

REGULAR SESSION ** ECONOMY BOROUGH COUNCIL ** NOVEMBER 27, 2012

Council President Larry J. Googins called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers of the Economy Municipal Building to conduct business of general purposes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Courtney B. Barthelemy, Esq., Gary Bucuren, Donald Sivy, Michelle Sovich-Lapinski, Dr. Gregory T. Trecha, Larry Googins

ABSENT: RJ Burns (excused)

ALSO PRESENT: Dale M. Fouse, Esq., Randy S. Kunkle, Borough Manager

HEAR THE PUBLIC: No one wished to be heard

MINUTES:

MOTION by Mrs. Barthelemy, seconded by Mr. Bucuren – to approve the Minutes of the November 13, 2012, Regular Session of Council, as written. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMITTEE REPORTS and OTHER BUSINESS:

PUBLIC UTILITIES:

Mr. Fouse reported a court ordered meeting with Ambridge Water Authority will be held at his office, December 10, 2012, at 10:30 AM; Mr. Googins will also attend as Council President; preliminary redrafting of contract with agreed upon language will be brought back to Council.

PROPERTY and BUILDING:

Mr. Sivy reported Thermo Twin has completed the windows in the Community Building and Public Works Office; would be nice to do the remaining windows next year. Mr. Googins verified the original window blinds were rehung in the Public Works Office.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Barthelemy requests an Executive Session to discuss the Public Safety contract with no vote.

Mr. Googins reported receiving today, resignation letter dated November 16, 2012, from Ron Hannah as the Northern Lights Shopping Center (NLSC) person to accept a full time position; will contact Chief Harrington to see what he wants to do as a replacement for NLSC.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski requested to discuss the Public Works and Public Safety contracts in Executive Session with regards to the effect they will have on the 2013 budget; then discuss the proposed budget during the public portion of the meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

Dr. Trecha requested an Executive Session to discuss the Public Works Contract, with no vote.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Mr. Bucuren reported: December 8, 2012 – Snack with Santa
 June 15, 2013 – Community Day

MAYOR’S REPORT: No Report

MANAGER’S REPORT:

1. 2013 Proposed Tax Ordinance: Mr. Kunkle reported if authorized this could be advertised for adoption, at the December 11, 2012 meeting.

2. 2013 Budget – Proposed Budget for Public Review: Mr. Kunkle reported this could wait until after Council is updated on the contract negotiations.

3. Ambridge Area School District (AASD) Memo of Understanding: Mr. Kunkle reported this is a legal document that states how the police department and AASD are to conduct police business on school property. Mr. Fouse reported he would like Chief Harrington to review and comment on the changes for the next meeting.

REPORTS:

ENGINEER: No Report

SECRETARY: No Report

SOLICITOR:

Mr. Fouse reported Northern Lights Shopping Center has appealed their tax assessment requesting a 50% decrease of the agreed upon value of 6 years ago; requesting authority to intervene in this case.

MOTION by Mr. Sivy, seconded by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski – to authorize Mr. Fouse to intervene on behalf of Economy Borough on the Appeal of the Northern Lights Shopping Center. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Fouse reported he will attend the pre trial of Pappentonio vs. Strobel (2009 boundary line dispute) and report back to Council what is being proposed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Barthelemy reported that, Old Economy Village (home of the Harmonists) will hold a fund raiser on November 24th; on December 8th & 9th, Christmas in the Village; tours of the Village decorated in traditional 19th Century German-style.

Mr. Googins reported on the letter from the Beaver County Commissioners regarding residents switching to the Friends & Family option with First Energy which would pay \$5 to Beaver County and \$5 to Economy Borough for each resident who signs up for the 2 year option; feels it is worth review by residents.

Mr. Googins reported will be 2 vacancies on the Recreation Board; 1 5 year term and 1 1 year term.

Mrs. Barthelemy reported the Recreation Board may move their December 17th meeting to December 5th.

MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Mrs. Barthelemy – to enter into Executive Session to discuss the Public Works contract negotiations an the Public Safety contract negotiations, and the effects on the 2013 Draft Budget; with no vote to be taken tonight. Time: 7:27 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Mrs. Barthelemy, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to return to the regular order of business. Time: 7:45 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Fouse reported discussed in Executive Session was contract negotiations for Public Safety, with no vote tonight; contract negotiations for Public Works, with no vote tonight; Chief Harrington's contract, with no vote tonight; and the resignation of Officer Hannah; with no vote tonight.

Council discussed the draft of the proposed 2013 Budget at length especially with regard to funding line items for Public Safety due to the resignation of Officer Hannah.

MOTION by Dr. Trecha, seconded by Mrs. Barthelemy – to authorize making changes as discussed and making the proposed 2013 Budget available for public review effective November 28, 2012. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Mr. Bucuren – to authorize the advertising of the 2013 Real Estate Tax Ordinance with no tax increase, set at 14 mills. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Dr. Trecha – to authorize the solicitor and manager to draft an ordinance to set the compensation of the Tax Collector at one percent (1%) effective January 1, 2014. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

HEAR THE PUBLIC II:

Mr. Googins reported he would open up the Hear the Public Part II at this time for any items discussed during the meeting.

Butch Thompson, 116 First Street, is concerned about officer safety and public safety if Officer Hannah is not replaced; scary to cut anything. Mr. Sivy advised Officer Hannah is the Northern Lights Shopping Center officer and may be replaced. Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski reported this is a tight budget; will look at it.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to adjourn the meeting. Time: 9:07 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Susan A. Blum
Borough Secretary
December 10, 2012