

REGULAR SESSION ** ECONOMY BOROUGH COUNCIL ** FEBRUARY 12, 2013

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

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

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

Richard Mattern, President of Our Savior Lutheran Church, came before Council with a written request for assistance from Council regarding the dilapidated condition of the Davis School House and the adjoining property; the Church has tried to contact the owner in Alaska about the property with no response. Mr. Googins reported this will be discussed later in the meeting. Mr. Mattern exits the meeting for a prior commitment.

HEAR THE PUBLIC:

Mr. Googins opened the meeting to the public; give name and address for the record; restricted to borough business; try to be 3-5 minutes; directed to Council.

Celia Janosik, 305 Hoenig Road, came before Council regarding Ordinance No. 440 Amending Chapter 180, Zoning regarding oil and gas wells; provided to the secretary and read a prepared statement opposing/questioning many sections of the ordinance. Mr. Googins reported Council has followed the law; the Public Hearing was duly advertised; this ordinance has been discussed for 2 years; the ordinance is in place to protect the residents.

David Bert, 88 Firethorn Road, came before Council reporting since October of hearing gunfire seemingly close to his home; called the police and was told to try to find where the shooting is coming from; asked Council to investigate and find out what is going on; has reviewed the ordinance online. Dr. Trecha reported he also hears it; it will be hard to pinpoint where it is coming from; they must be 75 yards from an occupied building and only from 9 AM until 5 PM. Mr. Googins reported the Economy Borough ordinance is in accordance with the PA State Game Commission Law. Mayor Poling reported the foliage is down and sound travels further; the foliage muffles the sound.

Dorothy Loebig, 733 Hoenig Road, reported on the adverse reaction of fracking; referred to a book of testimonies; reported politicians greasing their palms; feels fracking is against the Clean Air and Pure Water Act. Mr. Googins reported these are issues the PA and General Assembly need to address.

Andy Milnik, 416 Friel Road, reported being in Espyville and saw signs not permitting trucks on certain roads. Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski asked if the signs were enforceable. Mr. Sivy reported Pymatuning Lake is a drinking reservoir.

MINUTES:

MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Dr. Trecha – to approve the Minutes of the January 22, 2013, Regular Session of Council, as written. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mayor Poling asked that the minutes of the Special Meeting, Tuesday, January 29, 2013, be held up until he has a chance to review the CD with the written minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS and OTHER BUSINESS:

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Dr. Trecha - to pay the list of bills as stated from January 10, 2013 to February 12, 2013 - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to pay the Mockenhaupt Benefits Group invoice in the amount of \$475 from the Police Pension Plan. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT: No Report

PARKS & RECREATION:

Mr. Bucuren reported the Recreation Board is sponsoring a Visit with the Easter Bunny, Saturday, March 23, 2013 and Community Day will be Saturday, June 15, 2013.

PUBLIC UTILITIES: No Report

PROPERTY and BUILDING:

Mr. Sivy asked the status of the six (6) vehicles to be sold. Mr. Kunkle reported the decommissioning of the police vehicles will soon be finished; will report at the next meeting.

Mr. Sivy reported Mark Custer reported on the light in front of the municipal building. Mr. Kunkle reported the electrician is scheduled for this week.

Mr. Googins reported the street light at the corner of Walnut and Giant Oak is out, again. Mr. Kunkle reported this has been faxed to Duquesne Light for service; normally takes a week.

PUBLIC SAFETY: No Report

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Poling read the Mayor's Report for the Police Department for the month of January, 2013, as prepared by Chief Harrington, which will be on file for review in the borough secretary's office.

Mayor Poling requested Council send a letter to the Ambridge Area School District (AASD) telling the board of the hardship any proposed tax increase would cause the residents of Economy Borough. Dale Fouse will be consulted on this before the letter is drafted. Mrs. Barthelemy reported she and her husband would also sign a letter along with Mayor Poling to the AASD regarding the taxes. Sal Boboth reported he would provide the email address of the PA Secretary of Education to the borough secretary to put on the web site so residents could email him.

Mayor Poling asked when the next newsletter will be out. Mr. Kunkle reported the articles are to be in to him on Friday, February 15th; trying for a mid to late April mailing.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. Our Savior's Lutheran Church Request: Mr. Kunkle reported the two parcels directly south of the church contain the dilapidated former Davis School house and a deteriorated house; separately Our Savior's and Economy Borough have tried to get the owner, Vincent Patrick, to clean up the property; until last year Mr. Patrick felt the school could be restored; take one look and it's obvious this has been well beyond repair for years. Mr. Shoup reported perhaps there is Community Development Block Grant money for demolition, with no out of pocket money for eligible structures. Dr. Trecha asked if emergency action could be taken. Mr. Urick asked if Economy Borough ordinances include the International Building Code; yes. Mr. Googins reported it is an unsafe condition.

MOTION by Mr. Sivy, seconded by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski – to authorize the solicitor to investigate and institute condemnation proceedings in regard to the former Davis School House and adjacent property. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Economy Way Dedication: Mr. Kunkle reported the mylar is to dedicate the new roadway; the Economy Borough Planning Commission has signed off on it. Mr. Urick advised 2 motions are in order.

MOTION by Dr. Trecha, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to approve the subdivision - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Mr. Bucuren, seconded by Mr. Burns – to approve the dedication of the road as a public right of way. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Personnel: Mr. Kunkle requested an Executive Session regarding a personnel issue with a possible vote.

REPORTS:

ENGINEER: No Report

SECRETARY: No Report

SOLICITOR: No Report

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Dr. Trecha asked Mr. Kunkle the status of the animal control contract; cleaning up the contract wording. Mr. Kunkle reported he has contacted the owner but has not heard back. Mr. Googins suggested the owner attend the next meeting; Mr. Kunkle will contact her again.

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.

Michelle Poling, 230 Dogwood Circle, reporting her research of the animal control company; finding only a P.O. Box address; would drive there and inspect the facility personally; suggested contacting Connie Javins to see if there is a list of closer facilities.

Sal Boboth, 105 Timber Ridge Drive, reported the Zoning Officer has the right to walk on property for inspections.

Ray McClelland, 196 Shaffer Road, suggested tearing down the Davis School and sending a bill to the owner; and a person can shoot on his property as long as he is not infringing on the distance.

Michelle Poling, reported in the past the Borough of Ambridge Council got involved and submitted a letter to the Ambridge Area School District regarding proposed tax increases because it would hurt the taxpayers.

George Fitzgerald, 189 Wallrose Hgts. Road, asked how much money is involved with the cutting of the grass. Mr. Kunkle reported the owner has contacted someone to cut the grass and Economy Borough cut the grass; both lots. Mr. Burns reported, with the appropriate paperwork, he would donate a machine and tear down and clean up the properties if Economy Borough paid for the roll off boxes. Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski asked if Economy Borough could get grant money for that. Mr. Googins reported this could be looked into.

JoAnn Borato, 2001 Conway Wallrose Road, discussed the Our Savior's Lutheran Church request and the proposed demolition.

MOTION by Dr. Trecha, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue, with possibly a vote. Time: 8:12 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Mr. Sivy, seconded by Mrs. Barthelemy – to return to the regular order of business. Time: 9:02 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Mr. Bucuren – to authorize the borough manager to send a certified letter to an employee advising if not heard from by Thursday, February 28, 2013, it will be Economy Borough's understanding that she has voluntarily terminated her employment. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Mr. Sivy, seconded by Mr. Bucuren – to adjourn the meeting. Time: 9:04 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Susan A. Blum
Borough Secretary
February 22, 2013

List of Bills attached to the Minute Book.