

Minutes
Economy Borough Council
12 Aug 08

Economy Borough Council met at 7:00 pm.

Present: Ron Rock – President, Larry Googins – Vice President, Audrey Mutschler, Art Mutschler, Don Sivy, Renee Raymer and John Thomas.

Also Present: Mayor David Polling, Dale Fouse Esq, Norm Shoup Engineer, Randy Kunkle Manager.

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance: Mr Rock called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Hear the Public: Bob Mecchia 211 Fernwood Drive, suggested council should look at the low profile rumble strips in Marshal Township beyond Woodland Road. They act as a wake-up call to the speed monitoring device and get people’s attention. He also noted the posted speed limit is 20 mph. Mr Kunkle is to find out more about the rumble strips.

Minutes: Mrs Mutschler made the following correction: page 435, the last sentence under Public Safety: change “helped in Beaver with a bicycle rodeo and State Farm Insurance helped sponsor it.” to “helped in Brighton Township with a bicycle rodeo, which was sponsored by State Farm Insurance.”

Motion by Mr Thomas, seconded by Mr Sivy to approve the minutes as amended. All voted aye.

Mayors Report: Mayor Poling mentioned several highlights of police activities for the month of July and the report, as prepared by Chief Harrington, is on file in the Borough Office.

Mayor Poling stated he obtained a quote from Superior Asphalt out of New Castle to seal and re-line the police parking lot for \$2,634. This work is needed before winter as the lot is in very bad condition. Discussion followed regarding the extent and type of work to be done, all agreeing that it was a very low price. Mr Shoup explained the proposed work is the same that homeowners do when they seal their asphalt driveways and is designed to last for about one year. His recommendation is to tar and chip it, which if done in-house the materials would cost about the same as the proposal, and the job should last three to five years. Mayor Poling suggested this be put on hold.

Mayor Poling mentioned that the three-way stop at the top of Bock Lane was turned down by PENNDOT and that the Road Department brush-hogged near the intersection and now its wide open and sight distance is not a problem.

Mayor Poling asked that Kathy Anderson be reimbursed for purchases she made at Costco on behalf of the police department. Mr Kunkle stated it should be on the list of bills but upon review it wasn't. To avoid from employees having to spend their own money for borough necessities, and then wait to get reimbursed, it was decided to activate an American Express account with three cards; one for the PD, one at the borough office and one in the road department. Mr Kunkle is to get with Chief Harrington, who is believed to have an American Express account that just needs to be activated. Mr Kunkle will also compare Granger and Costco prices.

Manager's Report:

Vacant, unkempt properties

Mr Kunkle reported the code enforcement officers have found at least five properties that appear to be vacant and the grass has not been cut this year. They've tried every way possible to locate the owners but can't. It appears people are walking away from mortgages. This makes the neighborhoods nuisances. He recommends we find a way to have the yards mowed and the property leined for the borough's expenses. Questions regarding the payback time frame and liability concerns were raised. Mr Fouse responded that it can take years, if ever, to be re-paid and there would be liability exposure but he has seen other municipalities take this approach and it can work on a case by case basis.

Motion by Mr Googins, seconded by Mrs Mutschler, to have a nuisance ordinance drafted that authorizes the filing of a municipal claim to cover the borough's costs to enforce same. All voted aye.

Salt Shed lights

Mr Kunkle mentioned that this has been talked about several times and the Road Committee would like to have lights in place before winter. Mr Shoup explained that DQL finally agreed that we can connect to their transformer nearest the shed and Crown has no objection to it (although Crown is not yet aware their tower will be without power for about four hours while DQL replaces the transformer with a larger unit). He said what needs to happen is a decision on what we want installed has to be made; install the lights/lines; have them inspected; dig the ditch/install conduit/run line to the transformer; then DQL will finish the connection.

Mr Shoup obtained an earlier bid for \$9,500 based on what the original plans called for. Mr Fitzgerald suggested we don't need everything that bid called for and can save some money. It was determined two indoor flood lights are sufficient, two outdoor flood lights near the entrance will do, and for security one light on the back of the building and one on the woods side. At least two outdoor outlets will be included and allowances for future electrical expansion will be included. Mr Shoup will have bids for the next meeting.

Resolution Open Record Officer

Mr Kunkle explained that one of the requirements of the recently updated Open Records Act is to appoint an Open Records Officer who will implement the provisions of said act. He recommends the Borough Secretary be appointed to the position since she is already handling most of these inquiries.

Motion by Mr Mutschler, seconded by Mr Sivy, to appoint the Borough Secretary Open Records Officer for the borough. All voted aye.

Konvolinka Subdivision

Mr Kunkle reported this is a simple subdivision involving two properties, one on Oliver Avenue, the other on Conway Wallrose Road. The Conway Wallrose owner is conveying some property at the rear of the property to the owner on Oliver Avenue to make room for a swimming pool. Beaver County and Economy Borough Planning Commission's have recommended approval with comments.

Motion by Mr Sivy, seconded by Mr Thomas, to approve the Konvolinka subdivision consistent with all comments from the planning commissions. All voted aye.

Click it or ticket money

At the last meeting Officer Lively asked if the additional revenue brought in, to pay for the overtime necessary to participate in the State's Click it or Ticket program and paid for by the state, could be reflected in the police budget. Mr Kunkle stated that like other unexpected, unencumbered revenue, council has the authority to direct it where they see fit and in this case to the PD overtime budget is well justified.

Motion by Mrs Raymer, seconded by Mr Thomas, to increase the police department's overtime budget by \$2,984.44, the amount received to date in 2008 for the Click it or Ticket program.

Discussion followed: since this will be an on-going program how will future revenues be handled/put into the PD overtime budget? It was pointed out that since the program has to be done using officers on overtime, and since the revenue received is put into its own line item, that all of the money received by the end of the year can be dedicated for PD overtime with one budget amendment at the end of the year.

Mrs Raymer withdrew her motion.

Motion by Mrs Raymer, seconded by Mr Googins, to increase line item 410.183 full time police overtime by the amount of money received from the state to implement the Click it or Ticket program at the end of the year. All voted aye.

Ambridge Sportsman's Club Hunting Request

Mr Kunkle reported the Ambridge Sportsman's Club is seeking permission from the state to initiate a non-commercial hunting operation on its grounds for members only. The Game Commission is requiring them to obtain a letter from the borough stating we have no objection to this. Mr Kunkle discussed this with Mr Fouse and there are some issues that need to be resolved. The Zoning Ordinance requires that we determine what the Club was chartered to do and we have an ordinance prohibiting hunting within a mile of a residence, which is questionable as to whether this prohibition is valid.

Motion by Mr Thomas, seconded by Mrs Mutschler, to authorize the Solicitor to research the issues surrounding the Ambridge Sportsman's Club request to initiate hunting operations on its property and to render an opinion regarding the validity of our ordinance. All voted aye.

Committee Reports:

Road

Mr Mutschler read the Road Foreman's report of activities for the month of July. The report will be on file in the Borough Office.

Ordinance and Recreation

Mr Thomas reported that the Recreation Board recently sponsored a casino trip to Wheeling, which was very successful.

Utilities

Mr Googins reported that a recent ad for a laborer for the Municipal Authority was inadvertently published by the Beaver County Times. He said a board member made an inquiry about possibly running an ad due to an anticipated retirement. He said apparently Rich Zaluski's Waste Water Treatment License expires at the end of the year and it is thought that he is not renewing it.

Mr Googins does not have a current estimated start date for the new water tank and asked Mr Kunkle to contact Jeff Allen in this regard. He mentioned that two other estimated start dates have come and gone and electricians are still installing hardware. Concerns

over the possibility of some homes having too much pressure when it goes online were discussed.

Property & Buildings

Mr Sivy reported that several minor maintenance issues have been taken care of and the dug-outs were painted.

Mr Sivy met with the Chief about access control and he still has more questions.

Mr Sivy pointed out that the attic in the PD is huge, that another room could be made out of it but only after excessive heat build up is taken care of.

Public Safety

Mrs Mutschler reported that a Scout is planning an Eagle Scout project to construct a temporary dog holding pen behind the PD. Currently dogs are temporarily held in the garage. The Scout was informed to present his request/proposal to Council.

Finance

Mrs Raymer noted the list of bills is up for approval and asked if anyone had any questions.

Mrs Mutschler asked why 64 t-shirts were purchased by the Road Department. Ted Brickner, road employee, who was in the audience responded they are the green safety t-shirts they wear while working. Mrs Mutschler asked if they are being worn by everyone all the time. Mr Googins responded they are, or at least that was the understanding before the purchase was made.

Mrs Mutschler mentioned truck lights were found left on twice within the last few weeks.

Mayor Poling asked what the \$560 check to TOBRO was for in regard to a perk test at 317 Park Hill Road, since this road has public sewage. Mr Kunkle responded there are occasional lots near sewage lines that can't access them due to topography but was unable to locate the invoice for this particular payment, therefore it will be withheld.

Mayor Poling requested that \$186.82 be paid to Kathy Anderson for PD purchases she made with her own funds.

*26 Aug 08 minutes changed to reflect the following: Mayor Poling questioned the \$1,098.90 truck repair; Mr Sivy explained.

Motion by Mrs Raymer, seconded by Mr Googins, to pay the bills that have been properly signed off by the appropriate department heads except the TOBRO bill and adding the amount owed to Kathy Anderson. All voted aye.

Engineer's Report

Mr Shoup had nothing.

Solicitor's Report

Mr Fouse requested an executive session to discuss litigation involving the Shopping Center.

General

Mr Googins passed out information and briefly talked about the Junior Council Person Program. High School Juniors are selected/volunteer to be on Council with no voting authority but they are encouraged to offer input. PSAB is a big supporter of this program and provided a resolution for consideration that will establish a program here.

Motion by Mr Googins, seconded by Mrs Raymer, to adopt a resolution creating a Junior Council Person Program. All voted aye.

Mr Rock offered to initiate this project with the school district.

Hear the Public II

Mr Mecchia pointed out that hunting at the Sportsman's Club will increase noise and could irritate nearby residents.

Motion by Mr Sivy, seconded by Mrs Raymer, to adjourn to executive session per the solicitor's request. All voted aye.

Mayor Poling mentioned they lost two more part-time officers, who at times filled in for Kathy when she couldn't be at work. Since they are short on part time officers they want to bring Doug Carney in to fill in for Kathy. It was questioned as to whether or not Mr Carney was on disability; this will be checked into first.

Motion by Mr Sivy, seconded by Mrs Mutschler, to adjourn from executive session, return to regular session and adjourn the meeting. All voted aye at 9:20 pm.

Submitted by,

Randy S Kunkle
Borough Manager

