

REGULAR SESSION ** ECONOMY BOROUGH COUNCIL ** JANUARY 27, 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., Randy S. Kunkle, Borough Manager

William Vescio, President, Bryon Funding, Inc., gave an update and a market commentary of the Police Pension Fund and the Non Uniformed Pension Fund for the Fourth Quarter, 2008.

HEAR THE PUBLIC:

John Campbell, 123 Gross Drive, commented that the road department has done a good job so far this winter keeping the roads clear; would like to see something used other than the black cinders that gets tracked into the homes.

MINUTES:

MOTION by Mrs. Mutschler seconded by Mr. Sivy – to approve the Minutes of the January 13, 2009, Regular Session of Council, as written. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Poling questioned the \$500 to the Veterans Service Center on the January 13th list of bills. Mr. Kunkle advised this payment was to the Veterans Service Center in Ambridge; has been requested and paid for over 20 years; the state code permits municipalities to contribute up to \$500 to veteran organizations. Mr. Campbell will submit a letter for the Economy Borough Veterans Memorial Committee requesting \$500.

Mayor Poling reported receiving email from Bob Hideck regarding a recreation grant for the ball fields. Mr. Kunkle advised he downloaded the grant packet; since Economy Borough does not sponsor a team, EYBA or the Ambridge Area School District would have to take the lead for the application; they do the field maintenance so they have a better handle on what needs to be done; has emailed EYBA; this grant is a matching grant up to \$5,000. Mayor Poling reported there are grants out there and we should go after as many as we can.

Mayor Poling asked the status of the litigation with Ambridge Water Authority (AWA); they built the tank, it is sitting empty, feels they are playing games. Mr. Fouse reported they have 10 days to file an answer; these are 2 separate issues; could file another law suit. Mr. Googins stated AWA reports electrical problems with the new tank. Mr. Fouse suggested sending a letter to AWA requesting a 30 day response to get in writing that there is

in fact an electrical problem. Mr. Googins and Mr. Kunkle will draft the letter and Mr. Googins will try to go to the next AWA meeting.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. Health Insurance: Mr. Kunkle reported there is a request to re-visit how Council is handling this. Mrs. Mutschler asked Mr. Kunkle if he has received the spread sheets via email from MEIT; no; does not sit well that the agent could not provide rates until named agent. Mayor Poling does not agree to pay an agent to shop insurance with no guarantee of lower rates; sent an agent here 7 months ago; these people work on overrides; Malagese & Associates said it is rare to charge up front. Mr. Sivy stated after 1 year the fees go away; feels confident this will save Economy Borough lots of money. Mrs. Mutschler stated she has some additional information to provide in Executive Session.

*MOTION by Mrs. Mutschler, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to enter into Executive Session. Time: 7:32 PM
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*

*MOTION by Mrs. Mutschler, seconded by Mr. Mutschler – to return to the regular order of business. Time
7:46 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*

Mr. Fouse advised discussed in Executive Session was the agreement with HHM and Councils need to meet with the agent. Mr. Rock reported authorization on the contract with HHM will be deferred until after the next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS and OTHER BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE and RECREATION:

Mr. Thomas reported the Ski Trip to Seven Springs is this week end.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

Mr. Googins reported he will follow up on the water tank issue with AWA.

PROPERTY and BUILDING:

No Report

PUBLIC SAFETY:

No Report

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Raymer reported Mr. Thomas provided the requested finance report from the Recreation Committee.

ROAD DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Mutschler reported the emergency generator quit working; the original battery has been replaced and it will test on Friday; 18 month warranty is over; contacted Bridgeway Cummins for an estimate to provide a semi annual inspection same as they provide for the police emergency generator; cost estimate is \$833. Mr. Googins suggested 1 agreement for both generators. Mr. Kunkle will check into this.

Mr. Mutschler reported the road department was out for snow and ice 25 times (21 call outs); some equipment has been moved to old EVFD #2; repairing pot holes as weather permits; replacing the wood decking on the Viking and Wack trailers; waiting for the snow plow to come in to be installed on truck #2.

Mr. Googins recommended Council split participation for salt bids with the state (must purchase 60%, can't exceed 140%) and with COG; state bid requests must be received by March 15th; COG in July/August; this would be for the 2009-2010 winter season; hedge both sides. Council agreed and Mr. Googins will get with Mr. Kunkle and Mr. Fitzgerald to get tonnage numbers to put in for the state bid by March 15th.

Mr. Mutschler reported Mr. Blumling has trouble plowing snow in housing plans due to cars parked on the street; requested a strong letter be sent to the Ridgewood residents to ask for their cooperation during snow events.

REPORTS:

SECRETARY: No Report

ENGINEER: No Report

SOLICITOR:

Mr. Fouse reported the status of the Crown Communication Case which will be going to trial before Judge Kwidis this summer; and that a bill in the amount of \$1,729.00 will be coming for the Economy Borough share of payment for the expert witness'.

HEAR THE PUBLIC II:

John Campbell, 123 Gross Drive suggested using the next newsletter to get the information out about parking on the streets during snow events. Mayor Poling suggested a seasonal parking ordinance. Mr. Fouse stated he would look into this as he just recently read about this; there would have to be specific legislation to have local municipalities pass the ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT:

***MOTION by Mr. Sivy, seconded by Mrs. Mutschler – to adjourn the meeting. Time: 8:10 PM
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

Respectfully submitted,

Susan A. Blum
Borough Secretary
January 29, 2009