

REGULAR SESSION ** ECONOMY BOROUGH COUNCIL ** March 24, 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: Arthur Mutschler, Audrey Mutschler, Renee Raymer, Donald Sivy, John C. Thomas, Ronald R. Rock

ABSENT: Larry Googins, PSAB Conference

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor David N. Poling, Dale M. Fouse, Esq.

** April 14, 2009 – Requested to be added to minutes:

****ABSENT:** Randy S. Kunkle, Borough Manager, PSAB Conference

HEAR THE PUBLIC:

John Campbell, 123 Gross Drive, asked for clarification of Ord. 151 Soliciting and Canvassing regarding if a permit is needed for political candidates going door to door. Mr. Fouse advised this does not apply to candidates going door to door for votes; this is for someone soliciting funds or selling something.

Ray and Hilda Kenny, 195 Sylvester Street, reported the neighbor had the property surveyed; fresh flags are there; requested police protection to grade the road. Mayor Poling advised Mr. Kenny to call him on his cell phone. Mr. Kenny provided pictures of the other neighbor's property showing old unlicensed tractors, open tires, junk, etc. Mrs. Kenny stated she filed a formal complaint on October 17, 2008, with Mr. Luff and nothing has been done; they also burn garbage. Mr. Thomas advised when they are burning for the Kenny's to call the borough office. Mr. Rock advised he will talk to Joe Luff to see if something can be done.

Adam Klimkowski, 960 Conway Wallrose Road, came before Council to report he feels Mr. Luff has violated his constitutional rights; specifically the 14th Amendment; Mr. Luff drove on his property without his permission; feels Mr. Luff is overstepping his bounds and giving bad advise; provided to Council a copy of the Order to Vacate and Residential Inspection Report dated March 18, 2009, issued by Mr. Luff; requested this be withdrawn by tomorrow. Mr. Thomas reported he has received 4 calls from a group of people with concerns about Mr. Luff; has recommended to the people to come to Council meetings; they are threatening to get a lawyer. Mayor Poling has also heard concerns about Mr. Luff. Mr. Klimkowski stated the police had Mr. Luff inspect his property for whatever reason. Mr. Fouse advised Council should sit down with Chief Harrington and Mr. Luff before any further discussion on the record. Mayor Poling said Chief Harrington told him Mr. Luff requested an officer go down to the property. Mr. Rock reported he would talk to Mr. Luff and to Chief Harrington.

Alan Aland, 305 Amsler Road, came before Council regarding his recent zoning hearing for a variance, which was denied. Mr. Fouse reported Mr. Aland has the appeal process; variances are based on hardships.

Adam Klimkowski, 960 Conway Wallrose Road, asked Council to make a motion to give the people one free appeal. Mr. Rock stated the ordinances are set up to protect all the citizens; if an individual wants to challenge, it is their right; may be a good investment if the citizen thinks they are right; two sides to every story; will talk to Chief Harrington and Mr. Luff.

MINUTES:

Mr. Rock requested a correction on Page 59, the adjournment motion, should read “Motion made by Mrs. Mutschler and seconded by Mrs. Raymer”.

MOTION by Mr. Mutschler seconded by Mr. Thomas – to approve the Minutes of the March 10, 2009, Regular Session of Council, as corrected. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MAYOR’S REPORT:

Mayor Poling asked when the next newsletter is scheduled to go out as the senior citizen group for Meals on Wheels would like to have an article looking for volunteers and information for anyone who needs the program. The next newsletter is probably June.

Mayor Poling reported talking with Representative Matzie and Senator Vogel and the Women’s Club Election Day Bake Sale can go on.

Mayor Poling discussed the COPS Hiring Recovery Program Grant. Mrs. Mutschler reported this is just to apply, not to hire. Mr. Fouse stated there are still some questions unanswered about the grant; 100% of entry-level police officer salary for 3 years, health care for the officer and his family; if the grant is awarded, it can be turned down. Mr. Sivy felt the cost to Economy Borough for the next 3 years would be approximately \$15,000 for the 1st year, \$18,394 for the 2nd year, \$20,000 for the 3rd year; where will the money come from? Mrs. Mutschler reported in 3 years there is a possibility of 2 officers retiring. Mr. Rock feels this is an investment, can get an extra officer and we should take advantage of it. Mrs. Raymer reported the budget is tight. Mr. Fouse advised to put this in perspective, what this grant says is they want us to spent the grant dollars on a new officer; replacing one who has been laid off recently or retired; we have 1-2 recently retired; you could not use that in the previous grant, you had to expand the number of officers; this grant they want you to bring it back to the level you had; it is technical and competitive. Mayor Poling reported a resident who has worked for the Department of Justice, the City of Pittsburgh and is an expert on federal grants, has volunteered to help Chief Harrington write the grant; the police department works 365 days 24/7, 2 full timers per shift, 20 square miles (bigger than Cranberry); when the economy goes down, crime goes up.

MOTION by Mrs. Mutschler, seconded by Mr. Thomas – to authorize Chief Harrington to apply for the COPS Hiring Recovery Program Law Enforcement Grant. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MANAGER’S REPORT:

1. Yard Waste Program: The secretary reported that at the last meeting a proposed yard waste program was handed out; we will plan on having it available April 1st and will start getting the word out; since a lot of what we will be doing is new or different there will likely be a learning curve. Mr. Rock read the proposed letter to be mailed to the current permit holders. Mr. Thomas verified appropriate signage would be in place on site.

*MOTION by Mr. Mutschler, seconded by Mrs. Raymer – to adopt the revisions to the yard waste program.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*

COMMITTEE REPORTS and OTHER BUSINESS:

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

No Report

ROAD DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Mutschler read a summary of work that took place during the month as prepared by Earl Fitzgerald

- Drainage repairs were done on Neely Rd., Ridgewood Dr., Merriman Rd. and Edgewood Rd.
- Tree trimming was done in various locations. The chipper is working great and reducing the amount of loads being hauled to Beaver Co. compost site.
- Repairs were made to plows #3 and #5.
- The Viking trailer will be sandblasted and painted after the fenders were repaired and storage box built.
- Truck #7 dump body is being repaired.
- The Wack trailer will have its wooden deck replaced after tuck #7 is repaired.
- Berm cleaning is being done and will continue as long as the weather cooperates.
- We have started the street sweeping early due to the break in the weather.

ORDINANCE and RECREATION:

Mr. Thomas reported the 5K Race is scheduled for Saturday, May 9th at Economy Park and there will be a casino trip to Niagara November 7th.

Mr. Thomas will provide the information to Mr. Kunkle for the C2P2 Grant thru DCNR; this would be for Phase II of the Master Plan; would like Mr. Kunkle to pursue the grant for an additional \$49,000.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

Mr. Rock reported Ambridge Water Authority has not responded to his letter yet.

PROPERTY and BUILDING:

Mr. Sivy reported Chief Harrington is going to take the money for the electrical work out of the computer line item in the budget.

Mr. Sivy reported following up on the Park Hill Road noise issue; provided to Mr. Spinelli and Mr. Wright a copy of a VCR regarding sound cancellation; doing more research. Mr. Rock thanked Mr. Sivy for the time and effort he put in on the noise situation.

Mr. Sivy reported receiving an email from Jeffrey Linn regarding road drainage; requesting to know the plan for the road drainage on his property; spoke to Scott Shoup and Earl Fitzgerald about this; in the past Economy

Borough offered him some pipe and he rejected the offer. Mayor Poling said this has been going on for 3 years; would like to see something done; Shoup was cooperative; ******(text removed per corrections at the April 14, 2009 meeting). Mr. Rock stated some work has been done on that corner. Mr. Sivy said Council should make a point to have Scott Shoup and Earl Fitzgerald at the next meeting as they are involved.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Mutschler provided information on replacement bulletproof vests for 11 full time and 6 part time officers for a total cost of \$14,905.00; this expense is included in the 2009 budget; Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant will pay for \$7,399.50; total must be paid up front and grant will reimburse payment.

MOTION by Mrs. Mutschler, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to authorize purchase of replacement bulletproof vests to be paid from minor equipment. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS:

SECRETARY:

No Report

ENGINEER:

No Report

SOLICITOR:

No Report

HEAR THE PUBLIC II:

Butch Thompson, 115 First Street, verified that the application will be made for the police officer grant; can't understand why Mr. Sivy would question it. Mr. Sivy said he questions where the money will come from. The cost of the crack sealer purchase was discussed again.

John Campbell, 123 Gross Drive, questioned the smell in the water system; could it be a new treatment agent. Mr. Thomas reported he read an article and 6 water authorities were listed as using the new agent, however Ambridge Water Authority was not on the list.

ADJOURNMENT:

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***MOTION by Mr. Mutschler, seconded by Mr. Mutschler – to adjourn the meeting. Time: 8:08 PM
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

/** Corrected at the April 14, 2009 meeting to read “MOTION by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Mutschler”

Respectfully submitted,

Susan A. Blum
Borough Secretary
March 27, 2009