The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, October 2, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at Rochester Borough Council Chambers, 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, Joseph Seminick and David Wagner

ALSO PRESENT: Solicitor Paul Steff, Officer Mark Murphy, Engineer Jeff Frye, Borough Secretary, Code Enforcement Officer Patrick McGuire, Deborah Ahern, Valerie DeLauter and Anthony Lombardo

ABSENT: Mayor Knox

CITIZENS REPORT: Mrs. DeLauter questioned about if Mr. Drumm pays rent and insurance for the firehall. She asked what amount Mr. Drumm is paying for his insurance. Mr. Drumm indicated that he has separate insurance and that rent is paid for the firehall. She also questioned about note in previous minutes that 2 generators were for sale. She asked if they were sold and if the money was put back into the general fund. Mr. Drumm indicted that one generator was sold and the money was deposited into the general fund.

Mrs. Ahern questioned about the insurance for the firehall. She said that under an umbrella policy the firehall can be removed from the policy. Mr. Drumm indicated that the firehall must first be sold in order to remove it from the borough insurance policy.

Mrs. Ahern asked whether the council members were aware of the Sunshine Law and Ethics Act. She said she made a Right to Know request and that said request can be processed by the secretary. She asked if the solicitor is padding his bill so he can invoke 30 days extension. Mrs. Ahern said it is a Sunshine Law violation.

Mr. Lombardo inquired as to why the Ramsey Way project was pulled. Mr. Drumm explained that there was an emergency situation on Stewart Avenue which required new drainage and paving so therefore, the funds for Ramsey Way were used on Stewart Avenue. Mr. Lombardo said the street is in bad shape. Mr. Drumm said that the borough hopes to have catch basins installed on Ramsey Way at some point.

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 carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: Secretary read letter from Beaver County regarding glass recycling program.

MAYOR and POLICE: There were 55 calls for service in September. Mr. Drumm said that inquiry had been made as why the borough is not taking care of the grass at the back of the

VFW parking lot. Mr. Drumm said that previously the VFW was given permission to burn old flags in that area and they always maintained the grass in that area. If the VFW does not want to take care of the grass, then they will not be allowed to burn the old flags. He said that there is a lot of debris in that area and that the borough will have to pay for someone to come in and clean it up. Mr. Wagner suggested to clean up the area and not allowing the burning of old flags there. Mr. Simon suggested talking to Wes Hill of the VFW.

STREETS & SEWERS: LM&R Excavating completed two projects on Stewart. Mr. Frye indicated that some additional things were found that the borough did not know about. He said they did a great job. The extras amounted to $6,396.64 which changed that total for the catch basin installations to $56,857.64. The amount of $14,834 was the cost of the pipe installation across Stewart. Mr. Wagner made motion to pay LM&R Excavating the amounts of $14,834.00 and $56,857.64, respectively. Mr. Davies seconded. Some of the money for payment will come from County ARP Funds.

BUILDING PERMITS: Mr. McGuire indicated that he is working on various issues in the borough. He said most properties have been cleaned up. He said there are currently about 6 trouble properties and more notices will be sent.

FINANCE AND BUDGET/TAX REPORT: Tax Collection for September $393.67; tax collector commission for September $19.68; total all bills $46,924.80 (Sept. 5 to Oct. 2); total payroll $3,951.37 (Sept. 5 to Oct. 2 for street, secretary and tax collector); Pennvest October payment, $1,024.95; Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority collection for August $4,925.04.

Mr. Wagner made motion for pay tax collector's commission for September. Mr. Davies seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

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

Mr. Wagner made motion to transfer the amount of $60,000 to the general fund from Sewer Maintenance. Mr. Simon seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: No report

SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION: Progress

BOROUGH ENGINEER: Mr. Frye indicated that Youngblood will be in the borough to pave the lower portion of Stewart Avenue and all of Atlas Avenue at the end of this week. Youngblood will provide flaggers for traffic control.

RECREATION: It was discussed and decided to apply for the 2025 Pennsylvania Local Share Program for the ballfield and playground. Mr. Drumm said he has already started checking on pricing for various things. A list of what is needed is in each council members folders. The deadline for the application if November 30, 2024.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Progress.

NEW BUSINESS: Borough man would like to apply for a fuel card which can be issued at Get Go or Co-Go's. The price of fuel at Martino is higher than the prices at the other establishments. Mr. Simon made motion to apply for fuel card. Mr. Davies seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Mr. Simon indicated that Mr. Gozur will be taking the following dates off: October 4 – 7; October 18 – 21; November 1-4 and December 23-27. All these days will be taken off without pay.

There being no further business a motion was made by Mr. Simon and seconded by Mr. Wagner to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary/Treasurer