

REGULAR SESSION ** ECONOMY BOROUGH COUNCIL ** JULY 23, 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

ROLL CALL

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor David N. Poling, Dale M. Fouse, Esq., 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.

Ray McClellan, 196 Shaffer Road, reported that 3 years ago Mr. Googins as Public Works Chairman let the crew go home early and they were paid over time pay for not working; requested Mr. Googins be brought up on charges; feels this is misappropriation of tax payers dollars. Mr. Googins reported the crew had just worked 20 hours on snow removal, more snow was forecast for that evening; discussed it with the committee and borough manager that it was in the best interest of the employees of Economy Borough to let them go home to rest before coming out again that evening; the contract calls for them to be paid to 3:00. Mr. Burns reported this was 3 years ago; nothing you can do now; statute of limitations. Mr. Googins asked if anything was wrong with the Public Works Committee and the Borough Manager deciding to send the crew home early to rest. Mr. Fouse reported no.

MINUTES:

MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Mrs. Barthelemy – to approve the Minutes of the July 9, 2013, Regular Session of Council, as written. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Googins reported the resignation of Dr. Trecha from Council was accepted by motion at the last meeting; Economy Borough is required to appoint someone to fill the vacancy until December 31, 2013.

MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Mrs. Barthelemy – to fill the vacancy on Council created by the resignation of Dr. Gregory Trecha with the appointment of Thomas A. Fetkovich, by Resolution No. 446, serving until December 31, 2013.

Question on the Motion: Mr. Bucuren reported in his opinion Audrey Mutschler was the next highest vote getter when Dr. Trecha was elected; has already served 3 terms and should be appointed to the vacancy. Mr. Burns asked that this be tabled as a friend was out of the county, just heard about the vacancy and is

interested. Mayor Poling reported he knows 2 residents interested; one a doctor who had a meeting in the city and could not be here tonight. Mr. Googins reported Council has only 30 days to fill the vacancy; called for a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Yes – Mrs. Barthelemy

No – Mr. Bucuren

No – Mr. Burns

Yes – Mr. Sivy

Yes – Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski

Yes – Mr. Googins

MOTION CARRIES by a 4 Yes, 2 No Vote

At this time Mayor Poling swore Thomas A. Fetkovich in and Mr. Fetkovich took his Council seat.

COMMITTEE REPORTS and OTHER BUSINESS:

PARKS & RECREATION:

Mr. Bucuren reported : Snack/Breakfast with Santa is tentatively scheduled for December 7, 2013.

PUBLIC UTILITIES: No Report

PROPERTY and BUILDING:

Mr. Sivy reported the committee is looking at updating the kitchen in the Community Room; Mr. Kunkle will get prices for a contractor to do the work or have Public Works as time permits.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Barthelemy reported she and Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski request an Executive Session to update Council on the status of both the Public Works and Public Safety contracts.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: No Report

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Burns reported Public Works is preparing the roads for seal coat and the paving program.

Mr. Burns reported the pressure washer purchase in the amount of \$4,975.00 will be from line item 01.434.100.

MAYOR’S REPORT:

Mayor Poling asked that the Summer Help pull weeds at the Memorial.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

1. Grass Cutting; Abandoned Homes: Mr. Kunkle reported we have complaints regarding four abandoned homes; asked Council if they have a preference on how these are handled; in the past Economy Borough contracted this out to a local grass cutter (Scott Setzenfand) and leined the properties; the nuisance ordinance puts the onus on Economy Borough to have these taken care of.

***MOTION by Mr. Burns, seconded by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski – to offer to Scott Setzenfand grass cutting the properties, the first cut at \$250/each lot for a total of \$750 and getting a proposal for maintenance cuts.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

REPORTS:

ENGINEER: No Report

SECRETARY: No Report

SOLICITOR:

Mr. Fouse requested Executive Session to meet with Bill Gamble to discuss the process for the search for a police chief, with no decision and no deliberation tonight and discuss the tax collector litigation, with no vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Barthelemy reported regarding the animal control issues that the Beaver County Humane Society can not service Economy Borough at this time; they are working with Mr. Kunkle to find a reputable company; if anyone knows of someone contact Mr. Kunkle; she will continue to do research.

Mrs. Barthelemy thanked Mike Lucia for his interest in filling the vacated position on Council.

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.

Paul Thompson, 115 First Street, suggested regarding the grass cutting, renting a walk behind at Ambridge Do It Best at \$150/8 hours; the maintenance department could knock the grass down in 3 hours; for \$250 he might be interested. Mr. Googins advised Council would keep this in mind.

Ray McClellan, 196 Shaffer Road, reported the owner of the school house on Ridge Road Ext. is home from Alaska and he would try to get an address from him.

MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to enter into Executive Session to discuss the police chief hiring process, the tax collector litigation and updates on the public works and public safety contracts, with no vote to be taken tonight. Time: 7:42 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Mr. Burns – to return to the regular order of business. Time: 9:55 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. Bucuren – to adjourn the meeting. Time: 9:55 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Susan A. Blum
Borough Secretary
July 26, 2013