

REGULAR SESSION ** ECONOMY BOROUGH COUNCIL ** JUNE 24, 2008

Council President Ronald R. Rock called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers of the Economy Municipal Building to conduct business of general purposes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Rock requested a Moment of Silence for Irene Mutschler, wife of Art Mutschler, who passed away, June 15, 2008.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Larry Googins, Arthur Mutschler, Audrey Mutschler, Renee Raymer, Donald Sivy, John C. Thomas, Ronald R. Rock

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor David N. Poling, (7:08 PM), Chad McMillen, Esq., Randy S. Kunkle, Borough Manager, Earl Fitzgerald, Road Foreman

HEAR THE PUBLIC:

Richard Mueller, 104 Roberts Lane, came before Council and provided a written request asking Council to review a drainage pipe on Roberts Lane that does not seem to be serving its purpose and causing rain water to overflow across Roberts Lane causing erosion damage to his property. Mr. Fitzgerald will contact Scott or Norm to review this; feels the pipe needs changed or removed; this may be in an Economy Borough easement.

MINUTES:

Mrs. Mutschler requested in the Minutes of June 10, 2008, page 423, line 1, be deleted (this is a past practice that needs to end); and insert; this has to end, don't tell me this is another past practice; and page 424, paragraph 3, after the motion indicate Mrs. Mutschler left the room to use the rest room.

MOTION by Mr. Sivy seconded by Mrs. Raymer – to approve the Minutes of the June 10, 2008, Regular Session of Council, as corrected. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Poling reported water washing across Roberts Lane across from Rich Lapinski's house. Mr. Fitzgerald will look at this with Scott.

Mayor Poling reported the telephone pole across from the garage is nearly on the newly paved roadway. Mr. Kunkle reported he has made an inquiry to PennDOT regarding this and the white lines are still to be put down.

Mayor Poling reported Lou Mercandante, 2828 Conway Wallrose Road, is having a hard time coming out of his driveway due to the new higher berm. This will be reported.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. Yard Waste Fee: Mr. Kunkle reported there are costs associated with a yard waste program; the exact amounts will become clearer as time goes on; most of the residents are likely not to use it, does Council want everyone to pay for it or implement a small user fee to help offset the costs? Mr. Kunkle reported expenses will include jersey barriers, stone, eventually asphalt, signs, possibly a fence and approximately \$30 to dispose each truckload; internal costs will be an employee's time, truck time and highlift time; suggested \$10-\$20/year/household permit; Beaver Borough charges a \$10/year permit fee.

2. PEDA Grant Requirement: Mr. Kunkle reported applying for another grant through PEDA to replace the lighting in our three oldest buildings; a free lighting audit done last year shows that we can save over \$3,100 per year by using more efficient lights, over 9000 fewer watts will be consumed; the total project is estimated to cost approximately \$20,000; if awarded PEDA will pay \$7,000; will also be applying for a grant through DCED; one of the requirements for the PEDA grant application was a financial commitment letter from Economy Borough stating we'd cover the costs beyond what the grant pays for; after talking with several Council members, Mr. Rock signed that letter last week to meet the filing deadline; a motion to ratify this would be appropriate; we are not locked into anything at this point, we can always decline it later; this will have a three to five year payback depending on the DCED application. Mr. Sivy would like an estimate of the costs of what will be replacing with regards to labor and materials.

MOTION by Mr. Googins, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to ratify execution of the June 20, 2008, Financial Commitment letter to PEDA for the lighting grant application. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Brush Hog Damage: Mr. Kunkle reported possible damage done to a home on Amsler Road on June 9th while brush hogging; this was turned into our insurance company, who will handle the outcome; no estimate of damage is available.

Mr. Rock reported Robinson Township uses a small portable speed monitoring device; seems effective as drivers slow down when they see their speed on the monitor; suggested the monitors could be used at hot spots. Mr. Kunkle reported the portable device costs \$3,695 each. Mr. Fitzgerald reported emailing APWA members and receiving information back from Peters Township that they received a grant to purchase the devices. Officer Foley reported Moon Township also has the portable devices.

Mayor Poling reported with Westinghouse moving to Cranberry Township, Economy Borough should market itself; Dale Kryder marketed New Sewickley Township to Liberty Hills. Mr. Googins suggested the Economy Borough Planning Commission could do this. Mr. Thomas suggested some kind of brochure.

Mrs. Mutschler requested copies of the scrap proceeds receipts that were turned in.

COMMITTEE REPORTS and OTHER BUSINESS:

PUBLIC UTILITIES:

Mr. McMillen reported the declaration judgment will be filed after it is signed tonight.

Mr. Kunkle reported the Ambridge Water Authority water tank is scheduled to be filled sometime mid June to mid July.

PROPERTY and BUILDING:

Mr. Sivy reported on the condition of the community building; the road department can do a lot of the work to turn the room into a training/break room; approximately \$2,000 to get the room ready; will firm up the costs and continue to work on this; suggested looking for a grant for the replacement of the doors and windows. Mr. Rock suggested prioritizing what gets done. Mr. Googins reported the room should be secured with a door that locks (the hinges are still there from where a door was removed); an air conditioner with dehumidifier installed in the block wall; and hot water tank replaced (hasn't worked for years). Mr. Thomas suggested proceeding if there are sufficient funds.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

No Report

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Raymer requested Mr. Kunkle send letters to the department heads to start the 2009 budget; a Capital Improvement Fund for the future is being considered.

ROAD DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Googins asked Mr. McMillen to check with Mr. Fouse to see if the formal reply from the Teamsters has been received regarding the road department vacation buy back grievance.

ORDINANCE and RECREATION:

Mr. Thomas reported reviewing the parking ordinances and only 3 roads are covered for no parking on the streets (Beaver Road, Lynn Road and Swamp Run Road); ordinance is very vague; will look into this more. Mayor Poling suggested feelers out to the people. Mr. Kunkle will put an article in the next newsletter to get feedback of some kind from the residents.

Mr. Thomas reported the Volleyball Camp was a success. Mrs. Mutschler reported possibly in 2009 Mrs. Pfeifer would want 2 camps for 2 age groups. Mr. Thomas reported the Tennis Camp is this week; Basketball Camp is July 7th to July 11th; Karate is coming up in the near future; and a trip to Wheeling is scheduled for August 9th (\$25, leave at 8:30 AM and back by 6:30 PM).

REPORTS:

SECRETARY:

No Report

ENGINEER:

No Report

SOLICITOR:

Mr. McMillen requested an executive session to discuss two pending legal issues with no vote.

Mr. Googins asked that the fee for the yard waste permit be decided tonight as we want to get the program started next week. Direction signs are ordered and an information sheet will be given out with the permit. Mayor Poling advised Emery Tree and Wood Waste provide containers at no cost for yard waste recycling.

MOTION by Mr. Googins, seconded by Mr. Thomas – to establish an annual user fee for the yard waste drop off program of \$10.00 per residential household and \$250.00 for commercial use for disposal of yard waste; sunup to sundown, Monday thru Saturday. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

HEAR THE PUBLIC II:

Butch Thompson, 115 First Street, asked if a penalty would be imposed for dumping unwanted materials at the yard waste program site. Officer Foley advised this would be covered under the illegal dumping ordinance, with fines.

MOTION by Mrs. Mutschler, seconded by Mr. Googins – to enter into Executive Session to discuss 2 pending litigations, with no vote to be taken tonight. Time 8:17 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Mr. Sivy, seconded by Mrs. Raymer – to return to the regular order of business. Time: 8:25 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Mr. Sivy, seconded by Mrs. Raymer – to adjourn the meeting. Time: 8:25 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Susan A. Blum
Borough Secretary
June 30, 2008