

REGULAR SESSION ** ECONOMY BOROUGH COUNCIL ** OCTOBER 8, 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, Tom Fetkovich, Donald Sivy, 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

Mr. Googins introduced Jim Blumling, Chairman of the Economy Borough Planning Commission, advising Roberta Sarraf is retiring December 31, 2013; Planning has interviewed consultants and are unanimously recommending to Council the appointment of Delta Development Group. Dave Carlson, Economy Borough Planning Commission reported the process and why the decision was made for Delta; expects it to be an orderly transition.

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.

Paul Thompson, 115 First Street, asked if Mr. Googins and the bipartisan group is under investigation for fraud. Mr. Googins deferred the question to Mr. Fouse. Mr. Fouse reported this is not borough business and not the place to talk about it.

Janice Pawlawski, 34 Pawlawski Lane, questioned the hiring of a consultant for the process of hiring a new police chief; feels the new police chief should be hired from within.

Audrey Mutschler, 2820 Ridge Road Ext., questioned the use of the consultant for the process of hiring a new police chief; his fees and any additional fees, i.e. for back ground checks.

Dennis Biega, 98 Celestial Drive, asked if any of the police candidates were related to any Council Members as this would be nepotism.

Joann Borato, 2001 Conway Wallrose Road, reported the residents of Liberty Hills will be sponsoring a meeting to discuss the Ambridge Area School District taxation at the EVFD Social Hall on November 6, 2013 at 7:00 PM.

Mary Beth Farah, 34 Giant Oak Drive, questioned the qualifications of the consultant for the process of hiring a new police chief; feels new police chief should be hired from within.

Bob Mecchia, 211 Fernwood, asked the total number of application received; feels should be hired from within. Mrs. Barthelemy reported 11 candidates; process will be discussed in Executive Session.

Daphne Syrek, 214 Foxglove Drive, reported a retirement party for Chief Harrington was today; who is the police chief and when will someone be hired. Mayor Poling reported Chief Harrington starts his vacation on Monday. Mr. Googins reported Chief Harrington remains chief until December 31, 2013; is still on the payroll until April, 2014.

Roger Kowal, 479 Amsler Ridge Road, feels there are qualified Economy Borough officers; should hire from within.

Pat Skonieczny, 104 Rock Rose Drive, discussed the hiring of a consultant and the not using the Economy Borough Civil Service Commission to hire a new police chief; difference of opinions of committee members; if Mayor Poling will be part of the process; of the 11 candidates are 2 of them from within; provided an affidavit and requested a motion be made and a vote of Council to rescind the decision to hire the consultant to assist with the hiring of the police chief; requested a motion to put a referendum on the ballot to hire a police chief from within. Mr. Fouse advised this is the public session; motion could be made during the regular session.

Elizabeth Burns, 100 Stange Road, verified that Mr. Burns was invited but unable to attend the Public Safety Committee meetings due to work.

Meagan Trimbur, 3225 Ridge Road Ext., reported Mr. Googins said he was a victim of Dr. Trecha's sarcasm, but did a Caddy Shack type video with him. Mr. Googins reported yes, however, it is not Economy Borough business. Mrs. Trimbur reported the Economy Connection is a waste of tax payer's dollars being used to advertise a Medicare seminar; feels it is a conflict of interest as Mrs. Barthelemy practices senior law; the Community Day article has pictures of elected officials children.

Bob Mecchia, 211 Fernwood, suggested to not putting out future Economy Connections until after elections.

Pat Skonieczny, 104 Rock Rose Drive, discussed that the photo of the Walmart in the Economy Connection is not labeled a file phone, (10/22/2013-Corrected "phone" to photo) therefore incorrect, inaccurate and misrepresenting. Mr. Fouse asked who is harmed. Mr. Googins reported it was to be marked file photo and will find out why it was not.

Joann Borato, 2001 Conway Wallrose Road, thanked Council for updating the residents on Walmart.

MINUTES:

Mayor Poling requested page 413 be re-corrected to read "Mayor Poling questioned Council Members using the Economy Connection for political purposes."

Mayor Poling requested page 417 be corrected to read "Mayor Poling confirmed Economy Borough has a leash law; this is the first he heard of the complaint."

Gary Bucuren requested page 418 be corrected to read "...the Recreation Board may have a recommendation on the replacement for Beth Markovicz after the next Recreation Board Meeting."

MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Mr. Fetkovich – to approve the Minutes of the September 24, 2013, Regular Session of Council, as corrected. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMITTEE REPORTS and OTHER BUSINESS:

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Mr. Kunkle reported on Page 2 of 10 the \$294.30 invoice to Earned Income Tax Committee of BC should be removed from the list of bills as it has been deducted from our payments.

MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Mrs. Barthelemy - to pay the list of bills as stated from September 10, 2013 to October 8, 2013, removing the \$294.30 invoice to Earned Income Tax Committee of BC. - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski reported the Finance Committee continues to work on the budget; a draft of the proposed 2014 budget will be distributed tomorrow; give questions in writing to Mr. Kunkle for the Committee by October 16th; will try to answer all questions thoroughly.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Burns reported drainage on Nettle Creek Road and Mary Reed Road is complete; working on Davis Road and Beaver Road; brush hogging is done for 2013.

Mr. Burns reported the 1999 dump truck needs replaced; will get pricing on a truck; ordering now will help with the new emissions regulations.

Mr. Burns reported the F350 needs approximately \$2,1000 in repairs for inspection; being brought back to the garage to have public works do the work.

PARKS & RECREATION:

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

PUBLIC UTILITIES: No Report

PROPERTY and BUILDING:

Mr. Sivy reported the radio shed concrete roof is leaking into the building and onto the equipment; called a contractor to see what options are available i.e. rubber roof or r/r roof; will report back.

Mr. Sivy reported Mark Custer has offered nearly new refrigerator, stove and microwave to Economy Borough for a cost of \$150 picked up at his home; this would be for the Community Building kitchen.

MOTION by Mr. Sivy, seconded by Mr. Burns – provided in good condition upon arrival to purchase the refrigerator, stove and microwave from Mark Custer for \$150 for the Community Building kitchen. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Barthelemy requested an Executive Session to discuss the procedure on the search for police chief; with a possible vote.

Mayor Poling reported expenses for hiring a new police chief include: \$1,285 to Bill Gamble; \$1,500 to the PA Chiefs of Police Association for an ad; and \$186.84 to Trib Total Media for an ad.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

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

Mayor Poling reported receiving a note from Pat Kosarych regarding the dogs running loose and the complaint to Mr. Kunkle on the property. Mr. Kunkle reported this is private property and he will talk to Mr. Fouse about this.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. Planning Consultant Appointment: Mr. Kunkle reported Mr. Bluming and Mr. Carlson have explained why the Commission is recommending the new consultant.

MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to accept the Letter of Agreement from Delta Development Group and execute same.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes – Mrs. Barthelemy

Yes – Mr. Bucuren

No – Mr. Burns

Yes – Mr. Sivy

Yes – Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski

Yes – Mr. Fetkovich

Yes – Mr. Googins

6 Yes, 1 No vote – MOTION CARRIES

2. Walmart Sidewalk: Mr. Googins reported the Economy Borough Planning Commission is recommending the sidewalk be removed and he has an email from Sr. Mary Pelegrini to Mr. Kunkle that the Sisters of St. Joseph did not request the sidewalk. Mayor Poling reported the sidewalk is in the plans approved by the Economy Borough Planning Commission and can not be removed without re-submittal to the Economy Borough Planning Commission. Mr. Fouse reported the sidewalk is not part of the Developers Agreement and if it is built will have to be made part of the Developers Agreement. Mr. Carlson and Mr. Bluming reported they will review the Economy Borough Planning Commission minutes and will have a Planning point of view for the next Council meeting.

3. MARONDA – Request to take over roads: Mr. Kunkle reported Maronda has finished the roads in Whispering Pines Phase II and have asked that Economy Borough take them over; Mr. Shoup agrees this should be done provided the Maintenance Bond is in place; an ordinance has been prepared and needs to be advertised for the next Council meeting. Mr. Burns verified an inspector was on site for the paving.

MOTION by Mrs. Barthelemy, seconded by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski – to authorize the advertising of the proposed ordinance taking over certain roads in Whispering Pine Phase II. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Whispering Pine Phase II – Stop Signs: Mr. Kunkle reported Chief Harrington told him the signs are correctly installed; to enforce them an ordinance needs to be advertised for adoption.

MOTION by Mr. Bucuren, seconded by Mr. Burns – to authorize the advertising of the proposed ordinance for Whispering Pine Phase II – Stop Signs. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Resolution No. 447 – EIT Reports: Mr. Kunkle reported on October 9, 2012, Council adopted Resolution No. 440 appointing him as the liaison to Berkheimer; until recently Berkheimer sent the secretary hard copies of reports indicating which monies were attributable to EIT, LST and Mercantile Taxes; Berkheimer no longer mail these reports, but emails them; Resolution No. 447 will add the secretary to receive the reports as well and continue business as usual.

MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to adopt Resolution No. 447 appointing Randy S. Kunkle and Susan A. Blum as authorized liaisons between Economy Borough and Berkheimer. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Fetkovich asked if there has been a resolution from Berkheimer regarding the difficulty the resident from the September 10th meeting was experiencing with Berkheimer. Mr. Kunkle gave a brief history of how Centax imploded and Berkheimer taking over the collections for Beaver County; he himself received a letter from Berkheimer and had to provide the information.

REPORTS:

ENGINEER:

Mr. Shoup reported by the end of next week the new road up Northern Lights Shopping Center will be completed.

SECRETARY: No Report

SOLICITOR:

Mr. Fouse reported he will have the Police Secretary agreement which coincides with the police contract for the next meeting.

Mr. Fouse reported an Executive Session will be held to discuss 1) the police chief search process issues; and 2) NLSC regarding litigation; may require a vote, but not with respect of hiring of police chief. Mr. Burns reported he does development work for Zamias and would excuse himself from the NLSC discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Barthelemy reported Free Pet First Aid and CPR Course will be Saturday, November 16th at 11:00 AM and Understanding Medicare will be Monday, November 18th at 6:00 PM; both at the Municipal Building.

Mr. Fetkovich reported solicitation for Clean Water Action was being done in his neighborhood at 8:30 PM; it was dark. Mayor Poling reported they have a solicitation permit which permits them to be out 9:00 AM until 9:00 PM, Monday through Saturday.

Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski requested with the transition of police chief that an inventory of weapons and equipment be taken and provided to Council. Mayor Poling asked Mr. Kunkle to contact Chief Harrington tomorrow about this and the solicitation permit as he is unavailable tomorrow.

Mr. Googins reported the PA One Call Pipeline Safety Seminar is tomorrow at the Beaver Falls Holiday Inn; the PSAB Fall Leadership Conference is October 18-20 at Station Square, Pittsburgh; and the Newly Elected Official Course starts November 23rd.

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.

Audrey Mutschler, 2820 Ridge Road Ext., reminded Council regarding motions for Mrs. Skonieczny's petition and referendum.

MOTION by Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. Bucuren – to terminate the agreement between Bill Gamble and use the Civil Service Commission to hire a chief of police.

Roll Call Vote:

No – Mrs. Barthelemy

Yes – Mr. Bucuren

Yes – Mr. Burns

No – Mr. Sivy

No – Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski

No – Mr. Fetkovich

No – Mr. Googins

2 Yes, 5 No vote – MOTION FAILS

Mr. Fouse will find out from the Beaver County Board of Elections if this issue can be put on the ballot; may be to late. (10/22/2013 – Corrected “to” to too.)

Steve Borato, 2001 Conway Wallrose Road, asked if handrails will be put along the sidewalk. Mr. Googins reported no handrails, but guiderails along the hill.

Mr. Sivy reported he is not against hiring from within for police chief; for giving all officers the opportunity; Mrs. Skonieczny reported action are louder than words. Mr. Googins reported if they are the best qualified, they will come out on top; due diligence by Council.

George Fitzgerald, 109 Wallrose Hgts. Road, commended Council for trying to get the right person for the job.

MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to enter into Executive Session to discuss 1) the police chief search process issues; and 2) NLSC regarding litigation; may require a vote, but not with respect of hiring of police chief. Time: 9:41 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to return to the regular order of business. Time: 11:07 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Mrs. Sovich-Lapinski, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to adjourn the meeting. Time: 11:07 PM CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Susan A. Blum
Borough Secretary
October 16, 2014

List of Bills attached to the Minute Book.