

REGULAR SESSION ** ECONOMY BOROUGH COUNCIL ** SEPTEMBER 11, 2007

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

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Nick F. Gnarra, Jr., Larry Googins, Arthur O. Mutschler, Audrey Mutschler, Renee Raymer, Ronald R. Rock

ABSENT: Donald Sivy-Working out of town.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor David N. Poling, Dale M. Fouse, Esq., Norman Shoup, P.E., Randy S. Kunkle, Borough Manager

HEAR THE PUBLIC:

Darryl J. Bates, 1777 Zehnder Road, came before Council with a letter of request for information regarding property across the street from his property; would like to have permission to park vehicles on this property or a variance to the no on street parking within 20' of a posted stop sign ordinance. Mr. Shoup felt this was a public right-of-way. Mr. Rock advised Mr. Bates this will be looked into and Mr. Kunkle would reply to his letter.

Bob Mecchia, 211 Fernwood Drive, advised the signs and white lines are not helping with the speeding problem on Park Hill Road. Mr. Rock asked Mrs. Mutschler and Mayor Poling to talk to Chief Harrington about using the electronic speed awareness monitor on Park Hill Road, in both directions.

MINUTES:

MOTION by Mr. Mutschler seconded by Mr. Gnarra – to approve the Minutes of the August 28, 2007, Regular Session of Council, as written. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Poling read the Mayor's Monthly Report for the Police Department for the month of August, 2007, as prepared by Chief Harrington, which will be on file for review in the borough secretary's office.

Mayor Poling reported receiving numerous calls regarding the sidewalks in Sunset Hills and viewed that some of the issues were caused by utility company repairs. Mr. Kunkle advised information has been given to all residents in the newsletters since 2002 that they are responsible for maintenance and upkeep of sidewalks on/in front of their property; this was also discussed at the August 14, 2007, Council meeting; will contact the utility company causing issues to help the residents get the needed repairs caused by their work; will direct the CEO to do the worst first, that cracks and grass in cracks may not fit the category.

Mayor Poling asked if anyone knew what time the Ambridge Water Authority is turning off the water for the repair work scheduled for Saturday. Mr. Googins advised this work is for Traditions of American (Liberty Hills) and is being subcontracted out and AWA did not know what time it will begin or end.

Mayor Poling asked if the ruts in the roadway behind the police building caused by the dumpster should be bid out for repair as this is how the prisoners are taken into the police building. Mr. Kunkle stated this could be done in house. Mr. Rock asked that Earl review this.

Mr. Googins thanked Mayor Poling and the police department for their assistance with his concern of opposite directional parking on streets.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. 2008 MMO's: Mr. Kunkle advised these are the MMO's for 2008 for the pension plans; Council does not have to do anything with them other than acknowledge through the minutes that they were presented to Council.

2. Shaffer Road Waterline Maintenance Agreement: Mr. Kunkle reported meeting with members of the AWA and Mr. Googins yesterday and the AWA is not looking for a developer's agreement for the Shaffer Road waterline. Mr. Shoup reported 2 reasons for this, 1) the water line is in the ground and 2) AWA inspected the contractors work. Mr. Kunkle will send a copy of the August 28, 2007, minutes to AWA with the motion conveying to AWA all water line and improvements, upon completion.

3. Economy Volunteer Fire Department (EVFD): Mr. Kunkle reported Fire Chief Jake Thomas notified him that the EVFD is getting written permission from Mr. Slappo to use his property near Cooney Hollow Road and Nordheim Road for fire related training of the EVFD with regards to quads. Mrs. Mutschler requested the EVFD notify the police department of the dates and times of the training events. Mr. Gnarra verified with Mr. Kunkle that these are their personal quads; discussion following with regards to the borough's liability on the personally owned quads and worker's compensation on fire fighters. Mr. Fouse advised if the volunteer firemen are volunteering the use of their personal vehicles he would not recommend paying for liability on the vehicles. Mr. Kunkle will let Chief Thomas know there are questions regarding the insurance and until they are answered there is no official blessing from Council.

4. PSAB Fall Leadership Conference: Mr. Kunkle advised the PSAB Fall Leadership Conference is in State College, October 19-21, 2007; deadline for registration is Sept. 28th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS and OTHER BUSINESS:

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Mr. Gnarra verified that the MEIT health care invoice is not initialed due to a pending employee issue; the invoice will be paid on time and any credit will be applied to the next bill. Mrs. Mutschler asked that if Sgt. Heitzenrater requested health care in writing be researched; if it was, there could possibly be a way to have the money reimbursed back to Economy Borough. Mr. Googins reported he has a better understanding of the military health care vs. civilian health care for activated National Guard personnel after speaking to the officer in charge of insurance at the air base.

Mr. Rock and Mr. Kunkle will contact State Rep. Sean Ramaley for his assistance to have PennDOT follow through with their partnering with Economy Borough to supply a backhoe w/operator and 1 catch basin (for use at the angle point) for the water drainage issue at 1920 Conway Wallrose Road, caused by PennDOT; the 16 sections of 15” x 20’ pipe delivered to the site may not be enough.

MOTION by Mr. Gnarra, seconded by Mrs. Mutschler – that all bills listed and properly signed off by the appropriate supervisor of that department be approved for payment. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Mr. Gnarra, seconded by Mr. Googins – to authorize the increase of the Economy Borough Municipal Authority Board remuneration for the next new term to \$125/month for the chairman and \$100/month for the board members. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Mr. Gnarra, seconded by Mr. Mutschler – to authorize the increase of the Economy Borough Planning Commission remuneration for the next new term to \$60.00/month for the chairman, \$50/month for the vice chairman and secretary, and \$45/month for the commission members.

Yes – Mr. Gnarra, Mr. Googins, Mr. Mutschler, Mrs. Raymer, Mr. Rock

Absent – Mr. Sivy

Abstain – Mrs. Mutschler

MOTION by Mr. Gnarra, seconded by Mrs. Raymer – to authorize the increase of the Zoning Hearing Board remuneration for the next new term to \$50/meeting for the Chairman, and \$40/month for the board members. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ROAD DEPARTMENT:

No Report

ORDINANCE and RECREATION:

No Report

PUBLIC UTILITIES

No Report

PROPERTY and BUILDING:

No Report

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Mutschler requested an Executive Session to discuss personnel and military.

REPORTS:

SECRETARY:

The secretary reported Mike Maker had knee surgery today and is doing fine; surgery was needed due to a work related accident.

ENGINEER:

No Report

SOLICITOR:

Mr. Fouse requested an Executive Session regarding a retirement issue and economic development.

*MOTION by Mrs. Mutschler, seconded by Mr. Googins – to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel retirement issue and economic development, with no vote to be taken tonight.
Time: 8:40 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*

*MOTION by Mr. Mutschler, seconded by Mrs. Raymer – to return to the regular order of business.
Time: 9:35 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*

ADJOURNMENT:

*MOTION by Mr. Mutschler, seconded by Mrs. Raymer – to adjourn the meeting. Time: 9:38 PM
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*

Respectfully submitted,

Susan A. Blum
Borough Secretary
September 14, 2007