

REGULAR SESSION ** ECONOMY BOROUGH COUNCIL ** JANUARY 13, 2009

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, Dale M. Fouse, Esq., Scott A. Shoup, P.E., P.L.S., Randy S. Kunkle, Borough Manager,

HEAR THE PUBLIC:

Clare and Thomas Lynch, 101 Walnut Drive, came before Council regarding the increased speeding and reckless driving in the mornings and afternoons on Walnut Drive from people possibly cutting thru Whispering Pines to get to Conway Wallrose Road; police did paint white lines, but they are not slowing down; this neighborhood is turning young again and feels it is dangerous for the children; looking for help. Mr. Rock asked Mayor Poling and Mrs. Mutschler to speak to Chief Harrington to possibly put an officer in that area for a few hours for a couple of days; asked the Lynch's to talk to their neighbors to be aware and to try to get vehicle descriptions and license plate numbers for the police; and asked Mr. Kunkle to have the speed monitoring device set up on Walnut Drive in the Spring.

Rich Palak, Rich's Auto Body & Service, introduced himself and his son to Council, their business offers 24 hour towing; flat bed; tow truck; fully insured; auto body shop; full mechanical service; PA Inspection; rotates monthly in Conway Borough with Chris's Automotive for towing; would like the opportunity to serve Economy Borough.

MINUTES:

MOTION by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Googins – to approve the Minutes of the December 9, 2008, Regular Session of Council, as written. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Poling read the Mayor's Report for the Police Department for the Year 2008 as prepared by Chief Harrington, which will be on file for review in the borough secretary's office.

Mayor Poling mentioned that the Ambridge Area School District may be moving their offices to the Ridge Road School and would need to contact code enforcement for permit information.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. Board and Committee Appointments:

MOTION by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Mutschler – to re-appoint Jim Blumling and Myron Kowalski to 4 year terms on the Planning Commission, term to end 2012. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Mrs. Mutschler, seconded by Mr. Thomas – to re-appoint David Lodovico to a 3 year term on the Zoning Hearing Board, term to end 2011. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Mr. Mutschler, seconded by Mr. Googins – to re-appoint J. Carl George to a 5 year term to the Economy Borough Municipal Authority, term to end 2013 - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Mrs. Mutschler, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to re-appoint Roberta Sarraf as the consultant to the Economy Borough Planning Commission, same terms in 2009 as in 2008. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mrs. Mutschler asked the status of the request for statistics on the wind turbine. Mr. Kunkle stated he has a meeting on Thursday and will have a better answer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS and OTHER BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE and RECREATION:

No Report

PUBLIC UTILITIES

No Report

PROPERTY and BUILDING:

Mr. Sivy reported on proposed repairs for the borough manager vehicle; will be able to save a few hundred dollars by purchasing the tires at Stanley's, purchasing the parts needed and having them installed at Smitty's.

MOTION by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to get the car repaired at an estimated cost of \$1,250.00. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Sivy reported on a meeting with Mr. Thomas, Mr. Googins, Mr. Kunkle, himself and the police regarding the proposed change of agents for the health care coverage in an effort to save thousands of dollars for Economy Borough; positive meeting with the police; they would have the same coverage, possibly different deductibles and co-pays; HHM would be hired as the agent for 1 year at a cost of \$20.00 per employee per month; after the 1 year the fee is not charged as HHM would then be accepted by the insurance companies as our agent; worst case scenario would be to change agents and still pay the same premiums. Mr. Fouse stated

there are other communities that employ HHM; HHM has been around awhile. Mr. Sivy stated HHM is a large company in Moon Township and they feel they can save Economy Borough thousands of dollars.

MOTION by Mr. Sivy, seconded by Mr. Thomas – to authorize the change of agents from MEIT to HHM in order to save Economy Borough thousand of dollars on health care insurance and possibly other insurances. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Mutschler reported Sgt. Hartsell is having surgery on his foot and would be off work from the end of January until May 1st; Sam Orsini is in Iraq and Rick Creese leaves tomorrow for Iraq; would like to provide a letter of employment to Scott Carney (who interned last year with Economy Borough Police) in order for him to proceed with the testing in Harrisburg; Scott would be part time to help out. Mrs. Raymer asked if this position has been advertised. Mrs. Mutschler stated no. Mr. Rock verified that Chief Harrington is recommending Mr. Carney. Mr. Sivy asked when Mr. Carney would be testing. Mrs. Mutschler stated ASAP. Mr. Googins verified that Mr. Carney would be a part time at will employee.

MOTION by Mrs. Mutschler, seconded by Mr. Googins – to offer a letter of employment to Scott Carney pending passing the exam in Harrisburg and under the part time officers conditions. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mrs. Mutschler requested an Executive Session to discuss a letter received from Rick Creese, with a possible vote.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

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

Mrs. Raymer asked Mr. Thomas the status of the letter in December to the Recreation Board. Mr. Thomas stated the Recreation Board will meet on Monday and he would have a report next meeting or before.

Mayor Poling asked for the December 31, 2008, Highway Aid budget report; it was not attached to the General Fund Budget. Mr. Kunkle stated this was an oversight and would be provided.

ROAD DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Mutschler reported the Road Department continues with Winter maintenance; several trucks needed major repairs.

REPORTS:

SECRETARY:

No Report

ENGINEER:

No Report

SOLICITOR:

Mr. Fouse requested Executive Session to discuss: 1) Creese Health Care request; 2) Heitzenrater issue; 3) Grievance on the Road Department related to laborers wages and foreman's wages in leaf pick up; 4) Ambridge Water Authority litigation; and 5) Giant Eagle appeal.

Mr. Thomas requested the texting ability for his Economy Borough cell phone be reestablished as texting is needed for Beaver County 911 Center communications; should be no cost. Mr. Rock asked the secretary to contact Verizon and have the texting reestablished.

MOTION by Mr. Sivy, seconded by Mrs. Mutschler – to enter into Executive Session to discuss 1) Creese Health Care request; 2) Heitzenrater issue; 3) Grievance on the Road Department related to laborers wages and foreman's wages; 4) Ambridge Water Authority litigation; and 5) Giant Eagle appea., with a possible vote to be taken tonight. Time: 8:04 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Mrs. Mutschler, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to return to the regular order of business. Time: 9:15 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Fouse reported discussed in Executive Session was 1) Creese Health Care request; 2) Heitzenrater issue; 3) Grievance on the Road Department related to laborers wages and foreman's wages; 4) Ambridge Water Authority litigation; and 5) Giant Eagle appeal. No votes.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Mr. Sivy, seconded by Mr. Thomas – to adjourn the meeting. Time: 9:15 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Susan A. Blum
Borough Secretary
January 16, 2009