

Economy Borough Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2015

MEETING was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with Mr. R. J. Burns presiding and the following members of Council and officials of the Borough present: Mr. R. J. Burns, Mr. Tom Fetkovich, Mr. Larry Googins, Mr. Frank Morrone, Mrs. Pat Skonieczny, Mayor David Poling, Borough Manager Randy Kunkle and Borough Secretary Margie Nelko.

ABSENT: Mrs. Courtney Barthelemy (Excused)
Mr. Gary Bucuren (Excused)

OPENING PRAYER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Borough Solicitor Mr. Joseph Askar and Joshua Kail, Esq. entered the meeting at this time (7:10 p.m.).

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS: Mr. Burns 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:

Brad Weedon of 103 Grove Hill Road, Baden
Audrey Mutschler of 2820 Ridge Road Ext., Baden
Scott Hietsch of 111 Roberts Lane, Baden
Ray McClellan of 196 Shaffer Road, Sewickley
Okey Matthews of 335 Springer Road, Freedom

HEAR THE PUBLIC:

Okey Matthews, of 335 Springer Road, was present to request an update regarding the 345 Springer Road condemned property. The Borough Manager stated that another citation was filed last week. Mr. Matthews presented Council with information he had received from the District Magistrate regarding attending the hearings and was informed that the Borough would need to set a deadline. The owner, Mr. Jeffrey W. Cortright, continuously pays the fine, which may not be a significant amount. There was some discussion regarding if there are children playing near the building and if there is a safety issue. The Borough Solicitor stated that the Borough could file a petition with the court, have a hearing, set demolition deadline and then the Borough could place a lien on the property to cover the cost of the demolition. **After some review and discussion, the motion of Mr. Fetkovich, seconded by Mr. Morrone to authorize the Borough Solicitor to proceed with looking into the legalities for the demolition of the existing structure located at 345 Springer Road was unanimously carried.**

Nick Gnarra (not signed in), of 116 1st Street, was present to ask if the 2015 Revenue Budget amount was determined. The Borough Manager stated that the 2015 Budgeted Revenue amount is \$4,274,850.00.

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting held on March 10, 2015, were presented to Council. **After some discussion, the motion of Mrs. Skonieczny, seconded by Mr. Morrone to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2015, was unanimously carried with the exception of Mr. Burns, who abstained due to he was not present at the meeting.**

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: No Report.

PARKS and RECREATION COMMITTEE: Mr. Fetkovich, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, presented Council with updates regarding the following:

1. Recreation Board – The Recreation Board has met and appointed Mr. Brian Westrom as Chair, Mrs. Laurel Westrom as Vice-Chair, Mrs. Eve Studebaker as Secretary and Mrs. Jill Creese as Events Coordinator. Mr. Fetkovich thanked everyone for all their effort and time on this board. The tentative date for the 2015 Annual Community Days is June 20, 2015, from noon to 4 p.m. This year there has been discussion regarding making the Community Days more family and child orientated. There is hope that the Public Works Department will be able to continue supporting the celebration by helping with the setup and clean up.
2. Walk Around of the Parks – The board has scheduled April 12, 2015, as the date for the Walk Around of the Parks for maintenance and safety issues. The Recreation Board has reached out to other municipalities to get some direction on applying for grants to help with improvements. There was some discussion regarding needing a plan in place before applying for grants, which was done several years ago and will need to be updated. The Borough Manager stated that the last plan for playground equipment at the parks was through a company associated with COSTARS. There was some discussion regarding the Borough matching grants in the past by using the labor expenses from the Public Works Department. After some review and discussion, it was the consensus of Council to have the Borough Manager move forward with preparing a plan to enable the Recreation Board to proceed with applying for a grant(s). Mr. Fetkovich offered to help the Borough Manager with this task.

PUBLIC UTILITIES and ORDINANCE COMMITTEE: Mrs. Skonieczny, Chairperson of the Public Utilities and Ordinance Committee, presented Council with an update regarding the following:

1. Ambridge Water Authority (AWA) Hydrant Agreement – The expired hydrant agreement has been given to the Borough Solicitor for review and possible amendments. Mr. Burns expressed his concern about entering into another agreement due to the maintenance service on the hydrants is not getting done. There was some discussion regarding holding payment unless a maintenance service report is submitted. Mr. Burns stated that a Public Works employee could travel with AWA during the hydrant maintenance services to verify that the work is being completed. The Borough Solicitor stated that he has reviewed the agreement and it states that a notification is to be given to the Borough indicating when the hydrants maintenance service will be conducted. The Borough Manager stated that the office does receive a notice with a vague time frame. Mrs. Skonieczny stated that AWA explained that the high chlorine smell and/or taste in the water is due to not enough oxygen in the tank because the weather has been so cold.
2. Compton Heights Plan (Compton Court Drive) Public Water Request – The Public Utilities Committee has met with the Ambridge Water Authority (AWA) regarding the waterline request from the residents of Compton Court Drive. AWA's position on the request is if enough tap-ins are paid to cover the costs of the pipes, fittings, etc..., making installation cost effective. At first AWA stated that it did not have time to do the work, but towards the end of the meeting there was a slight change in those thoughts. There was some discussion regarding AWA using sub-contractors on regular basis. At the AWA meeting there was discussion regarding a third (3rd) party costing approximately \$125.00 per foot for a waterline. The Borough Manager stated that after reviewing the information with the Borough Engineer, it was determined that a cost of \$60.00 to \$80.00 per foot was average. The Borough Manager stated the length was measured and at an approximate cost of \$90.00 per foot the expense would be \$198,000.00 divided by sixteen (16) individual residencies would be \$12,375.00 each. The price for AWA doing the work was discussed at the AWA meeting and was determined to be approximately \$8,000.00 for each residency. There was some discussion regarding the process in the past being completed up to the collection of the cost(s), then the process would stop due to not all of the residents would pay for the cost(s). There was some discussion regarding the residents signing a contract with AWA for the cost(s) associated with the installation of a waterline now that prices are

available. Mr. Fetkovich recommended the residents meeting to review and discuss the matter. Mr. Googins inquired if these prices include a tap-in fee. The Borough Manager stated that if a third (3rd) party does the work then the tap-in is not included, if AWA does the work then it is. There was some discussion regarding the residents being required to pay the expenses of running a line from the street to their dwelling. The Borough Manager stated that AWA is going to present the matter to the AWA Board Members and then contact the Borough with the results. Mr. Fetkovich stated that if AWA has a full schedule this year, then maybe it is possible to be placed on the schedule for 2016 to help reduce the cost(s) to the residents. **After some review and discussion, the motion of Mrs. Skonieczny, seconded by Mr. Morrone to authorize the Borough Solicitor to review both the AWA Water Contract and the Hydrant Agreement was unanimously carried.**

PROPERTY and BUILDING COMMITTEE: No Report.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: Mr. Morrone, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, presented Council with an update regarding the traffic signal for Conway Wallrose Road and Dunlap Hill.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: No Report.

The Budget Report for the month of February 2015 was presented to Council, which was ordered received and filed.

MAYOR'S REPORT: No Report.

Mayor Poling recognized Troop 414, who was in attendance, and thanked them for all of their community service.

Mayor Poling stated that 31 Bock Lane, owned by Ruth B. Sloppy, should be looked into for possible help with demolition. Mr. Fetkovich stated that there is another house near the Lutheran Church near Shaffer Road that should be looked at as well. Mr. Googins asked if the Borough is handling the mowing for the property near Shaffer Road. The Borough Manager reported that the Borough did handle this for one year. The owner resides in Alaska and has now hired a company to handle the mowing. There was some discussion regarding going through the Beaver County program to help with these properties. The Borough Solicitor will pull information for these properties, as well as, the one discussed on Springer Road. It was noted that code enforcement will be discussed in executive.

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

1. **Powell Contract Extension** – The Borough Manager presented Council with an overview of Mr. Reid Powell's request for a contract extension beginning in the year 2017 to the year 2019 or 2020. Mr. Burns inquired if the price was going to change. The Borough Manager stated that he would need to confirm this and that Council could approve subject to the price remaining the same. Mr. Burns stated that he would rather have the information first and then he reviewed fuel prices and dump site fees. Mr. Googins inquired if there is a formula on a base rate. There was some discussion regarding the terminology associated with the contract's price adjustments. The Borough Solicitor requested a copy of the agreement.
2. **Colonial Life** – The Borough Manager stated that Colonial Life offers supplemental insurance policies to employees similar to AFLAC. The Colonial Life Representatives have met with employees to determine if there was an interest, it was determined that there is interest from some employees. This insurance is for employees and paid by the employee by a payroll deduction. The Borough Manager stated that other than a minimal administrative cost, there is no impact or obligation to the Borough. There was some discussion regarding the policies being cafeteria style, meaning that there are several policies to pick and choose from. **After some review, the motion of Mr. Fetkovich, seconded by**

Mr. Googins to approve Colonial Life to offer supplemental insurance to employees and authorize the appropriate payroll deductions was unanimously carried.

3. **Council Room Chair Replacements** – The Borough Manager stated that the current chairs in the Council Chambers are not safety compliant. A suitable chair has been found at Costco’s for \$149.99 each. Mr. Burns reviewed the background of the existing chairs and the reasons why they should be replaced. It was noted that the Economy Borough Municipal Authority, the Planning Commission, the Zoning Hearing Board and the Economy Women’s Club all meet in the Council Chambers. There was some discussion regarding the return policy for Costco. **After some review, the motion of Mr. Morrone, seconded by Mrs. Skonieczny to authorize the purchase of chairs from Costco at the price of \$149.99 each for the Council Chambers was unanimously carried.**

SOLICITOR’S REPORT: The Borough Solicitor presented Council with updates regarding the following issues:

1. **Arbitration (Fitzgerald)** – A letter, dated March 23, 2015, was received from Mr. Charles M. Gaston, Business Agent for the Teamsters Local Union 250, regarding a request on behalf of Mr. Fitzgerald. The Borough Solicitor stated that this will be discussed during executive session due to litigation.
2. **Municipal Liens** – The Borough Solicitor stated that there are two (2) Municipal Liens that will be filed this week with the Beaver County Prothonotary’s Office.
3. **Auditor Letter** – The Borough Solicitor stated that a Legal Representation Request Letter was received from Maher Duessel. The purpose of this letter is to collect information on pending or threatened litigation, claims, assessments and unasserted claims. The Borough Solicitor stated that this was completed this week.
4. **Ambridge Water Authority Agreements (AWA)** – The Borough Solicitor stated that he has reviewed the two (2) AWA Agreements. The recommended wording revision(s) for the hydrant agreement will be discussed with Council.
5. **Flood Plain Ordinance** – The Borough Solicitor presented a background on Flood Plain Management. The Borough Manager reported that the Flood Insurance Rate Maps have changed. The Borough does not have an Ordinance in place regarding flood plains, therefore, an Ordinance needs to be adopted by August 2015. There was some discussion regarding the one hundred year (100 yr.) flood maps and the new maps, which should be in place before August 2015. The Borough Manager stated that without an Ordinance, the residents will not be able to purchase or renew flood insurance policies. The Public Utility and Ordinance Committee has been given this information and a meeting will be set to review and discuss a draft Ordinance. The Borough Manager stated that there is a consultant that can be contacted with any question we may have. The Borough Solicitor recommends adopting a Flood Plain Ordinance.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Burns inquired if the discussion regarding an employee requesting vacation time that was unable to be used last year should be discussed in executive session. The Borough Manager stated yes.

Mr. Fetkovich inquired if the 1997 Peterbuilt Truck was sold and transferred. The Borough Manager stated yes, the City of McKeesport has taken possession of the truck.

Mr. Burns inquired if the monies have been transferred from the NL Shopping Center which was approved to cover the cost of a police interceptor. The Borough Manager stated yes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Poling stated that a resident contacted him regarding their request for the Maher Duessel Audit Report that seemed to be missing six (6) pages. The Borough Manager stated that he had supplied what was requested according to the Right-to-Know request.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mr. Burns requested Council go into Executive Session in regard to personnel matters consisting of ongoing employee litigation, personnel matters involving a vacation time request at 08:01 p.m.

There being no further business, the motion of Mr. Googins, seconded by Mr. Burns to adjourn the meeting at 09:05 p.m. was unanimously carried.

Margie L. Nelko
Borough Secretary

Randy Kunkle
Borough Manager