

Economy Borough Council  
Council Minutes  
December 8, 2020

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Council President Mr. Frank Morrone called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers of the Economy Municipal Building.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL** –

Mr. Frank Morrone, Mr. Gary Bucuren, Mr. Jeffrey Ruckert, Mr. Don Sivy, Mr. Glenn Sylvester, Mr. Roger Kowal and Mrs. Pat Skonieczny (via teleconference) and Mayor Jo Ann Borato.

**STAFF PRESENT** –

Borough Manager Randy Kunkle, Borough Assistant Manager/Secretary Travis Cavanaugh, representing the Borough Solicitor Mr. Joseph Askar, Esq. and Borough Engineer Mr. Scott Shoup.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS** –

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

Laurel Beitsinger of 554 Pioneer Lane, Freedom  
Cheryl Ashbaugh of 2061 Big Sewickley Creek Road, Sewickley  
Mike Andrews of 200 Patriot Lane, Freedom

There were also 10 participants via teleconference.

**HEAR THE PUBLIC** –

Ms. Beitsinger wanted to clarify her comments pertaining to man camps from the Mayor's remarks from the November 24<sup>th</sup> meeting and is requesting that man camps not be allowed in the Oil and Gas Ordinance.

Ms. Ashbaugh expressed her concerns with Council members speaking out of turn and not during the public session and is requesting that man camps not be allowed in the Oil and Gas Ordinance.

Mr. Andrews expressed his concerns for man camps and is requesting that man camps not be allowed in the Oil and Gas Ordinance.

**MINUTES** –

Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 24, 2020, were presented to Council. After some review and discussion, **on a motion by Mr. Ruckert; seconded by Mr. Sivy** to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 24, 2020, as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.

**PUBLIC WORKS (PW) COMMITTEE** –

Mr. Sivy, Chairperson of the Public Works Committee, presented Council with PW Report for November 2020. After some review and discussion this report was ordered received and filed.

Mr. Sivy mentioned that Mr. Terry Kifer passed away and truly will be missed.

Mr. Kowal asked why the Road Department was called in for OT on a holiday.

**PARKS and RECREATION COMMITTEE** – No agenda item at this time.

**ORDINANCE COMMITTEE** – No agenda item at this time.

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE** – No agenda item at this time.

**PROPERTY and BUILDING COMMITTEE** – No agenda item at this time.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** –

A. 2021 Final Budget –

Discussion occurred on the 2021 Final Budget.

The Borough Manager presented Council with an overview of the 2021 Budget. After some review and discussion, **on a motion by Mr. Kowal; seconded by Mr. Morrone** to approve the 2021 Final Borough Budget with the changes to the line items No. 410.130, 410.260 and 452.311. Motion was unanimously carried.

B. 2021 Tax Ordinance No. 474 –

An Ordinance fixing the tax rate of 13.5 Mills for the fiscal year 2021, was presented to Council for review. After some review and discussion, **on a motion by Mr. Sylvester; seconded by Mr. Ruckert** to adopt Ordinance No. 474, fixing the tax rate of 13.5 Mills for the fiscal year 2021. Motion was unanimously carried.

C. Bills Payable for the period of November 6, 2020, through December 3, 2020, in the amount of \$ 655,740.02, from the General Fund with Check No. 29259 to 29373, and in the amount of \$ 1,227.74, from the Highway Aid (Liquid Fuels) Fund with the Check No. 200 to 200, were presented to Council for review. After some review and discussion, **on a motion by**

**Mr. Kowal; seconded by Mr. Sylvester** to approve the list of Bills Payable that have been reviewed and signed off by the department heads was unanimously carried, with the exception of Mr. Bucuren regarding the Public Works bills, due to his brother works in the department.

- D. Budget Report for the month of November 2020, was presented to Council. After some review and discussion this report was ordered received and filed.
- E. Treasurer's Report for the month of November 2020, was presented to Council. After some review, this report was ordered received and filed.

**MAYOR'S REPORT** –

The Mayor's Monthly Police Department Report for November 2020, was presented to Council. After some review and discussion this report was ordered received and filed.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT** – No agenda item at this time.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT** –

Mr. Kowal asked for an update on the street opening ordinance.

**OLD BUSINESS** –

- A. Cable Franchise Agreement – No agenda item at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS** –

- A. 2021 Meeting Dates –

**On a motion by Mr. Ruckert; seconded by Mr. Morrone** to authorize the Borough Manager to advertise for the 2021 meeting dates for Council, Recreation Board, Municipal Authority, Planning Commission, Zoning Hearing Board. Motion was unanimously approved.

- B. December 22, 2020 Meeting Cancellation –

There was discussion regarding cancelling the next regular scheduled meeting of Council due the holiday. After some review and discussion, **on a motion by Mr. Sivy; seconded by Mr. Kowal** to cancel the December 22, 2020, regular Council meeting. Motion was unanimously approved. The next regularly scheduled meeting of Council will be on January 12, 2021.

- C. Zoning Hearing Board –

**On a motion by Mr. Ruckert; seconded by Mr. Sivy** to accept the appointment of Mr. George Stewart to the Zoning Hearing Board for a three (3) year term ending on December 31, 2023. Motion was unanimously carried.

D. Civil Service Commission –

**On a motion by Mr. Ruckert; seconded by Mr. Sivy** to accept the appointment of Mr. Les Kotouch to the Civil Service Commission for a six (6) year term ending on December 31, 2026. Motion was unanimously carried.

E. Tile Replacement –

Discussion occurred on the tile replacement for the Municipal building.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** –

**On a motion by Mr. Sivy; seconded by Mr. Ruckert** requested Council go into Executive Session regarding personnel, following which a vote will be needed. Motion was unanimously approved at 8:18 p.m.

**On a motion by Mr. Sivy; seconded by Mr. Ruckert** requested Council go into Regular Session. Motion was unanimously approved at 8:36 p.m.

After some review and discussion, **on a motion by Mr. Sivy; seconded by Mr. Ruckert** to approve the early retirement incentive offer to Mr. Terry Kifer as null-and-void due to his unforeseen and untimely passing prior to his retirement date. Motion carried 6-1, Mrs. Skonieczny abstained. Mrs. Skonieczny mentioned her abstention was because she was not involved in the deliberations in the Executive Session.

**OTHER BUSINESS** –

Mr. Kowal mentioned that the next hiring for the road department will involve a Committee.

Discussion continued on the hiring process.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN** –

**On a motion by Mr. Sylvester; seconded by Mr. Ruckert** to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Motion was unanimously approved.

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.



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Travis Cavanaugh  
Asst. Borough Manager/Secretary