

Economy Borough Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
January 27, 2015

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**MEETING** was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with Mrs. Pat Skonieczny presiding and the following members of Council and officials of the Borough present: Mrs. Pat Skonieczny, Mrs. Courtney Barthelemy, Mr. Gary Bucuren, Mr. Tom Fetkovich, Mr. Larry Googins, Mr. Frank Morrone, Mayor David Poling, Borough Manager Randy Kunkle, Borough Secretary Margie Nelko, and Mr. Joshua Kail, Esq., representing the Borough Solicitor.

**ABSENT:** Mr. R.J. Burns (Excused)  
Mr. Joseph Askar, Esq. (Excused)

**OPENING PRAYER**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:** Mrs. Skonieczny welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested the discussion(s) regarding Borough Business be kept to 3 – 5 minutes in length.

The following visitors were present:

Okey Matthews of 335 Springer Road, Freedom

**HEAR THE PUBLIC:**

Paul Thompson (not signed in), of 511 First Street, was present to address concerns regarding a red light for the top of Dunlap Hill and Conway Wallrose Road. Mr. Thompson stated that at the last meeting of Council, there was discussion regarding looking back into the 2015 Budget for funding for this concern. Mr. Fetkovich stated that this type of project could get complicated, once a traffic study is done and determined that a light is needed and not put in then the Borough would be held liable. Mr. Fetkovich stated that this could be a costly project. Mrs. Barthelemy stated that a grant has been applied for and that she addressed her concerns with Chief O'Brien at the last meeting while requesting an officer to sit at the top of the hill. Mr. Morrone stated that Chief O'Brien stated that there were safety concerns regarding an officer sitting at the top of the hill on private property. There was some discussion regarding the grant that was applied for in the summer of 2014 and the next upcoming time frame to re-apply for the grant, which should be in June 2015. The Borough Manager stated that approximately a year or so ago Shoup Engineering estimated a cost of 160,000.00 to 180,000.00 for a red light at this location. The Borough Manager explained that a traffic study is only good for a two to three (2 to 3) year span and he believes another study would need to be conducted by a firm hired by the Borough. Mr. Thompson asked if a loan could be acquired to fund this project. There was some discussion regarding whether there was funding available through the DCED. Mr. Googins stated that the Borough needs to follow the correct procedure for an installation of a red light, which includes contacting PennDot. There was some discussion regarding having Shoup Engineering to start the process so that funding could be added to the 2016 Budget if not in the 2015 Budget. There was discussion regarding whether an installed red light would affect the traffic at the intersection of Rt. 989 and Conway Wallrose Road. Mr. Bucuren and Mr. Fetkovich both believe that another red light would be required for this intersection and that both red lights would need to be synced to work together. There was discussion regarding whether two (2) red lights would be needed and whether or not they would be installed at the same time.

Okey Matthews, of 335 Springer Road, was present to inquire as to the status of the condemned house on Springer Road. The Borough Manager explained that the owners have been cited with the District Magistrate's office as per the Borough Ordinance. The District Magistrate gives ample opportunity for the owner(s) to correct the situation(s). The Borough Manager stated that there is a program offered by Beaver County to help with blighted properties which are normally unoccupied structures, unlike this case. If the District Magistrate would demand removal or if the owner is willing to sign off on the removal of the structure then the Borough could apply for help from the program. The Mayor asked how this would work and the Borough Manager responded. Mrs. Barthelemy inquired if the District Magistrate hearings are public and suggested that if the neighbors were permitted to attend the hearing then they could express their concerns. The Borough Manager stated that he believes the hearings are public but is unsure whether the neighbors would be permitted to talk. The neighbors are more than welcome to contact the Borough Manager for the date and time of the next hearing for this issue, should they decide to attend. Mr. Matthews stated that there was a dumpster there because the Borough made the owner to do something but it was gone in July and now nothing is being done. Mr. Matthews asked at what point does it become unsafe. The Borough Manager stated that the Borough has no control of the District Magistrates determination(s).

**MINUTES** of the Regular Meeting held on January 13, 2015, were presented to Council. The Mayor presented Council with an amendment to Page 67, second paragraph under the Mayor's Report, requesting that his concerns regarding the Knighthawk contract show the lack of both an expiration date and ratification publically. **After some review and discussion, the motion of Mr. Bucuren, seconded by Mr. Morrone to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2015, as amended was unanimously carried.**

**PROPERTY and BUILDING COMMITTEE:** No Report.

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:** Mr. Morrone reviewed the request to research the red light at the top of Dunlap Hill and Conway Wallrose Road.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Mr. Googins, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, requested the Finance Committee to review the 2014 Year End Budget Report. Mr. Googins pointed out that some of the budget accounts vary quite a bit from the budgeted dollar amount to the actual dollar amount. Mr. Googins would like to know why they vary to help with the 2015 Budget and the 2016 Budget. Mr. Googins also requested a meeting of the Finance Committee to discuss these accounts after everyone on the committee has had a chance to review them.

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE:** Mr. Bucuren, Chairperson of the Public Works Committee, presented Council with an overview of the work the Public Works Department has been completing and that the PW crew were doing a great job with the snow plowing.

**PARKS and RECREATION COMMITTEE:** Mr. Fetkovich presented Council with updates regarding the following issues:

1. **Recreation Board Vacancies** – There are two (2) vacant seats at this time, one being Dave Hershberger (Chair) and the other being Mary Jo Sivy (Secretary). As of today, there has not been any letters of interest received. The Borough Manager stated that today was the deadline, but he feels it should be extended and that he did receive an email from the Mayor regarding vacancies.
2. **Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and the Christmas Program** – Mr. Fetkovich stated that Breakfast with the Easter Bunny is scheduled for March 28, 2015, at the fire hall. The Christmas Program will be addressed at a later date.
3. **Walk Arounds** – Mr. Fetkovich stated that there will be discussion regarding the Walk Arounds of the Parks in March.

4. Community Days and Available Funding – Mr. Fetkovich stated that there will be discussions regarding the Community Days during the upcoming meetings. Mr. Fetkovich also stated that there will be discussions regarding the funding available in the bank accounts and budgets. Mrs. Barthelemy expressed her feelings on utilizing the monies available from Liberty Hills and Whispering Pines for the playground. Mrs. Barthelemy stated that she believes the park would be used more if it had better equipment and the area near the pavilion was beautified more and possibly a community center where the tennis courts used to be. Mr. Fetkovich stated that there is an agenda for the year 2015 and this issue is being considered.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES and ORDINANCE COMMITTEE:** No Report.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** No Report.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** The Borough Manager presented Council with updates regarding the following issues:

1. 1997 Peterbuilt 330 (Truck 05) – The Borough Manager stated that the City of McKeesport accepted the Borough's asking price of \$28,000.00 for the 1997 Peterbuilt 330 and title transfer arrangements are being made.
2. Sherbondy Storm Sewer Easement (116 Clover Road) – The Borough Manager stated that a storm sewer easement for 116 Clover Road was submitted for Council's review. Mrs. Skonieczny stated that this matter would be tabled until the Borough Engineer can review the compensation issues.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** The Borough Solicitor stated that there are updates to discuss with Council and they would be addressed in executive session.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:** No Report.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Mrs. Skonieczny requested an update regarding a police officer's request to add his spouse to the health insurance policy since it would not cost the Borough any additional premium. The Borough Manager reviewed the background of this request and stated that there was discussion in the past regarding the employee being a part-time officer with a set schedule. The Borough Solicitor stated that the employee being part-time is a separate issue. Mrs. Skonieczny stated that this falls under the police contract. There was some discussion regarding what would happen if the policy changes, it was determined that Council would need to revisit the issue at that time. The Borough Manager stated that with Council's permission the spouse can and will be added as early as tomorrow, with the stipulation of the necessary paperwork being completed. **After some review, it was the consensus of Council to authorize the Borough Manager to add the employee's spouse to the health insurance policy.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mrs. Barthelemy presented Council with information regarding the Ambridge Wine & Chocolate Walk on Saturday, February 14, 2015, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. followed by Happy Hour at 6:00 p.m. in Old Economy Village Visitor's Center with live music and a basket raffle.

Mrs. Barthelemy presented Council with information regarding the River Valley Tang Soo Do venter show on March 3, 2015. Mrs. Barthelemy stated that if anyone is interested to feel free to contact her for more information.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mrs. Skonieczny requested Council go into Executive Session in regard to personnel matters and litigation matters at 07:49 p.m.

There being no further business, the motion of Mr. Googins, seconded by Mr. Morrone, adjourn the meeting at 08:16 p.m. was unanimously carried.

Margie L. Nelko  
Borough Secretary

Randy Kunkle  
Borough Manager