

Economy Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
28 Jan 2020

MEETING was called to order at 7:00 pm by Council President Brian Westrom, also present were Mr Gary Bucuren, Mr Roger Kowal, Mr Frank Morrone, Mr Jeffrey Ruckert, Mr Don Sivy and Mrs Pat Skonieczny. Others present included Mayor Jo Ann Borato, Borough Manager Randy Kunkle, and Solicitor Joseph Askar.

ABSENT:
MOMENT OF SILENCE.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr Westrom thanked the outgoing members of Council, Mr Burns, Mr Fetkovich and Mrs Mutschler for their dedicated service and assistance to him over the last two years.

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

Don Lang, 105 Grove Hill Rd, passed out informational questionnaires to those on Council for Emergency Management purposes.

Linda Stanley, 139 Winterset Rd, she is part of a citizens team who meets with experts and other communities to find out how they do things and would like to share some ideas with Council to increase transparency, accountability and public access such as posting the agenda to the Borough website; to which Mr Westrom responded there is a law passed by the House which will spell out how agendas are to be posted to websites.

Katie Stanleey, 139 Winterset Rd, Council meetings should include input from the public. On some occasions residents have been made to feel their input is not important. There have been times when unprofessional conduct has been displayed by Council and some small adjustments are in the best interest of everyone.

Carol Pearson, 130 Amsler Ridge, wanted to know how appointments were made to various committees and thought all open positions should be posted on the website as well as cancelled meetings and legal notices.

Glen Sylvester, 350 Orchard Lane, has Conway listed as the Franchise Authority on his Comcast bill; Mrs Skonieczny does as well.

Mr Sylvester asked why his garbage bill is higher than the original contract said it would be? Mr Westrom stated Council approved the increase due to the large number of residents who don't use the garbage service, that the original contract was based on a higher participation rate. Mr

Sylvester related as a member of the Borough's Sewage Authority that the Authority would have to raise rates \$4.38 per month to cover the 225 sewage customers who don't pay their bills.

Laurel Beitsinger, 554 Pioneer Ln, our committee requests a factual review of all documents, agreements, permits and timelines related to all aspects of the Penn Energy-Amsler Ridge Road project. Everyone needs to fully understand what was applied for, what was approved and what obligations Penn Energy will be held to. She wants what is best for everyone and the new Council members to understand everything.

Cherry Askall, 2162 Big Sewickley Creek Rd, also wants all documentation reviewed and questions about the project answered so that everyone has a full understanding of what is going on.

Kasi Devinney, 484 Amsler Ridge Rd, minutes and cancelled meeting notices need to be online. Has Council considered hiring someone to help in the office? She wanted a clarification; were the road repairs on Amsler Ridge supposed to happen before the well pad is built? Residents need to know what to expect; a two-step process should be followed for applications and approvals.

Mike Andrews 200 Patriot Ln, the Borough's website needs to be updated. He would like to be appointed as an alternate to the Zoning Hearing Board. The Police Chief and Mayor spent over an hour at a meeting of Liberty Hills residents going over crime issues and scams. Asked why the police don't have body cameras? They cost about \$1,000 per officer and there are grants available to help pay for them.

Mayor Borato introduced Rico Elmore, who is running for the 16th legislative district for the House. Mr Elmore spoke of his background, what he plans on doing and is here to see what is going on in Economy.

Meeting Minutes: 10 Dec 2019: Mrs Skonieczny questioned a statement attributed to Mr Thomas, Zoning Officer, whereby Mr Thomas said our ordinance says that once a structure is connected to a house it becomes one structure. She would like to see that ordinance. Mr Thomas doesn't remember saying that nor does Mrs Skonieczny. **Motion by Mrs Skonieczny, seconded by Mr Sivy, to table the December 10th minutes to the next meeting, all voted aye**

Meeting Minutes: 6 Jan 2020: **Motion by Mr Bucuren, seconded by Mr Ruckert to approve the minutes of January 6, 2020, all voted aye.**

Committee Appointments: Mr Westrom will do this at the next meeting, for this meeting he will take on the subjects before Council.

List of Bills: Mr Kowal asked if AWA looked at all of the hydrants for which we're being billed. Mr Thomas responded he believes they did.

Mr Sivy noted there were two oil changes made at Smittys, one for 39.95 and one for 129.95; turns out the second one also included a tire

Motion by Mr Morrone, seconded by Mr Kowal to approve the bills, all voted aye.

Borough Secretary: Mr Westrom stated this will be on the next agenda.

Temporary Help: Mr Westrom feels this is a good idea to hire a temporary employee for up to six weeks.

Motion by Mr Sivy, seconded by Mr Kowal, to hire a temporary employee to work up to six weeks in the Borough Office, all voted aye.

Replace Carpet – Borough Office: it was suggested that the money to be used to clean the carpet in the Borough Building, following the kitchen fire, be used instead to replace it as it is old and worn. Mr Kowal suggested the Tax Office carpet should also be considered.

Motion by Mr Bucuren, seconded by Mr Morrone, to hold off until the next meeting the purchase of carpet so that the Tax Office can be included, all voted aye.

Window Shades Council Chambers: The restoration company attempted to have the previous curtains cleaned however they were dry-rotted. The Manager obtained a price of \$2,075 to install new shades.

Motion by Mr Morrone, seconded by Mr Kowal, to purchase new shades for Council Chambers not to exceed \$3,000.00, all voted aye.

Breezeway Ordinance: Mr Westrom suggested the new members of Council should be given the ordinance to review before moving forward with this.

Motion by Mr Kowal, seconded by Mr Sivy, to table the advertisement of the Breezeway Ordinance, all voted aye.

Oil and Gas Well Ordinance update: Mr Westrom suggested an amendment to this ordinance could be in order to eliminate compressor stations and to increase the setback for wells by 300 feet.

Motion by Mrs Skonieczny, seconded by Mr Sivy to have Solicitor Askar prepare a change to the gas ordinance to eliminate compressor stations and increase the well setback by 300 feet, all voted aye.

Committee Appointments: Mr Westrom reported he held off on making committee appointments.

Motion by Mr Ruckert, seconded by Mr Bucuren, to table committee appointments until the next meeting, all voted aye.

Mayor's Report: the report for December 2019 will be available in the Borough Office.

Mayor Borato sent an email to everyone stating Ford Interceptors are difficult to obtain. Our fleet now has 8 cars, one is out of service and one is totaled. The 2014 SUV will soon be going out of service. She is requesting two cars be purchased: one from the NLSC car fund and one out of the budgeted \$40,000.

Motion by Mr Ruckert, seconded by Mr Kowal, to purchase two Ford Explorers, not to exceed \$85,000.00, all voted aye.

Mayor Borato read a resignation letter from part time officer Dempsey on 20 January 2020 and thanked him for his service to the Borough and the Country.

She also had two items for executive session (personnel matters) with a possible vote.

Solicitor's Report: Walmart reassessment; in order to properly pursue this an appraisal will have to be done, to be split between the Borough, School District and County. Initially a preliminary appraisal is needed; if it goes to trial a full appraisal will be needed. Walmart wants to cut its assessment in half. The next hearing will be April 14th.

Animal Control Contract: he finally has a copy of their proposed new contract. He will make changes and circulate it. Mrs Skonieczny suggested the Borough may not want to enter into a new contract; Mr Askar said Council originally voted to renew but that can be revisited. Mr Thomas, CEO, stated they won't retrieve cats and thinks it should be in the contract. Questions about how many calls they respond to and how many dogs they pick up were asked. The Solicitor wants to find out who pays the additional fees for picking up dead animals. The Manager is to send everyone a copy of the current contract.

The Solicitor asked the Manager why the status of Mr Kowal is on the agenda under his heading; the Manager responded since Mr Kowal was not able to be sworn in on January 6th and that was in the minutes, the fact that he subsequently was sworn in and is now a Council member should also be in the minutes.

Mr Askar also signed a letter the bank wanted stating it's the Borough's intention to incur debt to buy the International dump truck.

Bi-annual Committee Appointments:

Motion by Mr Sivy to approve the appointments as presented,

Mr Kowal feels that due diligence requires that MOUs should go out for the following positions: Actuary, Auditor, Local Services Tax Collector, Engineer, Sewage Enforcement Officer and Solicitor. He doesn't want to rubber stamp everyone year after year. Mr Westrom stated it's too late for the auditor as they've already started the 2019 audit.

Mr Westrom stated we have a motion on the floor to accept the 2020 appointments

Mr Sivy asked how long the appointments are for? The positions are at will but if Council takes no action, they would be for two years. Mr Ruckert feels Council should appoint as is and look for alternatives later, we need people in place now.

The motion was seconded by Mr Ruckert, all voted aye.

422 Auction Sales: Mr Westrom asked the Manager what this subject is about. This is where we've had success selling used vehicles at auction with the least hassle. Mr Bucuren concurred as where he works, they do the same thing. It's the best bet.

Motion by Mr Bucuren, seconded by Mr Sivy, to send the retired police cars to 422 Auction Sales, all voted aye.

Berkheimer Liaison Appointments: Berkheimer typically requires designated representatives to send confidential information to regarding Local Services and Earned Income taxes. The suggestion is to change Sandy Dean to Elizabeth Petalino and keep Mr Kunkle on as well.

Motion by Mr Sivy, seconded by Mr Bucuren, to appoint Elizabeth Petalino and Randy Kunkle as the Berkheimer Liaisons for the Borough, all voted aye.

COG Members: The Beaver County Regional Council of Governments encourages all municipalities to appoint a primary and alternate elected official as members to the COG and attempt to attend their monthly meetings.

Motion by Mr Ruckert, seconded by Mr Sivy, to appoint Brian Westrom the primary and Mr Morrone as the alternate members to the county COG, all voted aye.

Alternate Zoning Hearing Board Member: this vacancy was noted toward the end of 2019. Mr Mike Andrews of 200 Patriot Ln has volunteered for the position.

Motion by Mr Kowal, seconded by Mr Sivy, to appoint Mike Andrews as the second alternate member on the Zoning Hearing Board, all voted aye.

Recreation Board Vacancies: Two vacancies exist on the Recreation Board, Francine Eden and Tom Fetkovich have volunteered to fill those positions.

Motion by Mr Kowal, seconded by Mr Ruckert, to appoint Francine Eden and Tom Fetkovich to the Recreation Board, all voted aye.

Motion by Mr Morrone, seconded by Mr Ruckert, to go into Executive Session for personnel reasons at 8:40, all voted aye.

Motion by Mr Ruckert, seconded by Mr Bucuren, to come out of executive session and go back to regular session, all voted aye.

Police Secretary's Contract: Mr Westrom mentioned this agreement was discussed including a pay increase of 60 cents from \$21.50 to \$22.10

Motion by Mr Bucuren, seconded by Mr Ruckert, to approve the new agreement with the Police Secretary, all voted aye.

Mayor Borato mentioned there might be a question regarding Officer Lively's request for Heart and Lung benefits. The Manager gave a brief explanation of what this is and that the request has to go before Council. He also established that the injury was work related and warrants Heart and Lung.

Motion by Mrs Skonieczny, seconded by Mr Ruckert, to approve the Heart and Lung benefit for Officer Lively, all voted aye.

Motion to adjourn by Mr Morrone, seconded by Mr Ruckert, all voted aye at 9:10.

Submitted by

Randy S Kunkle
Borough Manager