

REGULAR SESSION ** ECONOMY BOROUGH COUNCIL ** MAY 13, 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

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 (7:45 PM), Dale M. Fouse, Esq., Norman Shoup, P.E., Randy S. Kunkle, Borough Manager

HEAR THE PUBLIC:

Butch Thompson, 115 First Street, challenged Council to make a motion and have it seconded to put a freeze on unnecessary spending and of purchasing big ticket items from now till the end of the year to end up with a surplus and with no tax increases; asked Mrs. Raymer to make the motion; just spend money needed to run Economy Borough safely. Mr. Rock reported taxes have not been raised since 2001; worked hard to not raise taxes in 2008; can only go so long without an increase; does not feel a motion is needed to do the best for Economy Borough. Mr. Thompson felt the sealing machine was not necessary at this time or the \$8,000 for the door locks; should be spending money on recreation equipment for the kids. Mr. Sivy reported the money for the crack sealer taken out of the budget would have paved only ½ mile of roadway; it was purchased to save Economy Borough money on the roads and make the roads safer for the residents. Mrs. Mutschler reported the money for the door locks is not spent yet; still looking into it. Mr. Thomas reported recreation equipment is ordered for the Sunset Hills Play Area.

Gary Bucuren, 3480 Conway Wallrose Road, wanted to go on record that Earl should not take the pick up truck home, this would be a way to save money. Mr. Sivy reported this was a benefit proposed when Earl was made road foreman. Mr. Googins read the referred motion made January 4, 1999. Mrs. Mutschler said the truck should be left here.

John Campbell, 123 Gross Drive, advised the floors Council had cleaned in the Police Department and the Municipal Building look good; feels the pick up truck is not a personal vehicle and should not be taken home; reported cinders needing to be swept up at the police department parking lot, Park Hill Road and Mary Reed Road; reported the grass area at the police department needs cut and trimmed and shingles that had blown off previously are just laying in a corner; reported untarped delivery trucks delivering salt to the salt shed in the rain; the rain will cause the salt to cake down and be crusted; asked where the data for the Micro Paver, Pavement Maintenance Management System, will come from and how much will it cost. Mr. Googins reported the data will come from Earl Fitzgerald, Randy Kunkle and Shoup Engineering.

Bob Mecchia, 211 Fernwood Drive, asked what savings will occur from the salt shed; what is the total expense to build the salt shed; does Council have the money for the crack sealer; is Earl Fitzgerald a supervisor or a working foreman? Mr. Rock reported savings will be seen from not being fined from DEP, we can buy salt in bulk at off season prices, and we have a storage area; this was a long term investment for the future. Mrs. Mutschler reported \$350,000.00 total for the salt shed. Mr. Sivy requested a copy of the Power Point, which has the information he is looking for, be provided to Mr. Mecchia. Mr. Sivy reported we have applied for a

\$20,000 DCED loan for the crack sealer, balance of funds from the budget. Mr. Rock asked Gerald States to explain the question on the working foreman. Mr. States reported the working foreman runs the road department, operates equipment and works with the guys (i.e. like a shift supervisor in the mill).

Mr. Campbell suggested a very simple solution would be to itemize the salt shed project.

MINUTES:

Mr. Rock reported on Page 400 of the April 8, 2008 minutes a motion was made to award the Access Control contract to Knighthawk Alarm Services after confirming with Chief Harrington that their proposal is satisfactory. Mrs. Mutschler reported Chief Harrington feels it is not apples to apples; no lock smith is involved. Mayor Poling stated the biggest issue is that the system will not be hard wired. Mrs. Raymer questioned if Knighthawk was asked if they could do this. Mrs. Mutschler will go back to Chief Harrington to go over the system step by step. Mr. Googins stated Knighthawk should be involved in this. Mr. Thomas reported Knighthawk should be talking with Chief Harrington; Chief Harrington should explain to Knighthawk what his problems are to get it corrected; get together to see differences. Mr. Rock asked the Public Safety Committee and Mayor Poling to do that. Mrs. Mutschler will get this taken care of.

Mrs. Mutschler corrected on Page 402, second paragraph under #6 to remove (asked if surrounding communities had been approached to partner with a tar bucket) and add *out of 15 only 1 purchased one*.

MOTION by Mr. Thomas seconded by Mrs. Mutschler – to approve the Minutes of the April 8, 2008, Regular Session of Council, as corrected. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MAYOR'S REPORT:

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

MOTION by Mrs. Mutschler, seconded by Mrs. Raymer – to authorize up to \$500 for the Memorial Day Service. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mayor Poling reported he received a thank you from Aliquippa Police Department for the quick response of Dave Farah during a recent shooting in the middle of the night.

Mayor Poling reported close to 100 per month citations/stops/warnings have been issued.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. Spring Commodities: Mr. Kunkle reported the 2008 Spring Commodity Prices have been received from COG and recommends that Council approve the low bids.

MOTION by Mr. Googins, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to accept the low bids for the Spring Commodities. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Resolution No. 419 – Recreation Grant: Mr. Kunkle reported one of the requirements for the 3rd DCNR Recreation Grant is to adopt Resolution No. 419; to meet the application deadline line and since the April 22nd council meeting was cancelled, ratification of this resolution is needed.

MOTION by Mrs. Raymer, seconded by Mr. Thomas – to ratify the adoption of Resolution No. 419 applying to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for a grant for the purpose of carrying out Recreation Drive Park Phase II – Pavilion. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Summer Help Wages: Mr. Kunkle reported Mike Moyer stated as our summer help in 2006 at \$7.50/hour; in 2007 the amount was increased to \$7.75/hour; he has proved to be a very reliable hard working young man and has returned to work on May 12th; would like Council to consider raising his wage to \$8.00/hour.

MOTION by Mr. Mutschler, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to authorize the increase for Mike Moyer from \$7.75/hour to \$8.00/hour. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Lopes & Wine Subdivision: Mr. Kunkle reported this is a very minor modification but since it involves two counties and a creek that might have moved the explanation is more involved than the change itself; Wine Construction bought the former Wagner Auto Salvage property and needs a very small sub-division adjustment to cure a long term problem; recommend to approved in accordance with the Beaver County and Economy Borough Planning Commissions comments.

MOTION by Mr. Sivy, seconded by Mr. Googins – to authorize the Jeffrey D. & Jan L. Lopes Plan of Lots Subdivision with the recommendations and conditions set forth by the Economy Borough Planning Commission, Planning Consultant Sarraf's letter dated April 4, 2008, and the Beaver County Planning Commission letter dated April 16, 2008. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Barbara Howard Subdivision: Mr. Kunkle reported this is located on a dirt portion of Marr Road involving a property with a steep cliff/drop off in the back, which comes with an unusual request/recommendation; due to the extreme topography of this property the owner is requesting Council grant a modification to the prohibition against creating flag lots; the Economy Borough Planning Commission recommends Council do this.

MOTION by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Raymer – to authorize the Barbara Howard Subdivision Plan with the recommendations and conditions set forth by the Economy Borough Planning Commission, Planning Consultant Sarraf's letter dated April 4, 2008, Shoup Engineering letter dated April 4, 2008, and the Beaver County Planning Commission letter dated March 5, 2008, granting a modification to the prohibition against creating flag lots. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Scheller Subdivision: Mr. Kunkle reported this is a very simple subdivision on Conway Wallrose Road; the owner is moving a lot line between two contiguous lots they own in order to accommodate the side yard set back for a proposed garage; recommend to approve in accordance with the Beaver County and Economy Borough Planning Commissions comments.

MOTION by Mrs. Mutschler, seconded by Mr. Googins – to authorize the Subdivision for Brian & Susan Scheller with the recommendations and conditions set forth by the Economy Borough Planning Commission, Planning Consultant Sarraf's letter dated April 4, 2008, and the Beaver County Planning Commission letter dated April 16, 2008. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. Recycle Requirements: Mr. Kunkle reported to Council that DEP is requiring that mandated recycle communities start abiding by more details of Act 101, including that we provide a drop off location at least once per month for yard waste (not including grass); has spoken with Reid Powell and Skip Raabe and have a few ideas on how Economy Borough might address this; would like to work with a committee on this, probably Property & Buildings Committee.

8. Recording Devices: Mr. Kunkle reported he spoke with Jim Prethero at Brighton Music Center who installs recording system in situations like Economy Borough; told him Economy Borough probably is looking to spend in the hundreds, not the thousands; based on that he said they have two digital hand held units that would work well; a microphone can be added, which required a mixer, and adds to the cost; they use an MP3 file which can be downloaded and burned to a disc; a rough break down follows:

Hand held unit, built in mic	\$200 to \$350
Additional mic	\$100 mixer, \$50 to \$500 per mic
To do it right	probably looking at \$1,000

MOTION by Mrs. Mutschler, seconded by Mr. Thomas – to proceed ahead to purchase what is needed at a cost of \$1,000.

Discussion on the motion: Mr. Googins reported the written minutes are the official record. Mr. Fouse stated he just gave his opinion to another municipality on this same issue and will provide a copy to Mr. Kunkle tomorrow; basically when you create a disk, the disk is not an official public record of Economy Borough; does not matter what the recording says, only the written minutes; can not consider that the official record; Council can do this, but they don't have to. Mayor Poling reported he listened to a tape on a Bose and you can not hear what is being said. Mr. Googins said once the meeting is held and the minutes approved, there is no reason to keep a recording in any form as it is not the official record; suggested keeping the recording until after the minutes are approved. Mrs. Mutschler suggested verbatim minutes. Mr. Thomas suggested deciding a policy later after the system is in operation, but the recording should not be taken out of the borough office. Mr. Kunkle reported the number of microphones would have to be decided. Mr. Rock asked for a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

- Mr. Googins – Yes***
- Mr. Mutschler – Yes***
- Mrs. Mutschler – Yes***
- Mrs. Raymer – Yes***
- Mr. Sivy – Yes***
- Mr. Thomas – Yes***
- Mr. Rock – Yes***

Motion carried – 7 Yes

9. Economy Volunteer Fire Department Building Permit Fee: Mr. Kunkle reported the Economy Volunteer Fire Department is planning a new building on Ridge Road Extension and is requesting consideration of the building permit fee be waived by Council.

MOTION by Mr. Googins, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to authorize the building permit fee to be waived for the Economy Volunteer Fire Department for the proposed building on Ridge Road Extension.

***Yes – Mr. Googins, Mr. Mutschler, Mrs. Mutschler, Mrs. Raymer, Mr. Sivy, Mr. Rock
Abstain – Mr. Thomas***

10. Line Striping: Mr. Kunkle reported the proposal from Alpha Space Control is for 30,000 LF of 5” double yellow and 34,000 LF of 4” single white line, on Beaver Road, Woodcroft Rd, Park Hill Road, Mary Reed Road, Second Avenue (between Marr and Celestial), Harmony Road and Shaffer Road, in the amount of \$3,948.00. Mayor Poling reported double yellow lines may promote speeding. Mrs. Mutschler suggested double checking on which roads are currently double lines, as drivers may perceive they are state roads and go faster.

MOTION by Mrs. Mutschler, seconded by Mrs. Raymer – to accept the Alpha Space Control Co. proposal and authorize Mr. Kunkle to check with Chief Harrington as to which roads should be single or double lined. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. LTAP Courses: Mr. Kunkle reported 4 road department personnel will be attending a LTAP seminar, May 21, 2008, on Drainage, the Key to Roads that Last, in Cranberry; and 4 road department personnel will be attending a LTAP seminar, May 22, 2008, on Asphalt Roads Common Maintenance Problems, at Southpointe; there is no cost other than getting there.

COMMITTEE REPORTS and OTHER BUSINESS:

PROPERTY and BUILDING:

Mr. Sivy reported the police department flag pole was repaired and the municipal building flag pole has been refurbished; thanked Representative Sean Ramaley for donating a new American Flag and Pennsylvania State Flag; catching up on the grass cutting; summer help started back Monday; major break down with our John Deere walk behind; we will need to replace the engine due to a lock up; engine is ordered.

Mr. Sivy reported two of the police department HVAC units are down; the center unit has a burned up AC compressor; it is recommend that the entire roof top unit be replaced due to a very high acid content in the system; the contractor felt it was due to a lightning strike, but unless someone saw it happening, we will need to pay for it; the end unit has a heat exchanger that has a hole in it; received 3 proposals, 2 offered 5 year warranty on parts and labor, 1 did not.

MOTION by Mr. Sivy, seconded by Mr. Thomas – to authorize \$6,560.00 to Beaver Valley Sheet Metal Company to furnish and install the air conditioner unit and heat exchanger in the police department as proposed, providing evidence of proper insurance. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Sivy reported he stopped by and checked on the new HVAC unit during installation; Mr. Shoup was present for the start up and performance check. Mr. Shoup reported still needed is the electrical inspection and the warranties on the HVAC; final payment has not be made yet.

Mr. Sivy reported the firewood that was cleared by the road department around the pavilion was advertised for free to residents and taken. Mrs. Mutschler questioned the past motion of a \$25.00 permit fee. Mr. Sivy reported he thought the motion was for the 1st time, not this time.

Mr. Sivy reported Earl has requested to plant trees at the area cleared next to the pavilion to hide the hillside; suggesting we contact the Boy Scouts to do this as an Eagle Project Beautification Area. Mr. Kunkle will contact the Boy Scouts.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Mutschler reported Sam Orsini will be away up to 1 year to Iraq and Rick Creese may be going to Afghanistan; David Wellington turned in his resignation; there will be 50 weeks of vacation to cover.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

MOTION by Mrs. Raymer, seconded Mr. Thomas – to authorize payment of all bills listed and properly signed off and approved by the appropriate supervisor of that department. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Mrs. Raymer – to keep all Economy Borough vehicles here and employees come and pick them up.

Discussion on the motion: Mrs. Raymer reported you can't specify one. Mr. Sivy verified employees using borough vehicles are, road foreman, police chief and borough manager. Mrs. Mutschler reported Chief Harrington is on call and was called out this past month for a suicide; this should be decided on an individual basis. Mayor Poling reported with public safety, time is of the essence. Mr. Rock reported Mrs. Raymer's point is correct; covering the gambit. Mr. Googins reported in the winter the pick up is loaded with salt and when the police call Earl out, he starts salting the hill near Tevebaugh. Mr. Thomas felt all three vehicles could be justified. Mr. Rock stated this is something that will have to be looked into further.

Mrs. Raymer withdraws the motion.

MOTION by Mrs. Raymer, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to freeze unnecessary spending and big ticket items.

Discussion on the motion. Mrs. Mutschler felt things need to be researched better. Mr. Rock agreed with Mrs. Mutschler; Council spends several months dealing with one item; if this motion is approved, everything will be under consideration; all needs will have to be anticipated to allow time for Council review and study. Mr. Googins stated he feels the way Council does things is satisfactory; Council looks at spending; does not feel the motion is necessary. Mr. Rock reported he does not think the motion will change the way Council does business. Mr. Thomas reported big ticket items are probably defined as things that are not budgeted; emergencies are out of our hands. Mr. Rock reported Council does try to have a surplus at the end of each year.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Mutschler – No
Mrs. Mutschler – No
Mrs. Raymer – Yes
Mr. Sivy – Yes
Mr. Thomas – No
Mr. Googins – No
Mr. Rock – Yes

Motion fails by a 4 No, 3 Yes Vote

ROAD DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Googins reported the corners of the police department parking lot have been filled in with dirt and reflectors put in place; leveled the pavilion area with top soil; requested an Executive Session to discuss a grievance filed by the road department personnel.

PUBLIC UTILITIES:

Mr. Googins reported Ambridge Water Authority (AWA) is flushing hydrants; asked Mr. Thomas to monitor this to make sure AWA does the flushing responsibly. Mr. Thomas reported AWA does so many hydrants each year.

Mr. Sivy reported a hydrant has not been replaced on Ridge Road Extension; will Economy Borough be billed the rental of that hydrant? Mr. Thomas reported the hydrant was not replaced upon his request; the last time it was hit, the home below it suffered \$40,000 in damages; the next hydrant is 4-5 homes down the road.

Mrs. Mutschler reported on April 4th a load of scrap went out; requested how much left. Mr. Kunkle did not have the information at the meeting. Mrs. Mutschler requested information for the last 5 years on how much scrap has gone out and where the money has been deposited.

ORDINANCE and RECREATION:

Mr. Thomas reported the Economy 5K Race was held May 10th; 89 runners participated.

REPORTS:

SECRETARY:

No Report

ENGINEER:

No Report

SOLICITOR:

MOTION by Mr. Googins, second by Mr. Sivy – to publicly authorize the filing of the declaration and declaratory judgment action against the Ambridge Water Authority based upon their interpretation of our contract as well as their adoption of the most recent tap fee resolution. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mrs. Mutschler requested Executive Session regarding personnel with no vote.

Hear the Public II:

Gary Bucuren reported he never meant for his request to have the vehicles taken away from the police chief, borough manager and road foreman; just the road foreman; feels the police chief and borough manager are salaried, but the road foreman is hourly and his vehicle should not be going home.

Butch Thompson suggested the \$8,000 door lock money be used for the police HVAC; and he feels the tractor motor is a necessity not a big ticket item.

Gerry States, 219 Silverdale Drive, commended Council on making the move towards Ambridge Water Authority and the contract; commented on the stop sign in the parking lot.

Mr. Googins advised the Local Government Academy is having a Five-Year Capital Improvement Programming seminar June 5th in Mt. Lebanon; would like to attend with Mr. Rock; cost is \$25.00.

MOTION by Mr. Mutschler, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to authorize Mr. Googins and Mr. Rock to attend the Local Government Academy seminar on Five-Year Capital Improvement Programming June 5th in Mt. Lebanon at a cost of \$25.00 each. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Mrs. Mutschler, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to enter into Executive Session to discuss 2 personnel issues, with no vote to be taken tonight. Time: 9:50 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Mrs. Raymer, seconded by Mrs. Mutschler – to adjourn the meeting. Time: 10:15 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Susan A. Blum
Borough Secretary
May 16, 2008