

**Economy Borough Council  
Meeting Minutes  
23 July 2019**

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**MEETING** was called to order at 7:00 pm by Council Member Frank Morrone, also present were Mr Gary Bucuren, Mrs Audrey Mutschler and Mrs Pat Skonieczny. Others present included Mayor Jo Ann Borato, Borough Manager Randy Kunkle, and Solicitor Joseph Askar.

**ABSENT:** President Brian Westrom – work  
Vice President RJ Burns - work  
President Pro Tem Tom Fetkovich - work

**MOMENT OF SILENCE.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:** Mr Morrone welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested the discussion(s) regarding borough business be kept to 3 – 5 minutes.

Mr Askar asked for a motion to include the July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes on tonight's agenda. **Motion by Mrs Mutschler, seconded by Mr Morrone, all voted aye to amend the agenda as suggested.**

Karen Ott; 1400 Merriman Rd, see attached statement. Mr Askar pointed out that when Mrs Ott referred to a Council woman, she was looking at and indicating it was Mrs Skonieczny.

Adam Quinn, 255 Concord Church Rd has concerns regarding the Ambridge Sportsman's Club (The Club). His complaint is against the Borough for allowing the Club to operate in violation of Chapter 102.2 and 180-66 HH. Mrs Mutschler noted the club has been operating for some 80 years. In light of this Mr Askar suggests it is grandfathered in, Mr Quinn objected. Mr Kunkle stated the Code Enforcement Officer is looking into this. Mr Quinn stated it's a dangerous situation, they don't have proper back stops and he has bullets whizzing past his head. When Mr Askar asked if his house or car had been hit the answer was no. Mayor Borato stated the range is approved by someone at the state for it to be used during police training, including the back stops. Mr Quinn's next move will be to have his lawyer go after the Borough. He stated there are no back stops. The President of the Club, Joel Chalupiak, told Mr Quinn they are working on it. The CEO will look further into it. Mr Quinn wants to know who he can talk to about the code violations and they should be shut down now. Mr Quinn parted by stating he will be a problem until this goes away.

Mr Ray McClellan 196 Shaffer Rd. The road is very dangerous. Yesterday a vehicle lost control and hit the guide rail; an hour later two cars hit head-on and last week a car landed on its roof. The Engineer and Interim Road Foreman will take a look at it to see if something can be done.

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Laurel Beitsinger from 488 Amsler Ridge Road, provided a written statement regarding safety concerns due to Council allowing Penn Energy (PE) to use Amsler Ridge Rd as an access to a wellsite, see attached. Mrs Beitsinger will furnish her July 1<sup>st</sup> list of questions to Adam Beneford at PE and request a written response.

(Inaudible) resident from 2061 Big Sewickley Creek road. On July first we heard Penn Energy state there will be 1000 trucks a day on Amsler Ridge Rd, Council should tell PE how the road will be built up not the other way around. There will be a lot of noise and pollution. PE could have built in a more remote area and built their own road.

Regis Leindecker, Golden Grove Rd, is concerned about campers (RVs) parked near the street instead of behind the house. They are eyesores. Mrs Mutschler stated unless people are living in RVs, we have no violations and eyesores to some can be good looking to others. A Realtor stated there might be a setback issue with RVs.

Linda Stanley 139 Winterset Rd provided a written statement of concerns over the use of Amsler Ridge Rd by PE see attached

Cheryl Pearson 130 Amsler Ridge Rd provided a written statement concerning the current gas and oil well ordinance, see attached. She also provided a written statement from the Environmental Integrity Project, the Food & Water Watch and Communities First.

An unidentified speaker spoke about broken promises.

Mary Cochran 250 Dogwood Circle. What is the economic benefit/impact of unconventional gas wells to Economy Borough? People have said Penn Energy is investing millions of dollars in Economy Borough, what is the Borough going to do with these millions of dollars? Where is the impact for Economy? Why is Council enticed to vote for Penn Energy? Mr Bucuren expressed his problem with residents signing leases then coming back to council concerned with the drilling. If enough residents refused to sign leases the wells would be drilled elsewhere. Ms Cochran stated things have changed since 2012 (when the current ordinance was being decided upon). Setbacks need to be increased. Mr Bucuren reiterated its up to the residents to stop these before they start by not selling mineral rights. Mrs Mutschler pointed out that when the Orchard Estates subdivided their property it clearly/publicly stated it was for the purpose of a mineral lease, therefore everyone was aware what it was for.

**Minutes:** June 11, 2019. **Motion by Mrs Mutschler seconded by Mr Bucuren, to approve the minutes, all voted aye.**

July 14<sup>th</sup> Special meeting, **Motion by Mr Bucuren, seconded by Mr Morrone, to approve the minutes, all voted aye**

**Committee Reports:**

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**Personnel:** No report. Mrs Mutschler would like an executive session regarding personnel with a vote.

**Finance:** Mrs Mutschler noted we have a complete budget report for January through June. There is also a Treasurers report that will be on file. There is the original list of bills for July 9<sup>th</sup> a supplemental list and a third list put out today. **Motion by Mrs Mutschler, seconded by Mr Bucuren to approve the lists of bills that have been properly signed off on, all voted aye.**

Mrs Mutschler asked the Solicitor if he would include more detail on his bills like before? Mr Askar responded he does not include dates on bills for any of his clients.

QuickBooks Payroll. This was discussed earlier in the year. By changing to this we would eliminate journal entries and save a lot of time. It will be much more efficient and effective. A proposal for services from Cottrill Arbutina will be brought to the next meeting.

**Ordinance:** no report at this time.

**Public Safety:** Nothing to report at his time.

**Property and Building:** The new Tax Collector is ready to start. Mr Morrone suggested setting her up in the office formally used by the Police Secretary, it needs to be cleaned out and painted by Friday. The Borough will furnish the office to avoid a repeat of what we're going through now. **Motion by Mrs Mutschler, seconded by Mr Bucuren, subject to the Solicitor's review and opinion, provide adequate space for the Interim Tax Collector to carry out the duties of her office.**

**Mayors Report:** The Mayor's report is available for review in the Borough Office.

The Civil Service Commission is making progress on the list of eligible applicants for the position of police officer. Applications were due by July 12<sup>th</sup>; 15 were received. Physical agility and written tests will take place July 30 at the Allegheny County Police Academy. Oral exams and interviews will be conducted August 21st at the Borough Building. A certified list should be available by August 26<sup>th</sup>. At that point a motion to process the top three will be needed in order to have polygraph and background investigations completed. An offer of employment can be extended by mid-September and a new officer could be in place by mid-October.

Regarding the automatic license plate reader camera: Mr Pearson has committed \$4,000 from the shopping center and Walmart is giving \$5,500. Discussion of citations for the shopping center followed. There will be \$5,000 from the District Attorney's office. Discussion of a secure internet connection took place. The Borough will pay the \$2,000 annual fee to maintain contact with the site. The Mayor will obtain updated quotes and information, the Manager is to forward this to the Solicitor.

**Solicitor's Report:** The Walmart assessment appeal is still pending.

Old Business:

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Motion by Mrs Mutschler, seconded by Mr Morrone, to re-advertise the stray animal ordinance.

Mrs Skonieczny questioned the use of Borough resources. She asked if this is an amendment to the Nuisance ordinance or does it stand alone and create another employment position. When ordinances are too vague, they are unconstitutional. After a roll call vote of 3 to 1 the motion carried.

New Business:

**Selling the 1999 Peterbilt:** The transmission is now shot; it would cost \$12,500 to replace it. Discussion about having it auctioned at 422 took place. Motion by Mrs Mutschler, seconded by Mr Morrone, to sell the 1999 Peterbuilt at 422 Auto Sales, all voted aye.

Motion by Mr Bucuren, seconded by Mr Morrone, to suspend the regular meeting and go into executive session at 9:04, with a vote likely, all voted aye.

Motion by Mr Bucuren, seconded by Mrs Skonieczny, to go back into regular session, all voted aye.

Motion by Mrs Mutschler, seconded by Mr Bucuren, in an effort to retain the Borough Secretary, Council offered an additional \$6.00 per hour raise with all current benefits remaining intact retroactive to the current pay cycle, all voted aye.

Motion by Mrs Skonieczny, seconded by Mr Morrone, to adjourn the meeting at 9:25, all voted aye.

Submitted by

Randy S Kunkle  
Borough Manager