

REGULAR SESSION ** ECONOMY BOROUGH COUNCIL ** JANUARY 10, 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: RJ Burns, Courtney B. Barthelemy, Esq., Gary Bucuren, Donald Sivy, Michelle Sovich-Lapinski, Dr. Gregory T. Trecha, Larry J. Googins

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor David N. Poling, Dale M. Fouse, Esq., Scott Shoup, P.E., P.L.S., Randy S. Kunkle, Borough Manager

HEAR THE PUBLIC:

Mr. Googins opened the meeting to the public; give name and address for the record

Mike Lucia, 416 Golden Grove Road, came before Council asking if it is a state law to place the legal advertising in the newspapers. Mr. Googins reported this is mandated by State Code; there are ongoing resolutions by the Pennsylvania State Boroughs Association (PSAB) and the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) to change the codes to include electronic advertising.

Ray Kenny, 195 Sylvester Street, came before Council reporting he feels the legal advertising method should stay the same.

MINUTES:

MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Mr. Bucuren – to approve the Minutes of the December 13, 2011, Regular Session of Council, as written. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Question on the January 3, 2012 minutes by Mr. Bucuren regarding the Vacancy Board Chairman. Mr. Fouse advised his experience has been that this is the only situation that if there is a tie the Mayor does not break it; will check it. Mr. Googins reported this is addressed in the State Borough Code under Article IX Vacancies in Office, Section 901.

MOTION by Mr. Sivy, seconded by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski – to approve the Minutes of the January 3, 2012, Re-Organization Meeting of Council, as written. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Googins reported the Council Minutes will now be recorded in accordance to the Sunshine Act and the guidelines of Roberts Rules of Order; the contents will include:

1. The date, time and place of the meeting.
2. The names of members present.
3. The substance of all official actions and a record by individual members of the roll call votes taken
4. The name of all citizens who appears officials and the subject of their testimony.

Mr. Googins reported the meetings will still be recorded and a CD stored for 6 months.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Poling read the Mayor's Report for the Police Department for the Year 2011 as prepared by Chief Harrington, which will be on file for review and open to the public in the borough secretary's office. Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski requested a copy of the report for all of Council. Dr. Trecha asked if one incident is reported under more than one category. Mayor Poling reported they may be; will ask Chief Harrington.

Mayor Poling reported the Ambridge Area School Board is looking to raise taxes 8-15 mills; suggested sending a letter to the Board. Mr. Googins reported everybody agrees something needs to be done; will keep talking about it. Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski asked Mayor Poling if he would like to be the point man. Mayor Poling reported we have to do something.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. Pension Trustees Resolution No. 433: Mr. Kunkle reported Resolution No. 433 formalizes appointing the President and Vice President as the official trustees of the Non-Uniformed and Uniformed Pension Plans.

*MOTION by Dr. Trecha, seconded by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski – to adopt Resolution No. 433 as stated.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*

2. Tire Round-Up: Mr. Kunkle reported the Independence Marsh Foundation with help from volunteers and charges of the Sheriff's Department do tire round-ups in the Spring and Fall each year; for a number of years Economy Borough has been on an 18 month cycle and this Spring marks our next time; Economy Borough supplies food and pop for the workers; usually around 12 people; the plan is to hold it on Saturday, May 19, 2012, in front of the garage from 9:00 AM to Noon; the tires are cut up on site with a shearing machine, put on the back of an Economy Borough truck and delivered to the landfill cut up; fees are collected by Independence Marsh Foundation.

MOTION by Mr. Sivy, seconded by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski – to authorize participation with the Saturday, May 19, 2012 Tire Round Up. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Non-Organized Employee Wages: Mr. Googins requested an Executive Session to discuss the proposed wages with perhaps a vote taken after.

COMMITTEE REPORTS and OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Googins reported he has changed the Ordinance and Recreation Committee to the Parks and Recreation Committee to focus on our Parks and Recreation; passing ordinances are generally taken care of by the entire Council; Mr. Fouse and Mr. Kunkle draft an ordinance, then it comes to Council.

PARKS and RECREATION:

Mr. Bucuren reported he will report back on upcoming activities after the meeting next Monday.

Mr. Googins reported Committees are technically made up of the entire 7 member Council; we list the first 3 so that they can meet and discuss recommendations as a Committee and they will not be in violation of the Sunshine Act; the members of the Parks and Recreation Committee are: Mr. Bucuren, Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski and Dr. Trecha; and the remaining 4 Council Members at the end of the list.

PUBLIC UTILITIES:

Mr. Burns reported he just assumed the position; will work making phone calls and report back at the next meeting.

Mr. Googins reported the first 3 members of the Public Utilities Committee are Mr. Burns, Mrs. Barthelemy and Mr. Sivy.

PROPERTY and BUILDING:

Mr. Sivy gave an update on the 2 front and 1 back exterior doors with panic bars for the Municipal Building and the 2 doors for the Public Works Building; the doors were paid for in the 2011 budget; Mr. Kunkle contacted 5 contractors; 3 gave quotes between \$8,000 to over \$14,000; 2 did commercial work and choose not to give quotes; the lowest quote was from Fernando Bevilacqua. Mr. Burns asked if this was advertised. Mr. Kunkle reported no; in 2011 if the cost was between \$4,000 and \$10,000, 3 telephone quotes were needed; over \$10,000 would be publically advertised; in 2012 anything under \$10,000 you can select; between \$10,000 and \$18,500 3 telephone quotes, over \$18,500 must be publically bid in the newspaper. Mr. Burns asked who the other contractors were. Mr. Kunkle will provide the list.

Mr. Googins reported the first 3 members of the Property and Building are Mr. Sivy, Dr. Trecha and Mr. Bucuren.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Barthelemy reported discussion with Fire Chief Thomas and Police Chief Harrington regarding preliminary plans for a children's fair; i.e. seat belt education and fingerprinting.

Mrs. Barthelemy reported preliminary plans to give current Economy Borough veterans further recognition; trying to get a list together; residents should contact the borough office.

Mr. Googins reported the first 3 members of Public Safety are Mrs. Barthelemy, Mr. Burns and Mrs. Lapinski.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski called for any questions on the list of bills. Mr. Burns questioned Petroleum Technical Services for training. Mr. Kunkle reported this is required training regarding the underground storage tanks; Earl and Ted will attend and be certified. Mr. Burns questioned Hunter Truck Sales, Truck 7, Oil Pan, \$1,428.65. Dr. Trecha confirmed Truck 7 is a Peterbilt. Mr. Kunkle reported the oil pan rusted out. Mr. Bucuren reported this happens where he works; the salt put out causes this. Mayor Poling questioned the Hydrant Rental Fee to Ambridge Water Authority (AWA). Mr. Kunkle reported this is hydrant maintenance paid quarterly for flushing and maintenance with AWA; will provide the current agreement to the Public Utilities Committee which expires June, 2012.

MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Mrs. Barthelemy - to accept and pay the list of bills as listed from December 14, 2011 to January 10, 2012 - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Googins reported the first 3 members of the Finance Committee are Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, Mr. Bucuren and Mrs. Barthelemy.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

Dr. Trecha reported he has made an appointment next Tuesday to meet with Mr. Fitzgerald and the department to get up to speed with activities going on in Public Works.

Mr. Googins reported the first 3 members of the Public Works Committee are Dr. Trecha, Mr. Sivy and Mr. Burns.

REPORTS:

SOLICITOR:

Mr. Fouse reported he met previous to tonight's meeting with the 3 new members of Council to review current pending litigation.

Mr. Fouse reported he has one item he would like to have discussed in Executive Session relating to a letter received from the Police Department regarding the Police contract, DROP Plan and retirement issues; with no vote.

Mr. Fouse reported they have finalized the various easements for the properties for the proposed intersection of SR65 and the new road; these are pre requisites for the HOP for the Walmart property; Mayor Poling has 2 to be signed and Mr. Fouse has 1 to be signed; seeking approval of Council. Mr. Googins reported all Council agrees with this.

SECRETARY: No Report

ENGINEER:

Mr. Shoup reported as Council requested, they have looked at the intersection of Amsler Ridge Road and Big Sewickley Creek Road regarding sight distance; part of the evaluation is that they conceptually looked at the project that might involve private property, real estate, condemnation, etc.; talked with Mr. Fouse and should be discussed in Executive Session, with no vote.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Googins reported he would like to add to future agendas is an item called New Business; something that anybody on Council or Mayor Poling comes up with that does not fit in the categories that we do normally use that we can discussed/carried on to one of the next meetings; directed Mr. Kunkle to add New Business to the agenda.

Mr. Googins reported 2 items as examples of discussions that he would like Council to talk about as a whole at some future date are 1) updating Resolution 285 regarding meeting procedures; Mr. Kunkle will provide copies and 2) look to perhaps adopt a signed Code of Ethics; will give an example to Mr. Kunkle to distribute.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Googins called for any new business:

Mr. Burns questioned the 2012 Budget as there appears to be a deficit between the revenues and expenditures. Mr. Googins reported the difference in that number is the December 31st cash balance. Mr. Burns questioned

line items in the police budget. Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski reported Council intends on replacing 2 vehicles with leased vehicles; Chief Harrington is arranging that; possibly in the first quarter. Mr. Burns reported he feels under Public Works, Diesel Fuel/Grease/Oil should be 3 separate line items; feels Salt/Sand should be separate line items. Mr. Googins requested if anybody has questions on the budget to get with Mr. Kunkle or Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski to get the why it is done that way. Mr. Kunkle reported the names of the line items are dictated to Council by the States Chart of Accounts; the auditors like us to use what the State tells us to use. Mr. Burns asked if that should be Liquid Fuels. Mr. Kunkle reported these are two different funds; the General Fund line items are standardized across the State; Liquid Fuels is the same application; they have separate restrictions on what Liquid Fuels can be used for and the titles for the line items are given to municipalities. Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski reported the State has a format (Chart of Accounts); the State wants uniformity from municipalities that is how the line items are established; you can do a sub account, but the State wants municipalities to be consistent when the auditors come in to do their audits. Mr. Burns reported Paving/Patching In House should be 2 separate line items because how many miles of roads are we going to pave. Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski asked Mr. Burns to check the Chart of Accounts and then they can go over the questions. Mr. Googins reported Mrs. Blum will provide a copy to Mr. Burns. Mr. Burns reported he thinks for accounting purposes it would be better to be separated. Mr. Googins suggested questions about the budget should be given to Mr. Kunkle and Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski could assist him with answers; we have 3 new Council members and they should have questions; these are things to look at for the next budget process; when he was new he spent hours understanding the budget process. Mr. Sivy reported the government training he went to when he was newly elected was very helpful overall and explained a lot of information. Mr. Googins reported PSAB will have training on the week ends; shorter sessions than Local Government Academy has. Mr. Burns reported he is going to take the LGA; hasn't had a chance yet. Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski reported she went to the Allegheny County, Butler County sessions; if you miss a session you can get catch up portfolio paperwork. Mr. Googins asked that the PSAB Newly Elected Officials seminar information be provided; this is usually in February. Mrs. Barthelemy reported she and Dr. Trecha are attending the LGA classes in the evenings and Saturdays; they have make up classes; attended 3 so far; found them useful.

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.

Meagan Trimbur, 3225 Ridge Road Ext., came before Council with her concern of shortening the minutes. Mr. Googins reported he explained it earlier how the Council Minutes will now be recorded in accordance to the Sunshine Act and the guidelines of Roberts Rules of Order; the contents will include:

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2. The names of members present.
3. The substance of all official actions and a record by individual members of the roll call votes taken
4. The name of all citizens who appears officials and the subject of their testimony.

Butch Thompson, 116 First Street, came before Council regarding the Vacancy Board appointment. Mr. Googins reported if there is a vacancy, the remaining 6 members pick a resident in good standing from Economy Borough to fulfill that term; if after 30 days the 6 members of Council can't come up with someone for that position, then the Vacancy Board Chairman becomes the 7th member and they try to fill that position; if after 15 more days they still can not decide on a member that they can agree on, even with 7 people, then it goes to the Court of Common Pleas to select someone from the municipality to fill that position. Mr. Thompson reported he does not agree with the Council minute reporting; suggested putting the meetings live on the web site; people that work evenings could watch the meetings at work on their computers. Dr. Trecha asked Mr. Burns, Public Utilities Chairman, if he could check with Comcast to see if cable franchise offers a public station that they will allow the municipality to go live with the meetings. Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski reported people

could actually hear what is being said by the public. Mr. Googins reported it would be an undertaking to do, but Council should start. Mr. Burns reported as soon as he finds out who the representative is, he will contact him. Dr. Trecha reported it could be internet based with a webcam. Mr. Googins reported to get information first before it is decided on. Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski reported in the meantime copies of the CD are available.

Andy Milnick, 416 Friel Road, came before Council asking if the CD audio could be put on the web site in lieu of the minutes. Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski reported there is a certain order according to the Sunshine Act and Roberts Rules of Order of how minutes are to be presented; feels Council should follow those guidelines; anybody could choose to get a copy of the CD; there are guidelines to follow and there are reasons for that; suggests Council follow those. Mr. Googins reported these are ideas for Council to explore; some are free, some are not.

Ray Kenny, 195 Sylvester Street, came before Council stating he would not like to see a past Council member, voted out, put back on Council. Mr. Googins reported he is confident if any one of this Council should vacate the position, the other 6 would be able to take care of that. Dr. Trecha clarified that it would be by majority vote, not unanimous vote. Mr. Fouse advised that is correct.

Ruth Helsel, 119 Gross Drive, came before Council commented on the proposed school tax and Council checking on this for the residents; and neighbors checking on neighbors.

JoAnn Borato, 2001 Conway Wallrose Road. Mr. Googins reported as a technicality to keep order, that questions be addressed to the Council President rather than direct questions to the borough manager; perhaps Council would like to take care of the question themselves. Mrs. Borato asked how many of the underground fuel tanks were dug up. Mr. Googins asked Mr. Kunkle to respond. Mr. Kunkle reported 1 of 2. Mrs. Borato asked if the minutes could be put on a website as recorded at this public meeting. Mr. Fouse reported it happens in other communities; has never had it questioned from a legal standpoint.

Mike Lucia, 416 Golden Grove Road, came before Council reporting that last year when Mayor Poling brought up AASD board raising taxes, he went to all the AASD meetings; the only people at the meetings raising objections were the people with children in school who wanted to keep their programs; sports, ROTC, etc.; no tax payers objecting to raising taxes; nobody showed up at the meetings; perhaps a group could go to the meeting in force to object. Mr. Googins asked Mr. Fouse what a Council can do, except express concern over the increase of taxes for Economy Borough residents. Mr. Fouse reported Economy Borough Council has no more legal significance than any individual. Mayor Poling asked if something could be put together opposing a tax increase. Mr. Googins reported Council should find out where they really are at and take it up at the next meeting. Dr. Trecha asked when they will be voting on it. Mr. Fouse reported school districts operate on a Fiscal Year, ending June 30th.

Butch Thompson, 116 First Street, came before Council suggesting the 2 AASD Board members who live in Economy Borough be invited to an Economy Borough Council meeting to answer questions from the people. Mayor Poling suggested Mr. Kunkle contact the AASD business administrator first.

Bill Raymer, 2844 Ridge Road Extension, came before Council stating Economy Borough pays 60% of the AASD taxes out of the 5 municipalities in the school district; more people from Economy Borough need to be elected to the school board.

Steve Borato, 2001 Conway Wallrose Road, came before Council asking if Economy Borough owns a power washer; in trucking business 36 years; his truck has 1,000,003 miles on it; never had to replace an oil pan. Mr. Googins reported Public Works routinely power washes after every time they go out to salt; may not after 20 hour days.

MOTION by Dr. Trecha, seconded by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski – to enter into Executive Session to discuss 3 items; 1) Non Bargaining Unit Employee pay rates; 2) issue of possible condemnation on Amsler Ridge Road; and 3) letter from the Police Bargaining Unit with regards to a retirement issue; perhaps a vote tonight on the pay rates. Time: 8:28 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Dr. Trecha, seconded by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski – to return to the regular order of business. Time: 9:38 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Fouse reported during Executive Session Council discussed : 1) Amsler Ridge Road issue with the engineer, with no vote; 2) Police Bargaining Unit Letter received relating to the DROP Plan, with no vote; and 3) Wages for the Non Bargaining Unit Employees, with a vote.

2012 Non-Organized Employee Wages:

Mr. Googins reported he will read down the list, give the amount with the percentage.

Police Department Secretary	\$16.07/Hour (4%)
Borough Manager	\$61,026/Year (2%)
Borough Secretary	\$18.67/Hour (2%)
Office Assistant	\$10.02/Hour (2%)
Custodian	\$12.00/Hour-No Increase
PD Custodian	\$12.00/Hour-No Increase
Summer Help	\$9.25/Hour-No Increase at this time.
CEO	\$21.50/Hour-No Increase
Assistant CEO	\$15.00/Hour-No Increase
PT Police	\$15.00/Hour (3.45%)

MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Mrs. Barthelemy – to authorize payment of the 2012 Non-Organized Employee Wages as listed and discussed. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Mr. Burns – to adjourn the meeting. Time: 9:45 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Susan A. Blum
Borough Secretary
January 19, 2012

List of Bills attached to the Minute Book.