

Economy Borough Council
Council Minutes
September 25, 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, and representing the Borough Solicitor Mr. Joshua Kail, Esq.

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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.

Mr. & Mrs. William Howard of 255 Marr Road, Freedom
Ray McClellan of 196 Shaffer Road, Sewickley

HEAR THE PUBLIC:

Mr. & Mrs. Howard were present to discuss concerns on the unfinished portion of Marr Road where they reside and requested something be done (gravel or paving and plowing) with the road because it is a safety issue. This issue was brought up in the past and at that time it was determined it was a private road. Mr. & Mrs. Howard presented a map and documentation that they believe proves it is a Borough owned road. Members of Council discussed similar situations, the ordinance adopting Marr Road, how our ordinances handle issues from that long ago and what would need to happen to bring it up to Borough specs.

Jake Thomas (not signed in) stated that there was an incident on Marr Road where an ambulance could not get to the residence due to the snow and the fire department used a 4x4 vehicle to transport the patient out.

Steve Borato (not signed in) stated if there are millings then they could be used.

Ernie Sotirake (not signed in) was present to discuss his concerns regarding the emergency communication system not working during the power outage recently because the generator did not engage. The Borough Manager stated that issue has been addressed and the company is coming in to do the maintenance. The Borough Manager was asked to email Council with the results.

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting held on September 11, 2018, were presented to Council. Mrs. Mutschler expressed concerns regarding a couple of sentences spoken under the Mayor's section being discombobulated with no directories on how/who said it and inquired if they could be removed unless the whole conversation is included. Mrs. Mutschler stated that her sentence regarding the lawnmower is out of nowhere making it look like she just blurted it out or spoke out of turn during the meeting. Mrs.

Skonieczny expressed concerns regarding a paraphrased section of discussion with Mr. Burns and would like to review the tape. **After some discussion, the motion of Mrs. Mutschler, seconded by Mrs. Skonieczny to postpone the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 11, 2018, was unanimously carried.**

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Mrs. Mutschler, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, stated that the Borough Manager sent out the proposed budget to the Committee. The Committee will be looking into it and will start meeting.

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE: Mrs. Skonieczny, Chairperson of the Ordinance Committee, stated that she sent an email regarding Ordinance No. 217 which needs some clerical and dollar amounts updated. An amendment will then be presented to Council for review.

PARKS and RECREATION COMMITTEE: Mr. Fetkovich, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, thanked everyone who was involved. The event was very well attended for the date being switched and the only glitch was the movie because of the CD player. The following has been entered here in the minutes as per Mr. Fetkovich's request:

September 25, 2018

I would like to take the time to thank everyone involved in helping with the Outdoor Movie and Fireworks during Economy Borough's recent community event. Below is a listing of many of the individuals and groups that made the event a success. I hope that I included everyone, and apologize if I inadvertently left anyone out. Thank you again.

- Concord Presbyterian Church
- Creekside Springs
- Economy Borough Council
- Economy Borough Police Department
- Fire Police
- JD's Popcorn Store
- Parks and Recreation Board Members
- Public Works Department
- Recreation Alliance of North Pittsburgh
- Rhodes Transportation
- Volunteer Fire Departments- Economy Borough and Marshall Township
- Zambelli Fireworks for the awesome show!

Additional thanks for the light tower donations from Beaver County 911, Harmony Township VFD, and Harvey's Towing.

Sincerely,



Thomas A Fetkovich

Economy Borough Council

PROPERTY and BUILDING COMMITTEE: The Borough Manager stated that he believes the Public Works Department roof is completed. Mrs. Mutschler inquired if a quote was received for the overhangs. The Borough Manager stated that because of the emergency status, the roof was the only item done.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: No Report.

PUBLIC WORKS (PW) COMMITTEE: No Report.

Mr. Bucuren presented Council with information regarding the concerns of the Interim Public Works Foreman and another Public Works Employee regarding the need to have the bed of the 2004 Peterbilt sandblasted and painted. Members of Council discussed that this was brought up once before, the budget line item to be used, the need for the work before winter and the two (2) quotes received ranging from \$3,000.00 to \$3,200.00. **After some review the motion of Mr. Bucuren, seconded by Mrs. Skonieczny to approve the truck being sandblasted and painted subject to not exceeding \$3,500.00 was unanimously carried.** There was discussion regarding the protocol should the work exceed the approved amount.

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

1. **Northern Lights Shopping Center (NLSC)** – Mayor Borato stated that the proposed meeting did not happen due to a lack of correspondence and requested the Code Enforcement Office to inspect the property for any issues/violations because of safety concerns and it being an eye sore. The Code Enforcement Office was asked to submit a report.
2. **Real Estate (RE) Tax Collector Office Concerns** – The Mayor has received to date seventeen (17) phone calls regarding residents not being able to receive tax related services during the (approximately) two (2) weeks the RE office was closed. There are some concerns regarding non-deputized individuals, other than the RE Collector, accepting RE payments. The Mayor contacted the DCED and the Association of Tax Collectors for information and found that Council can demand that someone be deputized to fill in when the RE Collector is out. The DCED has issues with tax payers' information being in a personal home, which is now against their procedures. Members of Council discussed if information can be retrieved from the county website, an email regarding a request for an audit, the issue of no one being deputized which could lead to missing monies, a deputized person would be covered under the insurance/bond, instances where the RE and the County records do not match, Council setting the office hours, other municipalities placing ads notifying residents of an office closure and the lack of a notification of the RE office being closed. The Borough Solicitor recommended setting up a meeting with the Finance Committee and the RE Collector to discuss these issues. The Borough Solicitor was asked to research suggestions for this matter.
3. **Police Vehicle Purchase(s)** – The Mayor presented Council with another quote, in the amount of \$37,445.00, from Wright Automotive Group for a 2019 Chevrolet Tahoe for the Police Chief. The Mayor explained the picture email of accident equipment that is always carried and requested a motion to purchase the 2019 Chevrolet Tahoe as quoted. The Mayor reviewed the police budget regarding the vehicle purchase line item and stated that the department has only used forty-nine percent (49%) of their budget as of August 2018. The Borough is now on notice of any possible liability should the accident equipment not make it to an accident because of a nine (9) year old vehicle. The Borough Solicitor explained the subject of a liability to the Borough from a legal standpoint. Members of Council discussed why if it is possible to keep the current vehicle then why purchase a new one, if the current/new vehicles are patrol vehicles, whether a smaller vehicle could hold the accident equipment, the price for installing/transferring the police equipment, the possibility

of a trade-in, the reason(s) for a new vehicle and the availability of pre-wired capabilities from IBIS Tek. The Mayor stated that the total price of the vehicle with the installed equipment would be the high-end of \$41,000.00. **After some review and discussion, the motion of Mr. Fetkovich, seconded by Mr. Westrom to approve the purchase of the 2019 Chevrolet Tahoe subject to not exceeding \$42,000.00 was made.** Members of Council discussed if there is a new purchase then the current vehicle should be traded-in, what the trade-in value could be and possibly keeping the current vehicle if the trade-in value is low. **After this discussion, Mr. Fetkovich withdrew his motion.**

4. **Anne Street Hydrant Concerns** – The Mayor stated that she contacted Ambridge Water Authority (AWA) regarding a complaint of overgrown weeds at a fire hydrant located on public property at Anne Street and Beaver Road. AWA has not cut back the weeds, therefore, the Mayor asked the Fire Marshall for help with this matter.

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

1. **Ambridge Water Authority (AWA) Fire Hydrant Agreement** – The Borough Solicitor stated that we did receive the information we were supposed to get and recommended approving the agreement without releasing the escrowed payments until the agreement is finalized. The Fire Marshall stated that the AWA General Manager is trying to meet our needs and has supplied the maintenance information required in the contract. Mr. Fetkovich stated that there is a need to emphasize the regulatory and the time frame of these reports. **After some review and discussion, the motion of Mr. Fetkovich, seconded by Mr. Bucuren to approve the Ambridge Water Authority Fire Hydrant Agreement was unanimously carried.** Mrs. Skonieczny stated her approval is based on the Borough Solicitor’s recommendation that it does not affect the escrow issue.
2. **Heart and Lung Policy** – The Borough Solicitor stated this matter will be discussed in executive session.
3. **Personnel Handbook Update** – The Borough Solicitor recommended this matter be given to the Personnel Committee for review.

ENGINEER’S REPORT – The Borough Manager, on behalf of the Borough Engineer, presented the following updates:

1. **Ridgewood Plan Drainage Issue** – No update at this time.
2. **Green Forest Culvert Issue** – The Borough Manager stated that because of the depth of the proposed pipe, it was recommended by the Borough Engineer and the contractor to close the road for a cross drain, which needs Council’s approval. Members of Council discussed the language of the ordinance for road openings, the ordinance stating the road must be kept passable, the road closing making it easier to do the work and that there are two (2) alternate routes. The Borough Solicitor stated that the road could be closed but the contractor would have to keep one (1) lane passable as per the Ordinance.
3. **Stange Road Drainage Issue** – The Borough Manager stated that the trees are to be cut this week.
4. **PennEnergy Access Road** – PennEnergy will be submitting a proposal.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Non-organized Employee Pay – No updates or discussion on this matter.
2. Personnel Committee/Objectives – Mr. Westrom stated that an email was sent outlining the Personnel Committee Objectives. The Personnel Committee consists of Mr. Westrom, Chairperson, Mr. Fetkovich and Mrs. Mutschler. The first order of business is the Personnel Handbook, which the Borough Solicitor will email to the committee members with his recommendations.
3. Borough Building and Public Works Department Video Cameras – The Borough Manager will follow-up with this matter.
4. Police Department Excess Tires – The Borough Manager will follow-up with this matter.
5. Custodian Position – The Borough Manager stated that two (2) applications have been received and that the current contract for services expires this month. The Borough Solicitor recommended this matter being given to the Personnel Committee for interviews and a recommendation to Council. The Borough Manager stated he would help with the arrangements.
6. Time Clock – The Borough Solicitor recommended forwarding this matter to the Personnel Committee due to there are other issues that need addressed before the clock is installed.
7. Cortright Condemnation (345 Springer Road) – The Borough Manager, with the Borough Engineer’s help, is gathering information regarding this matter and should make progress by the next meeting.
8. Fee Resolution - This matter is on hold.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Kingas (2704 Conway Wallrose Road) Lot Line Revision – The Borough Manager reviewed the proposed lot line revision which would place the driveway entirely onto the appropriate lot. The Planning Commission recommends approval. **After some review and discussion, the motion of Mrs. Mutschler, seconded by Mr. Fetkovich to approve the Kingas Lot Line Revision was unanimously carried.**

OTHER BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mr. Westrom requested Council go into Executive Session regarding personnel matters at 8:35 p.m., as per the motion of Mrs. Mutschler, seconded by Mr. Fetkovich.

The motion of Mrs. Skonieczny seconded by Mrs. Mutschler to reconvene at 9:00 p.m. was unanimously carried.

After some discussion, the motion of Mr. Fetkovich, seconded by Mr. Bucuren to advertise the Public Works jobs in the Beaver County Times two (2) times, was unanimously carried.

There being no further business, the motion of Mrs. Mutschler, seconded by Mr. Fetkovich to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m. was unanimously carried.

Margie L. Nelko
Borough Secretary

Randy Kunkle
Borough Manager

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

1. Motion to postpone September 11, 2018, meeting minutes.
2. Approve truck sandblasting and painting not to exceed \$3,500.00.
3. Motion to approve the purchase of a 2019 Chevrolet Tahoe not to exceed \$42,000.00.
4. Rescinded motion to purchase a 2019 Chevrolet Tahoe.
5. Approval of the Ambridge Water Authority Fire Hydrant Agreement.
6. Approval of the Kingas Lot Line Revision.
7. Approve advertising of Full-time and Part-time Public Works jobs.