

**Economy Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
22 March 2016**

MEETING was called to order at 7:00 pm by RJ Burns with the following members of Council and officials present; Mr. Larry Googins, Mr. Gary Bucuren, Mr. Frank Morrone, Mrs. Audrey Mutschler, Borough Manager Randy Kunkle, Solicitor Joseph Askar and his representative Joshua Kail.

ABSENT: Mr. Tom Fetkovich (excused)
Mrs. Pat Skonieczny (excused)
Mayor David Poling (excused)

OPENING PRAYER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

E REID POWELL: Was present to address the refuse/recycling contract he has with the borough regarding price adjustments. He explained that since last October the tipping fee at the recycle drop-off was increased 4 times from \$1.00 per ton to the present rate of \$40.48. He explained that according to the contract the rate will go up by \$4.94 per month in October but instead he is seeking an immediate increase of \$2.00 per month or \$6.00 per quarter, with the hope of holding it at that rate through the end of the on contract in 2017. **Motion by Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. Bucuren to grant Mr. Powell's request to increase his quarterly rate by \$6.00 to \$57.00 per quarter.**

Mr. Fetkovich joins the meeting at 7:10

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS: Mr. Burns welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested the discussion(s) regarding borough business be kept to 3 – 5 minutes.

Joe Damion, Rudzik Excavating, will be installing the West View waterline. He would like to use Sunset Hills Park as an access and storage area at the end of summer/early fall. Mr. Burns stated he already has heard numerous concerns about heavy truck traffic and safety for children and damage to the roads. Mr. Bucuren said the project was approved but it was never presented as a staging area. Mr. Damion said the roads will be bonded and orange construction fence will be used. Mr. Askar requested the contractor draw up an agreement laying out what he will do and the liability he will take off the borough for the next meeting. Mrs. Mutschler asked what the borough will get out of this?

Minutes: of the March 8th 2016 meeting were presented; after review **motion by Mrs. Mutschler, seconded by Mr. Googins to approve the minutes, all voted aye with the exception of Mr. Burns and Mr. Bucuren who were not present.**

Public Works Committee: no report.

Parks & Recreation: Mr. Bucuren reported on behalf of Mrs. Skonieczny that there will be no breakfast with the Easter Bunny as the only day the Hall was available was St Patrick's Day weekend. The next Rec Board meeting will be on March 16th, and the Community Day will be scheduled.

Ordinance Committee: Mrs. Mutschler stated the Planning Commission is working on a solar panel ordinance. Mr. Askar reminded everyone there will be public hearings for the tall sign and DAS amendments to the zoning ordinance.

Property & Building Committee: Mr. Morrone stated everyone received all of the specifications from each of the window contractors and would like everyone to look them over before the next meeting. Mr. Fetkovich asked if there was a request for proposal sent out.

Public Safety Committee: Mr. Googins reported he and Mr. Burns met with the Chief of Police talked about several issues including the items under New Business, a new vehicle and hiring of another police officer. It was just an initial meeting, to get on the same page.

Finance Committee: Mr. Bucuren asked if anyone has any questions regarding the Treasurer's report or Budget report? Mr. Googins asked the Manager if the Northern Lights Shopping Center Fund has \$27,389 in it; that is confirmed as the balance.

Solicitor: We just talked about Sunset Hills.

Old Business: Mrs. Mutschler asked if the guest internet was hooked up? There were concerns regarding security but they were resolved. ***Motion by Mrs. Mutschler, seconded by Mr. Fetkovich, all voted aye to have MG Softnet install guest internet (Wi-Fi) in the Municipal Building.***

Re-schedule Public Hearing for Zoning Map update: Due to the primary election on the 26th the public hearing will have to be re-scheduled. ***By motion of Mr. Googins, seconded by Mr. Morrone, all voted aye to hold the public hearing on May 10th and so advertise, all voted aye.***

Cancel April 26th Meeting: ***By motion of Mr. Morrone, seconded by Mr. Burns to cancel the April 26th meeting due to the election, all voted aye.***

New Business:

Economy Volunteer Fire Department property tax exoneration request: The fire department bought a parcel next to their property at the social hall to expand parking and taxes are due. The department will request a permanent exemption in July, but for this year they want

exoneration. **By motion of Mr. Morrone, seconded by Mr. Bucuren, all voted aye to exonerate the taxes for the newly acquired property purchased by the fire department.**

Elite Towing: Mr. Burns received several calls from this company, who made a presentation at the last meeting. Mrs. Mutschler mentioned people can call whoever they want for a tow but if the situation calls for immediate action the police can dictate who is called. It is the consensus of Council that Elite should be given a chance and the Public Safety Committee will forward this to the Chief.

Purchase of police vehicle: Mr. Burns and Mr. Googins met with the Chief and he informed them they sold an unusable SUV and one vehicle in service has over 160,000 miles on it. The Chief recommends a new vehicle be purchased, which is budgeted for. The vehicle will cost \$26,775 and to buy and install all of the add-ons is \$9680 for a total of \$36,455.50. Discussion took place regarding where the money will come from, there is \$27,000 in the NLSC fund and \$36,000 is budgeted in the general fund. It was determined to use the general fund this year and the NLSC fund next year. **By motion of Mr. Googins, seconded by Mr. Morrone, all voted aye to purchase a new SUV from the general fund for \$36,445.50 under COSTARS.**

Hiring a Police Officer: Mr. Burns and Mr. Googins also discussed hiring a new officer(s) with the Chief. With the amount of vacation, sick days and court time it will save in overtime by hiring one or more officers. They are recommending Council authorize the hiring of at least one officer. Mrs. Mutschler questioned what the costs will be, noting the contract is currently under negotiation and is concerned over long term costs. Mr. Burns noted there were 109 overtime hours in January and 130 in February. Mr. Fetkovich also saw the spreadsheets the Chief put together and feels it may be best, to get the questions properly addressed, to have the Chief present the figures and help answer questions. After further discussion it was recommended by Mr. Googins on behalf of the Public Safety Committee, to hire a full time officer. After additional discussion it was determined the Chief should distribute all of the data he collected to everyone and present it at the next meeting and answer questions.

Recycle Bins: The Manager mentioned we're almost out of recycle bins and he will be ordering more through COSTARS, this is just a heads-up, expect a bill soon.

Sick and accident coverage: The manager mentioned the Teamster's provide a sick and accident policy whereby if someone is sick or has an accident away from work and has to miss work for an extended period that pays the employee \$250 per week for up to six months. Their contract states the borough will supplement those payments making the employee whole for up to six months. In the past this has been used for bariatric surgery, hernia, vasectomy, two heart surgeries, a cut finger and a hurt knee. An employee is due to have a knee replaced and will be off for 3 to 4 months. Mr. Bucuren stated he has seen it in the contract, section 14. After discussion Mr. Burns suggests going into executive session.

Electronic Recycling: Mrs. Mutschler asked if anything is being done to improve recycling of TVs. Mr. Fetkovich took 4 TVs to a place in Wexford and it only cost \$5 or \$10 a piece. The state is attempting to improve the situation.

Mr. Askar suggested the following motion: to suspend the regular session and go into executive session and go back to regular session and immediately adjourn the meeting, all voted aye at 8:30. Adjournment occurred at 8:40.

Submitted by

Randy S Kunkle
Borough Manager

Motion(s) made and/or Council consensus decision(s):

1. Approval of E. Reid Powell quarterly rate increase.
2. Approve Minutes of March 08, 2016.
3. Approval of guest internet (Wi-Fi) in the Municipal Building.
4. Approve a Public Hearing on May 10, 2016 for the purpose of the updated Zoning Map.
5. Approval to cancel the Council Meeting of April 26, 2016, due to the elections.
6. Approval to exonerate the taxes for the EVFD's newly purchased property.
7. Approval to purchase an SUV for the police department.