

REGULAR SESSION ** ECONOMY BOROUGH COUNCIL ** SEPTEMBER 10, 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: Courtney B. Barthelemy, Esq., Gary Bucuren, Tom Fetkovich, Donald Sivy, Michelle Sovich-Lapinski, Larry Googins

ABSENT: RJ Burns, Excused

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.

Bill Orr, 327 Amsler Road, reported the difficulty he has encountered with Berkheimer; paid his and his wife's EIT taxes with a joint return; received an audit letter for 2011 requiring proof of payment; provided bank copies of checks; Berkheimer wanted separate documents for the joint return; after 3 weeks of hassle was told today his document submittal would be accepted and this should be resolved within 2 weeks. Mr. Googins reported there is nothing Council can do, however there is a Beaver County Tax Committee that meets approximately 3 times a year that perhaps he could attend and report this to. Mr. Sivy reported a resident in the audience also received the letter and send copies of his checks. Mrs. Barthelemy reported she shares this frustration; her husband also received the letter and offered to assist any resident with drafting a letter to Berkheimer if needed. Mr. Googins reported Mr. Kunkle has contacted Berkheimer.

Gerry Seelinger, 117 Clover Road, Boy Scout Troop 414 Treasurer, asked Council permission to plan 2 oak trees at Meddock (Recreation) Park to honor the memories of Skip Raabe and Bob Vignere, both passed away this year and were vital members of Scouting.

MOTION by Mr. Sivy, seconded by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski – to authorize the planting of two (2) oak trees at Meddock Park to honor the memories of Skip Raabe and Bob Vignere - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ken Waters, 107 Rose Street, asked if the new police chief would be hired from within or out and would Council let the public know. Mr. Fouse would defer this question to Bill Gamble.

Pat Skonieczny, 104 Rock Rose Drive, asked if the new police chief would be At Will or Civil Service and when would the public know. Mr. Fouse reported this is a personnel matter and the hiring of an employee is appropriate for Executive Session; does not want to give a bad answer; would defer this to Bill Gamble.

Paul Thompson, 115 First Street, asked what is the hurry in hiring a new police chief; feels that to go outside Economy Borough Police Department is wrong; sending a message that they are not good enough.

MINUTES:

MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Mr. Bucuren – to approve the Minutes of the August 27, 2013, Regular Session of Council, as written. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMITTEE REPORTS and OTHER BUSINESS:

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Sivy reported paving is continuing; binder is down on Watch Hill Drive, Chestnut Ridge and Howard; wearing coarse will be put down next.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Mr. Bucuren reported : December 7, 2013 - Breakfast with Santa, tentatively 9:00 AM
 June 14, 2014 – Third Annual Community Day

Mr. Bucuren verified with Mr. Fouse that an emailed resignation from Beth Markovitz can be accepted; the Recreation Board meets next week and he will have a recommendation at the next Council meeting.

MOTION by Mr. Bucuren, seconded by Mr. Fetkovich – to accept the resignation of Beth Markovitz from the Recreation Board. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC UTILITIES: No Report

PROPERTY and BUILDING:

Mr. Sivy reported Mr. Custer continues to mow and trim all areas; Mayor Poling suggested additional help for Mr. Custer until November.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Barthelemy reported they have the arbitration award for the police department; Attorney Beatty will attend the September 24th meeting to discuss and field questions on this binding arbitration award.

Mrs. Barthelemy requested Executive Session for personnel discussion items.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Mr. Sivy - to pay the list of bills as stated from August 14, 2013 to September 10, 2013 - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski reported the Finance Committee is meeting Monday at 9 AM to begin the 2014 Budget. Mayor Poling asked Council to budget for a traffic signal at SR 989.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

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

Mayor Poling asked if anyone was contacted by the contractor regarding the paving of Sproat Avenue; was told the contractor gave a price to pave the entire road with Economy Borough paying cost on half. Mr. Kunkle reported he has received nothing verbally or written. Mr. Shoup reported Sproat Avenue is done except for restoration. Mayor Poling will see what he can find out.

Mayor Poling *discussed* the Economy Connection being used for political purposes.

/ 09/24/2013-“*discussed*” corrected to “questioned”

/10/08/2013 – corrected to read “Mayor Poling questioned Council Members using the Economy Connection for political purposes.”

MANAGER’S REPORT:

1. 2014 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO): Mr. Kunkle reported this is the 2014 MMO for the Pension Plans; Police \$186,307 and Non Uniformed \$84,141.

2. 2013-2014 Winter Materials - Beaver Valley Regional Council of Governments (COG): Mr. Kunkle reported the low bid for road salt through the BVR COG is \$42.94/ton by Morton Salt, Inc.

MOTION by Mr. Sivy, seconded by Mr. Bucuren – to accept the bid and enter into a contract with Morton Salt, Inc. for Road Salt at \$42.94/ton. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS:

SECRETARY: No Report

ENGINEER:

Mr. Shoup reported the work on the Walmart continues; storm sewers are installed in preparation for road construction by the end of October. Mr. Googins asked who would maintain the proposed sidewalk up to the Walmart. Mayor Poling reported the Sisters of St. Joseph wanted the sidewalk. Mr. Fouse reported maintenance is not in the Developers Agreement. Mr. Shoup reported this could be a long term maintenance issue. Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski asked that the minutes be checked and go back to the Sisters.

SOLICITOR:

Mr. Fouse requested Executive Session to discuss the Tax Collectors Compensation Case, with no decision; next hearing is scheduled for October 9, 2013.

Mr. Fouse will give an update on the employee contracts in Executive Session, with no vote.

Mr. Googins reported the police chief job description will be discussed in Executive Session. Mayor Poling asked if this has been reviewed. Mr. Fouse reported a vote will have to be taken to authorize the advertising of the position.

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, asked if the position would be At Will or Civil Service. Mrs. Barthelemy reported the Public Safety Committee was unanimous to hire At Will. Mr. Googins reported this

would be discussed in Executive Session and Council will come back to Regular Session. Mayor Poling asked if Mr. Burns was OK with this. Mrs. Barthelemy reported it was unanimous. Mrs. Skonieczny asked if Mayor Poling could put an article in the Economy Connection. Mr. Googins reported as Council President he is passing on information; he wrote the article and put his name to it. Mayor Poling reported the Walmart opening date is March 14, 2014; suggested Chief Harrington's name be included in the article as he was instrumental with the project from the beginning providing the history of the Northern Lights Shopping Center; his name will be added.

Paul Thompson, 115 First Street, asked who went to the Walmart site; feels it is self serving.

MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Mrs. Barthelemy – to enter into Executive Session to discuss the hiring process of a police chief, with a vote tonight. Time: 7:55 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Mr. Sivy, seconded by Mr. Fetkovich – to return to the regular order of business. Time: 9:35 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Fouse reported while in Executive Session those present discussed the job description for the police chief and to advertise the opening in the PA Chiefs of Police Association periodical and this Sunday's edition of the Pittsburgh Post Gazette.

MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Mrs. Barthelemy – to authorize the placement of the ads as described by the solicitor. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mayor Poling stated for the record that they just received the description; thinks Mr. Burns should be present and this decision delayed; thinks the next chief should be a resident.

MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to enter into Executive Session to discuss the lawsuit brought by the real estate tax collector and the contract negotiation; with no vote. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Mr. Sivy, seconded by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski – to return to the regular order of business. Time: 10:50 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Mr. Sivy, seconded by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski – to adjourn the meeting. Time: 10:50 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Susan A. Blum
Borough Secretary
September 16, 2013

List of Bills attached to the Minute Book.