The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, November 1, 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 and David Wagner

ABSENT: George Davies

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Robert Knox, Solicitor Paul Steff, Sgt. Dawn Shane, Engineer Jeff Frye and Pastor Todd Smith or Rock Christian Fellowship

CITIZENS REPORT: Pastor Todd Smith indicated he came to the meeting to obtain council's approval to exonerate the 2023 taxes for Rock Christian Fellowship. He indicated that ownership of the church had changed and that according to county rules once ownership changes, the new ownership is automatically put on the tax rolls for county, borough and school district. He said he attended the county assessment hearing and county indicated to him that the church is non-profit and told him to obtain tax exoneration for 2023 for the school district and county. He attended the school board meeting on October 23rd at which time the school board exonerated the 2023 taxes.

Mr. Drumm asked Mr. Steff if a resolution needs to be drafted or if council can act by motion to exonerate the 2023 borough taxes for Rock Christian Fellowship. Mr. Steff indicated that council can act on Pastor Smith's request at this time by motion of council. At this time, Mr. Wagner made motion to exonerate the 2023 taxes for Rock Christian Fellowship. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and the motion was carried. Mr. Steff said that the secretary should prepare and send a letter to Rock Christian Fellowship indicating that council exonerated the 2023 taxes.

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

COMMUNICATIONS: 1. Engagement letter from Herman & Loll regarding 2024 auditor services. Fee for 2024 will be $3,000. Mr. Simon made motion to accept 2024 engagement of Herman & Loll for 2024 auditor services. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

2. Received email from Department of Environmental Protection indicating that the MS4 Waiver had been received and approved. The waiver applies for a 5-year period and expires on October 17, 2027.

3. Letter from Baden American Legion indicated that the 2023 Beaver County Veteran's Day Parade will be held in Beaver on November 11, 2023.

MAYOR and POLICE: Mayor Knox read the police report for October. There were 74 calls for service, 1 arrest and 15 citations.

Mayor Knox indicated that he received a call from Daniel Whetzel of PennDOT regarding Stewart Avenue. Mr. Whetzel agrees that the road needs repaired. He told Mayor Knox that PennDOT is willing to get the road repaired, but needs to check to see if there is funding for the work. Mr. Whetzel told Mayor Knox that he will have the road milled, paved and fix the catch basins.

Mayor Knox said that he asked the Secretary to contact Tammy Frank at the county regarding the outage of the lights out on Route 65. Secretary indicated that she contacted Ms. Frank who was aware of the issue and indicated that the county will be contacting an electrical contractor to remedy the situation.

Mayor Knox asked if council had made any decision regarding a trail camera at the East Washington Street Ballfield. He said that Duquesne Light will donate lights for the ballfield. Mayor Knox also said that the chain for the ballfield needs to be put back up. Mr. Frye said he talked with the engineer for the Rochester Area Joint Sewer Maintenance Authority about the water laying in the ballfield. He indicated that infiltration may be causing the water issue.

It was mentioned about the street light at the beginning of Case Street stays on constantly. Mayor Knox said he talked to Duquesne Light and because there is a safety glitch with the light, it will stay on all the time. Duquesne Light indicated that they would take care of it.

STREETS & SEWERS: Mr. Drumm indicated that the generator at the lift station is leaking antifreeze. He had Mr. Gozur removed the radiator and will take it to be evaluated to see if it can be fixed or we need to purchase a new one.

Sgt. Shane said the County's District Attorney's Office is donating a license plate reader camera. She said one is going to be installed at the red light at Sheetz in Rochester, but they also install cameras that catch traffic just to help solve crimes. The DA's office is willing to install a camera at the traffic lights in East Rochester. Sgt. Shane she is going to talk to one of the businesses to see if they would donate the internet, so that we could feed off their internet, which would cost approximately $400 a year for the borough to maintain the internet. DA's Office is willing to donate the cameras to assist the police in solving crimes. After discussion about the installation of the cameras, Mr. Wagner made motion to budget for and pay the $400 annual fee. 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 October $1,862.68; Commission for October $93.13; Total bills paid October 5 to November 1 $27,384.99; payroll from October 5 to November 1 - $2,888.21 (net pay - includes street, secretary, zoning, tax collector); Pennvest November payment $1,024.95.

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

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

Mr. Wagner made motion to transfer $1,830.53 from the American Rescue Plan account to General Fund. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

At this time, Mr. Drumm asked if anyone on council had a question regarding the 2024 General Fund Budget. There being none, Mr. Wagner made motion to have Mr. Steff advertise the Borough's 2024 General Fund Budget. Mr. Seminick seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and the motion was carried. Mr. Steff will prepare and present the tax ordinance for adoption at the December meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: No report.

SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION: Solicitor Steff said he will advertise the tax ordinance regarding the 2024 budget and have ready for adoption at the December meeting.

Secretary indicated that she had prepared the Resolution needed to be adopted for the Local Share Program grant. Mr. Steff reviewed said Resolution and indicated that he prefers to have a signature line added on said Resolution for the President of council to sign. Secretary will make correction and Mr. Drumm can sign. Mr. Seminick made motion to adopt the Resolution authorizing the borough to apply for the Local Share Program grant. Mr. Wagner seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

BOROUGH ENGINEER: Mr. Frye indicated that he will speak to the engineer for the Rochester Area Joint Authority Sewer Management again regarding the water at the ballfield.

He said he will work with the secretary to get the Local Share Account grant prepared and filed by the November 30, 2023 deadline.

He said he has extended the bid opening for the catch basin project to November 16. He said 5 sets of plans were sent out to various contractors.

RECREATION: Mr. Drumm indicated that he was approached by a Rochester Borough councilman regarding the Borough's interest in selling East Washington Street Ballfield property. Mr. Steff said he thinks that the property has to be used for recreational purposes. He will research at the county. He also said that the sale of any borough property has to be put out for bid. Mr. Frye said he thinks the ballfield was initially built with grant money.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Mr. Steff said that under the new county assessment, the borough's tax base is the same as last year. He said that the county has a conversion formula which is used to determine the actual millage of the new assessments. He said using the

county's conversion formula, the borough's millage of 27 mills is converted to 4.0803 mills. He said this is tentative until all the assessment appeals are completed and the county certifies all millage rates, which has to be done by November 15th. He said when he advertises the borough's 2024 budget, it will show the millage at 4.0803 mills instead of 27 mills.

NEW BUSINESS: Mayor Knox indicated that he received the resolution from Rep. Matzie's office honoring Joyce Gordon's years of service to the borough. He will send it to her daughter.

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 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary/Treasurer