

Economy Borough Council
Council Minutes
December 14, 2021

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 Bucuren, Mr Kowal, Mr Ruckert, Mr Sivy, Mrs Skonieczny (absent-excused), Mr Sylvester, Mr Morrone, Mayor Borato

STAFF PRESENT

Borough Manager Randy Kunkle, Assistant Borough Manager/Secretary Travis Cavanaugh (absent-excused) Solicitor Joseph Askar Esq, Engineer Scott Shoup

HEAR THE PUBLIC

Tom Applequist, 98 Firethorn Rd spoke about the budget, raising taxes as a last resort, Covid relief money and MS4 funding

Cathy Preuhs, 91 Firethorn Rd, agreed with Mr Applequist and feels Council should too.

Donna Sidney, 92 Firethorn wanted to see the proposed budget

MINUTES

Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 23, 2021 were presented. After review and discussion, **on a motion by Mr Ruckert, seconded by Mr Kowal** to approve the Minutes as presented, all voted aye.

Committees

Finance: Mr Kowal asked if everyone had a chance to review the bills and if there are any questions?

Mayor Borato asked if the Volunteer Fire Department still must account for the money received by the Borough like they used to? Mt Kunkle believes this is the case and will look further into it.

On a motion by Mr Kowal, seconded by Mr Sivy, all voted aye to pay the bills.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

The Student Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding will be discussed under Old Business

ENGINEER’S REPORT

112 Clover Rd, Trees.

This is a follow-up to the discussion of trees being down associated with a Borough Right of Way. Several local tree companies would not give the Borough a bid due to the dangerous condition the trees are in. A company out of Erie, with a branch in Cranberry, estimates it will cost \$7,920 based on an hourly rate of \$495 per hour. Mr Shoup will attempt to obtain additional quotes for the December 28th meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Courtyards at Lakeside Village PRD Phase I Final Approval

This phase includes the entrance road off Conway Wallrose Rd looped over to Pfaff Rd, the first 40 units and the clubhouse. There are still a number of minor items to be addressed, which should be done by the next meeting.

Economy Landings – Developer’s Agreement

After discussion, **upon a motion by Mr Kowal, and seconded by Mr Sylvester**, the Developer’s Agreement between Economy Borough and Economy Partners, LP was approved unanimously

2022 Proposed Budget

Mr Kunkle provided a summary of the Borough’s finances.

All members and the Mayor provided input and insights including controlling the budget, inflation, cutting costs, getting further behind, and the need for more revenue.

Upon a motion by Mr Kowal, seconded by Mr Ruckert, to adopt the proposed budget including the cuts made by the Finance Committee, and increasing the millage rate by 1 mil if approved; advertising was also approved: the following roll call vote was made

- Mr Bucuren yes
- Mr Kowal yes
- Mr Ruckert yes
- Mr Sivy yes
- Mrs Skonieczny absent
- Mr Sylvester no

Mr Morrone no

Motion Carries 4 votes to 2

Ambridge Area School District – Memorandum of Understanding – Student Resource Officer in the Middle School

Discussion occurred regarding the recent agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and the Ambridge Police Department to have their qualified Student Resource Officer patrol the Economy Middle and Elementary schools. Insurance coverage and amounts, as well as who maintains control of incidents were included.

Motion by Mr Sivy, seconded by Mr Bucuren, to participate in an Inter-governmental Cooperative Agreement whereby qualified Ambridge Police Officers will be the Student Resource Officer in the Middle and Elementary schools provided they are covered by liability insurance in the amount of \$5 million per occurrence, \$10 million in the aggregate; Economy Borough is listed as an Additional Insured, and the Ambridge Resource Officer will maintain control over any incident in either school unless relieved by a superior Ambridge Police Officer. All voted eye.

NEW BUSINESS

Les Kotouch – re-appointment to the Civil Service Commission

Mr Kotouch has requested to be re-appointment to the Commission. **Motion by Mr Ruckert, seconded by Mr Kowal to re-appoint Les Kotouch to the Civil Service Commission to a seat that expires December 31, 2026.** All voted aye.

Zassick Lot Consolidation Plan

This is a simple lot consolidation on Zassick Drive, turning three lots into two. It is akin to house-cleaning; a shed is coupled with a house and a vacant lot could be sold or developed. **Motion by Mr Ruckert, seconded by Mr Kowal** to approve the plan, all voted aye.

Samba Lot Consolidation Plan

This is a simple lot consolidation on Cooney Hollow Road. Three contiguous parcels will become one parcel. The middle parcel has a house and the parcels on either side are vacant. The current parcels are a little over 0.6 acres each. **Motion by Mr Sivy, seconded by Mr Ruckert** to approve the plan, all voted aye.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mr Sivy, seconded by Mr Ruckert to go into Executive Session for Personnel matters at 8:23, all voted aye.

Motion to return to the regular meeting by Mr Sivy, seconded by Mr Ruckert at 8:43, all voted aye.

After review and discussion, **motion by Mr Ruckert, seconded by Mr Bucuren to allow officer 2021-13**, sell back 20 hours of vacation due to being ill and not having enough time to use them, all voted aye.

Mayor Borato mentioned that Police Secretary, Kathleen Anderson's contract expires at the end of the year. After review and discussion, **Motion by Mr Bucuren, seconded by Mr Ruckert**, to increase Mrs Anderson's hourly rate from \$22.65 to \$23.27, all voted aye.

ADJOURN

Motion by Mr Sivy, seconded by Mr Morrone, to adjourn the meeting at 8:46, all voted aye.

Respectfully Submitted

Randy S Kunkle
Borough Manager