

REGULAR SESSION ** ECONOMY BOROUGH COUNCIL ** JULY 9, 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

Mr. Googins reported he received July 2, 2013, via mail at the borough office, a resignation letter from Dr. Gregory Trecha to Economy Borough Council President; the letter will be on file in the borough office; copies will be available tomorrow with the appropriate Right To Know form filled out.

MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Mr. Burns – to accept the resignation of Dr. Gregory Trecha. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Googins reported this Council has 30 days to select the replacement for Dr. Trecha on Council until December 31, 2013; asked Councilmember's to be prepared to recommend a member/members at the next Council meeting in order to fulfill the 30 day obligation; if not made at that meeting, will ask for a Special Meeting the following week, July 30th; if not then, the following week on August 6th, if necessary.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: RJ Burns, Courtney B. Barthelemy, Esq., Gary Bucuren, Donald Sivy (7:29 PM), Michelle Sovich-Lapinski, Larry 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; restricted to borough business; try to be 3-5 minutes; directed to Council President.

Mike Lucia, 416 Golden Grove Road, submitted his name for consideration to fill the final ½ year term of Dr. Trecha; comes to all the meetings that he can; has a good grasp on the situation; registered Republican; not political; feels he could help Economy Borough in the next 6 months; would do it without pay; would be able to attend all the meetings.

Ken Waters, 107 Rose Street, came before Council regarding a drainage issue caused by the neighbors driveways; 102 Rose put a driveway in without a permit; said Joe said it was OK; 104 Rose packed gravel on top of driveway and water runs off; the ditch is clogged and they have never made an attempt to correct it; provided pictures of the water on the road coming from the driveways; asked that someone look into this. Mr. Burns reported he had met with Mr. Waters, Mr. Shoup, Dr. Trecha and Mr. Fitzgerald; a trench was put down the side of the road; will get back to Mr. Waters; asked for his phone number before the end of the meeting.

Butch Thompson, 115 First Street; asked who the NAACP was concerned about in their July, 2011 letter. Mr. Googins reported this was 2 years ago; this was talked about at the last meeting; someone had complained to the NAACP about a video; a NAACP committee investigated it and found that there was nothing to the complaint; the letter came to Mayor Poling who presented the letter to him. Mr. Thompson asked why does he feel he should still stay on Council when Dr. Trecha was already forced to resign for being in this video. Mr. Googins

reported as stated before, the NAACP committee did a complete investigation; sent a letter that there were no racial implications in that video; that is what they do and they found nothing; it was a video based on a Frankenstein movie; the issue is 2 years old and resolved; Mr. Googins was the victim of that prank. Mr. Thompson asked why he did not act on this for 2 years. Mr. Googins reported he was never given a copy of the second letter that stated there was nothing to it; had to get a copy from Mr. Fouse. Mr. Thompson asked for the good of Economy Borough for Mr. Googins to step aside and let someone else take over. Mr. Thompson asked Mrs. Barthelemy if she said the things in the police report. Mrs. Barthelemy reported she had no comment and referred anyone in the audience to the last borough minutes when approved and they can see the exchange and dialogue that he and she had and draw their own conclusions.

MINUTES:

MOTION by Mrs. Barthelemy, seconded by Mr. Bucuren – to approve the Minutes of the June 11, 2013, Regular Session of Council, as written. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Mr. Bucuren, seconded by Mr. Burns – to approve the Minutes of the June 25, 2013, Cancelled Meeting, as written. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMITTEE REPORTS and OTHER BUSINESS:

PARKS & RECREATION:

Mr. Bucuren reported : Community Day was a success.
Snack/Breakfast with Santa is tentatively scheduled for December 7, 2013

PUBLIC UTILITIES:

Mayor Poling reported an issue on the Sproat Avenue waterline project. Mr. Kunkle reported the line is finished. Mayor Poling suggested Economy Borough take ownership of the new waterline. Mr. Fouse reported there is a Developers Agreement involved which he will review.

PROPERTY and BUILDING:

Mr. Googins reported Mr. Custer lists the water cooler in the Community Room runs but does not cool the water; the committee will review to either repair it or remove it.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mayor Poling asked the status of the Zee Medical issue and the first aid kits not being stocked for 2 years. Mrs. Barthelemy reported she met with Chief Harrington and supplies have been ordered; spoke to the Zee Medical representative and they did not have a stop order.

Mr. Bucuren reported attending an event at the pavilion where a 54 year old women died; suggested getting an AED. Mr. Googins asked Mr. Kunkle and Mayor Poling to look into this. Jake Thomas reported from the audience that the Economy Volunteer Fire Department is applying for a grant for new AED's for the EVFD and would check in to if the order could be upped to include the Economy Police Department.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Mr. Burns - to pay the list of bills as stated from June 12, 2013, to July 9, 2013 - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7:29 PM – Mr. Sivy enters the meeting.

Mr. Sivy reported Public Works will do cement work at the Community Building when time allows.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Burns reported work is being done on Fernwood and Orchard Lane; cold patching continues; milling will be done the end of July or early August by Donegal Construction; picnic tables have been cleaned and sealed.

Mr. Burns reported the 1998 power washer is not working; obtained prices for a gas powered power washer for approximately \$4,975 to come from line item 01.437.750. Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski asked what line item would the difference be taken from; will advise when determined.

MOTION by Mr. Burns, seconded by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski – to authorize the purchase of a power washer not to exceed \$5,000. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. Bucuren – to also use Hanson Aggregates at \$53.50/T for binder and \$59.50/T for wearing course. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MAYOR’S REPORT:

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

Mayor Poling suggested Council start budgeting for the traffic signal at the top of Dunlap Hill. Mr. Shoup reported his estimated cost from April, 2013, is between \$160,000 to \$180,000.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

1. Ordinance No. 443 - Police Pension: Mr. Kunkle reported this formally eliminates the KIS policy, which was terminated three years ago; and it better defines how vested officers who leave before reaching retirement age are to receive their pension.

MOTION by Mr. Sivy, seconded by Mrs. Barthelemy – to adopt Ordinance No. 443. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Ordinance No. 444 - Non-Uniformed Pension: Mr. Kunkle reported that currently the wording for how the pension is calculated is vague, ‘the highest 3 years out of the last ten years’. The auditors are satisfied with how the police pension plan calculates pensions so I’ve suggested we use the same language.

MOTION by Mrs. Barthelemy, seconded by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski - to adopt Ordinance No. 444. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Resolution No. 445 - Act 44 procedures: Mr. Kunkle reported Act 44 of 2009 did essentially two things, first it enabled pension plans to mitigate the full effects of the recession, and second it requires those with pension plans to have written procedures in place for the hiring of professional services. The resolution is based on the state's guidelines .

MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Mr. Bucuren - to adopt Resolution No. 445. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Office Assistant: Mr. Kunkle reported he is recommending Antoinette Dunlap, she currently works part-time for the school district and has several years experience working with various computer systems and data bases. They were all very good applicants making it hard to narrow down to one person.

MOTION by Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. Sivy - to offer the position of office assistant to Antoinette Dunlap at \$12/hour for 15 hours/week. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS:

ENGINEER:

Lighting for Economy Way was discussed. Mr. Shoup reported this is a time sensitive issue.

SOLICITOR:

Mr. Fouse requested an Executive Session to discuss a bargaining unit matter with no vote.

Mr. Googins requested discussion in Executive Session on updates on both contracts with no votes and police chief hiring process.

SECRETARY: No Report

NEW BUSINESS: None

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.

Pat Skonieczny, 104 Rock Rose Drive, discussed the language in Ordinance No. 444; full time vs. part time; possibly diminishing the pension benefit. Mr. Fouse reported the 36 month formula is mandatory in police; not sure about non-uniformed pensions; will review.

Bob Mecchia, 211 Fernwood Drive, suggested putting a traffic signal at Ridge Road Ext. at Conway Wallrose Road also in conjunction with a traffic signal at Dunlap Hill Road and Conway Wallrose Road.

MOTION by Mr. Sivy, seconded by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski – to enter into Executive Session to discuss a bargaining unit matter; updates of both police and non-uniformed contracts and police chief position, with no vote to be taken tonight. Time: 8:00 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to return to the regular order of business. Time: 8:40 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Mr. Sivy, seconded by Mrs. Barthelemy – to adjourn the meeting. Time: 8:00 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Susan A. Blum
Borough Secretary
July 18, 2013

List of bills attached to the Minute Book.