions on line and would provide pricing. Mr. Simon suggested that she look at Home Depot.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Frye said the catch basin repair on Stewart should be done as soon as possible. He said no need to bid as the work will be under bid requirements.

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 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary/Treasurer