The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, May 1, 2024 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, George Davies, James Simon and David Wagner

ALSO PRESENT: Solicitor Paul Steff, Engineer Jeff Frye, Sgt. Dawn Shane, Deborah Ahern, Valerie DeLauter and Borough Secretary.

ABSENT: Mayor Robert Knox, Councilman Joseph Seminick and Code Enforcement Officer Patrick McGuire

CITIZENS REPORT: Mrs. DeLauter of 4 Sixth Street Ext. said that when it rains heavily the water runs through the yards and down Sixth St. Ext. Mr. Drumm said the property at the end of Sixth St. Ext. (beyond the gate) is owned by Kelar Properties. Mrs. Delauter said the water has run so hard down the road that a gas line is exposed near her home. Borough Secretary was instructed to call Columbia Gas Company to ask them to check out the issue of the exposed gas line.

Mr. Frye said he will also look at the situation. It was mentioned that the condition of the private drive on Sixth St. Ext. is the responsibility of Kelar Properties.

Mrs. DeLauter inquired as to who is paying the insurance on the firehall. Mr. Drumm indicated that he is renting the property and pays the insurance. Mr. Steff indicated that firehall business is a separate matter and not a borough issue. Mrs. DeLauter said she does not understand why the firehall is still in existence where there is no fire department and why taxes on the building are not required. Mr. Steff said that the matter is not a borough expenditure and that the fire department is a separate entity.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: Mr. Drumm asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting. There being none, Mr. Davies made motion to accept minutes of the previous meeting, Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

MAYOR and POLICE: Sgt. Shane gave report for April. There were 47 calls for service and 4 citations.

STREETS & SEWERS: See Engineer report

BUILDING PERMITS: No permits issued in April.

FINANCE AND BUDGET/TAX REPORT: Tax Collection for April $52,797.25; tax collector commission for April $1,602.32; Total Bills paid $34,795.92 (April 4 to May 1); Payroll for $3,939.77 (April 4 to May 1); Pennvest May payment $1,024.95; Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority payment for March $5,751.03

Mr. Simon made motion to pay tax collector's commission for April collections. Mr. Wagner seconded. Roll call vote taken and all in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Wagner made motion to pay the bills. Mr. Davies seconded. Roll call vote taken and all in favor. Motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: No report for April.

SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION: Mr. Steff indicated that he prepared letters to be signed by the residents at 2 Ramsey Way and 3 Ramsey Way grating easement on their properties so that the work can begin for the installation of catch basins on Ramsey Way. He indicated that upon completion of the project a formal Deed of Easement will be prepared and recorded. Secretary was instructed to obtain signatures from the residents at 2 and 3 Ramsey Way of the letters prepared.

Mr. Steff said he received from the Borough Secretary the information on the renewal of the Comcast Franchise Agreement. The renewal is for a period of 3 years. Currently the borough receives franchise fees quarterly from Comcast. The proposed renewal would continue through 2028. Nothing needs to be done by the Borough. The contract automatically renews unless Comcast is otherwise notified by the Borough.

BOROUGH ENGINEER: Mr. Frye indicated he received a verbal quote from Youngblood Paving for emergency repair of the lower portion of Stewart Avenue (from Route 65 to Stewart Drive – the road to PennDOT). The quote is for $22,700. Mrs. Ahern mentioned that in 2022 taxes were raised to cover street paving. She questioned about that money. Mr. Drumm said that money was for paving of Pine and Atlas. Mr. Wagner asked that if the borough engineer obtains a lower bid for Stewart can the Borough accept the lower bid. Mr. Steff said that the Borough can accept the lower bid. Discussion held by council as to how to handle the paving of Stewart Avenue. It was mentioned that this is an emergency situation and needs to be addressed quickly.

Mr. Frye said he advertised for bids for paving of Atlas and Pine. The bids were advertised in the Beaver County times on two occasions. Bids were to be received at the Borough Office by 2:00 PM on May 1, 2024. Youngblood Paving was the only company to submit a bid. Their bid is in the amount of $53,212.00. After discussion by council regarding options for paving, Mr. Simon made motion to accept the bid received for the paving of Atlas and Pine by Youngblood Paving in the amount of $53,212.00. Mr. Davies seconded. By way of roll call vote, all were in favor and motion was carried.

Mr. Wagner then made motion to allow Engineer Jeff Frye to obtain other bids for Stewart Avenue and to accept the lowest bid. Mr. Davies seconded. By way of roll call vote, all were in favor and motion was carried.

Mr. Frye indicated that he was contacted by Valvoline regarding issues during the heavy rains. The parking lot there was flooded. He said that after investigation that a portion of the road near Valvoline was vacated by Ordinance No. 251 enacted in 1988. He said that the culvert is part of the road and property of Valvoline and he provided a copy of Ordinance No. 251 to the management at Valvoline.

Mr. Frye indicated that he received a call from John Karcher of the Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority regarding the issue of a lot of grit and dirt in Rochester Area Joint Sewer system. Mr. Frye said he mentioned to Mr. Karcher about what is going on at Valvoline

RECREATION: Mr. Drumm said he looked at the ballfield and the creek is washing out. Mr. Wagner said the top part needs a new fence. Maybe there is enough money in the Recreation account to take care of the issue. Mr. Drumm suggested putting wire baskets there. Mr. Frye indicated may need stream encroachment permit from DEP. Mrs. Ahern asked who uses the field. Mr. Drumm said that Rochester Baseball had expressed interest in using the field this summer, but they do not have the funds to use it this year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Progress

NEW BUSINESS: Progress

There being no further business a motion was made by Mr. Simon and seconded by Mr. Davies to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary/Treasurer