The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, December 6, 2023 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 and roll call was taken.

PRESENT: John Drumm, James Simon, Joseph Seminick, David Wagner and George Davies

ABSENT: Mayor Robert Knox

ALSO PRESENT: Solicitor Paul Steff, Sgt. Dawn Shane, Engineer Jeff Frye, Anthony Lombardo and AJ and Teresa Blazier

CITIZENS REPORT: Teresa Blazier presented paperwork she obtained from the Beaver County Tax Claim Office in order to purchase the Kaminski property on Oak Avenue. Solicitor Steff reviewed the paperwork and indicated that it had been signed by the Chief Assessor for Beaver County. He indicated to Ms. Blazier that it needs to be signed by the Borough and the Rochester Area School District.

The amount of taxes due is $3,477.15 for Parcel No. 20-001-0327.000. He explained to Ms. Blazier the process and that the property needs to be purchased first and then she can come back to the borough and ask for exoneration of the back taxes from 2020 to present. If council approves the tax exoneration either a resolution or a letter would be prepared and a copy would be presented to the county.

A motion was made by Mr. Wagner and seconded by Mr. Seminick to approve the purchase of the property at 832 Oak Avenue by AJ and Teresa Blazier from the Beaver County Tax Repository. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Anthony Lombardo of 1 Ramsey Way came to the meeting to inquire about building a garage on the paper street in the rear of his property. He said he would like to know if the borough would vacate the property. Solicitor Steff indicated that the paper street is owned by the Borough and there is more involved than asking the Borough to vacate the property. He said that Mr. Lombardo could not block the right-of-way and that the street would need to be brought up to borough specifications. He said that a person cannot build anything on a paper street. Mr. Steff said that Mr. Lombardo can consult with an attorney if he wishes, but there are other property rights involved.

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 the previous meeting, Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: Secretary read invitation from Drumm & Sons Contracting for a Christmas Party on December 16, 2023 at the Rochester Owls, 107 New York Avenue

beginning at 6:00. The party is being given by Drumm & Sons to show appreciation and support by the Borough for his small business.

MAYOR and POLICE: Sgt. Shane gave the report. There were 47 calls for service and 20 traffic citations for the month of November.

Sgt. Shane indicated that a camera is going to be installed at the plaza. She said that the Wi-Fi feed will be from Monaca. If that is not feasible then it will be from the Hot Dog Shoppe.

STREETS & SEWERS: Mr. Drumm indicated that the radiator for the lift station has been repaired and that a new pump was ordered and should be delivered shortly.

It was noted that there still is an issue with the LED lights on Route 65.

Mr. Drumm indicated that Mr. Gozur has made a request to build a lean two behind the borough building to store extra road salt. After discussion, it was decided to wait until spring and repair the current salt shed, by extending the size of the current shed.

The new truck has been delivered. Mr. Drumm said the borough needs to purchase flashers and decals. A quote has been received for approximately $1,400. Secretary to inquire if this can be paid from liquid fuels. Mr. Wagner made motion to accept bid of $1,400 for flashers and decals for the new truck. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Discussion held about advertising for sale of the old truck. Mr. Simon indicated that a bid of $18,000 has been received. Mr. Steff indicated that per Pennsylvania law, the borough needs to advertise the sale of the old truck. He said that bids will be opened at the January meeting. Mr. Simon made motion to authorize Mr. Steff to advertise for bids for sale of the old truck. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

BUILDING PERMITS: No permits issued

FINANCE AND BUDGET/TAX REPORT: Tax Collection for November $9,392.89; Commission for November $469.64; Total bills paid November 2 to December 6 $42,022.39; Payroll from November 2 to December 6 $6,244.61 (net pay - includes street, secretary, zoning, tax collector, council and mayor); Pennvest December payment $1,024.95.

Mr. Wagner made motion to pay tax collector commission. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mr. Simon made motion to pay tax bills. Mr. Davies seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mr. Drumm indicated that the secretary has requested permission to transfer $80,000 from EIT account to general fund to cover expenses until 2024 tax revenue is received. Mr. Seminick made motion to transfer $80,000 from EIT account to general funds. Mr. Wagner seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mr. Drumm indicated that council needs to formerly adopt the 2024 borough budget. At this time Mr. Steff presented Resolution 12-6-23(1) adopting the 2024 East Rochester Borough Budget. Mr. Simon made motion to adopt Resolution 12-6-23-(1). Mr. Davies seconded. By way of roll call vote.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: October and November reports was given by secretary. Santa Claus will be in the borough on December 16 starting at 1:00. Secretary indicated that she notified the secretary for Lacock Dwellings when Santa Claus will be in the borough.

SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION: Solicitor Steff said that in accordance with the county wide reassessment, the milage for the borough changed based on certified value of borough property. He said the new milage rate decreased to 4.0530 mills, but will generate the same revenue as last year. He then presented Resolution 12-6-23(2) fixing the milage for the Borough at 4.0530 mills. Mr. Wagner made motion to adopt Resolution 12-6-23(2) fixing the milage rate for the borough at 4.0530 mills. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Secretary said that the 2024 council meeting schedule dates is in each members folder. Mr. Steff will advertise the 2024 meeting schedule. Mr. Simon made motion to authorize Mr. Steff the advertise the 2024 meeting schedule for the borough. Mr. Davies seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

BOROUGH ENGINEER: Mr. Frye indicated that the Local Share Account program application has been submitted to the state. He said the borough applied for street paving and installation of catch basins on 5th Street and Stewart Avenue.

He said that 2 bids were received for the project. One from CTM Construction and one from Drumm and Sons Contracting. CTM was the lowest bidder with a bid of $163,580.25 for 5th Street and $106,707.50 for Stewart Avenue. Mr. Frye said that per bid instructions, separate bids were submitted for Ramsey Way, 6th Street, 5th Street and Stewart Avenue.

Mr. Seminick asked if the borough could re-bid. Mr. Frye said CTM does decent work but does not pay prevailing wage. Mr. Wagner asked which streets are a priority. Mr. Frye said he feels Stewart Avenue and then 5th Street because the hillside is receding on 5th Street. Mr. Frye said he feels that Stewart is the major thoroughfare into the borough. Mr. Frye said that Stewart and 5th cannot be taken care of without the LSA grant money.

Discussion was held about using the remaining county ARP funds. Secretary said there is approximately $63,000 remaining. Mr. Frye indicated that the borough could install the catch basin on Ramsey Way and 6th Street with those funds.

After discussion, it was decided to re-bid in the spring for Stewart and 5th. Mr. Wagner made motion to allow CTM Construction to work on Ramsey Way for his bid amount of $46,279.25. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

RECREATION: Progress.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Progress.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Drumm indicated that a proposal had been submitted by Patrick McGuire for consideration for the position of borough Code Enforcement Officer. A copy of said proposal is in each council member's folder. Mr. Steff indicated that Mr. McGuire is Code Enforcement Officer in Rochester Borough and several other municipalities.

Mr. Seminick made motion to hire Patrick McGuire as Borough Code Enforcement Officer at the rate of $50 per hour beginning January 1, 2024. Mr. Wagner seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried. Secretary was instructed to notify Mr. McGuire.

There being no further business a motion was made by Mr. Simon and seconded by Mr. Seminick to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary/Treasurer