

Economy Borough Council
Council Minutes
May 22, 2018

MEETING was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with Mr. Brian Westrom presiding and the following members of Council and officials of the Borough present: Mr. Brian Westrom, Mr. Gary Bucuren, Mr. Tom Fetkovich, Mrs. Audrey Mutschler, Mrs. Pat Skonieczny, Mayor Jo Ann Borato, Borough Manager Randy Kunkle, Borough Secretary Margie Nelko, representing the Borough Solicitor Mr. Joshua Kail, Esq.

ABSENT: Mr. R.J. Burns (Excused)

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

TROOP 405 EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT – Mr. Noah Smokovich presented Council with the proposed plans to build book shelves in the Borough Building Lobby with an estimated completion time of late October. Borough Council is pleased with this project.

Mr. Frank Morrone entered the meeting at this time (7:06 p.m.)

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

Noah Smokovich of 2721 Legionville (Hemmerle) Road, Ambridge
Steven Joy of 2077 Ridge Road Ext., Ambridge
Stephen Waschak of 2055 Conway Wallrose Road, Freedom

HEAR THE PUBLIC:

Steven Joy, on behalf of the Economy Volunteer Fire Department, was present to discuss upcoming fire department expenditures for breathing apparatuses. This matter was discussed under the Solicitor Report.

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting held on April 10, 2018, were presented to Council. **After some review the motion of Mrs. Mutschler, seconded by Mr. Bucuren to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 10, 2018, as presented was unanimously carried.** It was noted that Mrs. Skonieczny was not present at the April 10, 2018, meeting.

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting held on May 08, 2018, were presented to Council. **After some review the motion of Mr. Morrone, seconded by Mrs. Mutschler to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 08, 2018, as presented was unanimously carried.**

FINANCE COMMITTEE: No Report.

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE: No Report.

PARKS and RECREATION COMMITTEE: Mr. Fetkovich, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, presented Council with an update regarding the installation of the playground equipment. There are some issues with a couple of pieces and rusty parts. The company wants to do all the exchanges at one time.

PROPERTY and BUILDING COMMITTEE: Mr. Morrone, Chairperson of the Property and Building Committee, presented Council with an update regarding the repair(s) for the public works department roof. The Borough Manager presented Council with an explanation of the thresholds and stated that he is having a hard time finding companies to give a quote for a metal roof. The Borough Manager was asked to contact commercial roofing companies and to keep Mr. Morrone updated.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: No Report.

PUBLIC WORKS (PW) COMMITTEE: No Report. The Borough Solicitor stated that there is a matter for executive session with a possible vote.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Borato presented Council with updates regarding the following issues:

1. Police Department Remodeling – The materials/colors are being ordered.
2. Borough Building and Public Works Department Video Cameras – Mayor Borato explained that she has not had time to contact Vector Security for an update, but she will for the next meeting.
3. Northern Lights Shopping Center (NLSC) – Mayor Borato presented Council with an update regarding the steps taken to secure the buildings and her attempts to contact the NLSC Manager to inform him that we are researching all code violations (which will be actively enforced) that may be occurring.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: The Borough Solicitor presented Council with updates regarding the following issue(s):

1. Skonieczny Lawsuit – No update at this time.
2. Heart and Lung Policy –A meeting with Chief O'Brien has been scheduled for May 29, 2018.
3. PennEnergy Lease Agreement – This matter will be discussed in executive session.
4. Ambridge Water Authority Fire Hydrant Agreement – The Borough Solicitor stated that the amended agreement will be presented to Council for review. The Borough Solicitor and Members of Council discussed some of the issues resulting from the proposed amendments.
5. Economy Volunteer Fire Department (EVFD) Contract – This contract is a requirement of the bank prior to granting a loan for breathing apparatuses. The carbon bottles on the breathing apparatuses have a shelf life of fifteen (15) years and will expire early in 2019. EVFD has applied for grants in the past, as was used for the last apparatus purchase, but have been denied because the Borough does not qualify as a distressed area. A letter, dated April 30, 2018, was received from the EVFD regarding a (possible) shortage in the millage payments that Council approved at the October 13, 2015, meeting and the request of a onetime donation to help with the purchase of the apparatuses. Members of Council discussed the calculation of the millage payments and a law limiting the appropriation of up to three (3) mills by the Borough. The Borough Solicitor stated that he would

review the matter of a possible shortfall and that the contract would be discussed in executive session because from a legal obligation standpoint, there is no need for a contract. The Borough Manager was asked to contact the Real Estate Tax Collector to help verify the shortage calculations.

ENGINEER'S REPORT – No Report.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Non-organized Employee Resolution – This matter will be discussed in executive session.
2. Assistant Code Enforcement Officer – This matter will be discussed in executive session.
3. New Pickup Truck – Members of Council reviewed the two (2) quotes received for a new Ford F250. The new truck will require lettering, a two-way radio and antenna, a light bar and possibly a set of scene lights. Members of Council discussed re-using the existing radio, the available budgeted amount and the budget posting of the monies received from the disposal of the 2006 Ford F350. **After some review and discussion, the motion of Mr. Morrone, seconded by Mr. Bucuren to approve the purchase of a 2018 Ford F250 from Baiarl Ford in the amount of \$28,348.00 and with directional approval by Council to install a bed liner and have the truck undercoated was unanimously carried.**
4. Fee Resolution - This matter is on hold.
5. Council Compensation Ordinance - This matter has been advertised for the regular scheduled Council Meeting of June 12, 2018.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Personnel Handbook Update – The Borough Solicitor discussed going through ADP to update the existing personnel handbook. The Borough Manager recommends starting with a new draft instead of updating the old one. Members of Council discussed getting a template from ADP and modifying it to meet our needs.
2. Time Clocks – Members of Council reviewed and discussed types of time clocks from the last meeting and where to purchase them. The Borough Solicitor suggested contacting the Beaver County Court House for information on finger id time clocks since they recently have updated their system. The Borough Manager was asked to follow up on this matter.
3. Proposed Commercial Overlay Ordinance – A proposed ordinance amending chapter 180 of the Code of the Borough of Economy entitled “Zoning” to establish regulations regarding a Neighborhood Commercial Overlay District was recommended for Council’s review by the Planning Commission. The Borough Manager presented an overview of the areas that would be affected, that it would permit a limited number of commercial establishments and that the area could be changed/reduced if appropriate. Members of Council discussed the existing two (2) commercial areas within the Borough, using these areas before an overlay, the infringement on the residential areas, the possible affect to property assessments and spot-zoning. The Borough Solicitor stated that he has not reviewed the ordinance to verify if it is spot-zoning and asked for a motion to advertise. Ms. Lisa Waters (not signed in) was granted permission to express her concerns regarding this ordinance. The Borough Solicitor stated that if the ordinance is advertised then a public hearing would be held where residents would have an opportunity to speak. The Borough Solicitor asked if there is a motion to advertise the proposed Commercial Overlay Ordinance, hearing none, there was no action taken.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mrs. Mutschler requested an executive session for a personnel issue regarding part-time summer help.

Mr. Bucuren presented Council with concerns regarding overweight trucks traveling on Compton Road to gain access to Conway Wallrose Road and inquired why this was not on the agenda. There was discussion regarding an overweight permit being issued, when it was issued, the number of trucks it covers, why a copy was not given to Council, the road bond supplied to get a permit, the state limit for a bond, a state regulation regarding overweight vehicles, and that the permit can be revoked if need be. Mr. Bucuren reviewed the background of the other access available to Conway Wallrose Road.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mr. Westrom requested Council go into Executive Session regarding the Assistant Code Enforcement position, Part-time Summer Help, the Public Works Foreman position, a proposed resolution for non-organized employees and two (2) contractual matters at 8:20 p.m., as per the motion of Mrs. Skonieczny, seconded by Mr. Fetkovich.

The motion of Mr. Bucuren seconded by Mr. Morrone to reconvene at 9:04 p.m. was unanimously carried.

Upon re-entering the public meeting, the following item(s) were reviewed:

1. The Borough Solicitor stated there will be no vote on the Economy Volunteer Fire Department Contract, Non-organized Employee Resolution, or the Part-time Summer Help.
2. Interim Public Works Working Foreman Position – A motion by Mr. Fetkovich, seconded by Mr. Morrone to appoint Ted Brickner the Interim Public Works Working Foreman, all voted aye.
3. PennEnergy Lease Agreement – A motion by Mr. Bucuren, seconded by Mr. Morrone to approve the Division Order with Penn Energy in order to receive royalties from the natural gas lease on the 33 acres the Borough owns, all voted aye.
4. Assistant Code Enforcement Officer – A motion by Mr. Morrone, seconded by Mrs. Skonieczny to hire John (Jake) Thomas to the position of Assistant Code Enforcement Officer at the rate of \$13.50 per hour for up to 28 hours per week pending a background check, drug test and offer letter being signed, all voted aye.

There being no further business, the motion of Mrs. Mutschler, seconded by Mr. Morrone to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m. was unanimously carried.

Margie L. Nelko
Borough Secretary

Randy Kunkle
Borough Manager

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

1. Approve the Minutes of April 10, 2018.
2. Approve the Minutes of May 08, 2018.
3. Approve the purchase of a 2018 Ford F250.
4. Appoint Ted Brickner the Interim Public Works Working Foreman.
5. Approve the Division Order with Penn Energy.
6. Passed motion to hire John Thomas to the position of Assistant Code Enforcement Officer.