

**Economy Borough Council  
Meeting Minutes  
9 June 2020**

**MEETING:** Mr Morrone called the meeting to order at 7:00, also present were Mr Gary Bucuren, Mr Roger Kowal, Mr Jeffrey Ruckert, Mr Don Sivy, Mrs Pat Skonieczny and Mr Glen Sylvester. Others present included Mayor Jo Ann Borato, Borough Manager Randy Kunkle, Solicitor Joseph Askar and Engineer Scott Shoup.

**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.

Lisa Marcucci acknowledged her right to know request is being worked on.

**Minutes:** May 26, 2020 – not prepared yet. **Motion by Mr Bucuren, seconded by Mr Morrone, to table the minutes, all voted aye.**

**Committee Reports:**

**Finance** – nothing to report

**Public Works** – The monthly report is on file in the office.

**Front end loader** – needs very extensive repairs, a new John Deere would cost \$160,000 plus a trade in of \$25,000. Previously it was talked about keeping it through the year and buying a replacement early next year. Prices from Case and Caterpillar will be obtained.

**Paving Plan** – Mr Ruckert mentioned at the last meeting Sunridge Drive (alternate #5) was selected along with the base bid; since then this was re-evaluated and it is felt alternate #4, Celestial Drive should be paved instead. **Motion by Mr Ruckert, seconded by Mr Kowal, to pave Celestial Drive rather than Sunridge Drive, all voted aye.**

**Parks and Recreation** – nothing to report

**Ordinance** – Mr Sivy reported that a lot has changed since 2012 (when the Borough's gas and oil ordinance was adopted) and he suggests the Borough move ahead with getting the ordinance up to date. He suggests we hire special counsel, because that is all they do, and we will have a new ordinance to consider. The cost from attorney Gavin Robb will be \$2,000 to \$2500 for a draft ordinance and anything beyond that will be \$170 per hour for his time and \$155 per hour for a specialist. **Motion by Mr Sivy, seconded by Mrs Skonieczny, to hire Gavin Robb of Tucker Arensburg as special counsel to provide an updated oil and gas well ordinance at a cost of between \$2000 and \$2500 for a draft ordinance and either \$170/hour or \$155/hour for additional work depending on who has to do the work.**

Mr Ruckert asked if we are going to rely on one attorney or seek others. Mayor Borato objects to limiting or eliminating well development on large tracts of land. A roll call vote followed:

|                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| <b>Mr Bucuren</b>     | <b>yes</b>     |
| <b>Mr Kowal</b>       | <b>yes</b>     |
| <b>Mr Ruckert</b>     | <b>no</b>      |
| <b>Mr Sivy</b>        | <b>yes</b>     |
| <b>Mrs Skonieczny</b> | <b>yes</b>     |
| <b>Mr Sylvester</b>   | <b>abstain</b> |
| <b>Mr Morrone</b>     | <b>no</b>      |

**Motion passes 4 to 2 with one abstention**

**Public Safety** – nothing to report

**Property and Buildings** – nothing to report

**Mayor’s Report:** the monthly report is on file.

Promotions: Jason Wood, DOH 2004, serves very well as SRO, to Sergeant; Justin Skonieczny, DOH 2011, assumed role as shift supervisor, to Corporal; Christopher Farangonio, DOH 2007, involved with the intelligence community, to Corporal. All three have taken on various responsibilities and have excellent work habits. They manage their time well and have taken on leadership roles.

Zachary Potts has accepted the offer to be a Jr Patrolman and will start June 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Veteran’s Memorial Group would like to update the Memorial by contracting with Pittsburgh Hardscapes and using the \$5,000 budgeted for the Memorial.. If you have any thoughts or concerns with this, please let the Mayor know.

Tires: The Borough owns 40 old tires at Smithy’s that no longer fit any of the cars we own. A year or so ago we had a similar situation and the tires were sold to Redge Lindauer for \$10 apiece. The Department would like to do the same with these tires once we get a final tally.

Executive Session: Personnel, no vote.

**Solicitor’s Report:** One matter for Executive Session due to potential litigation/settlement. It was previously mentioned we have a couple in the Borough who want to donate \$500 to the Police Department. The Chief reached out to the donors and told them Council is very appreciative of the donation and is earmarked for the Police Department.

**Engineers Report:** Nothing to report. Mr Sivy asked if there is anything new regarding the B15 landslide. Mr Kunkle gave Mr Shoup a report from McTish, Kunkel & Associates today. He will review this and report back to Council

**Old Business:** Froman: Mr Kowal stated the driveways are not 800 feet apart as our ordinance says they should. Everything Mrs Skonieczny found was accurate. After Mr Kowal met with the developer and

saw where the driveways will be, and that PADOT is fine with them, he feels the development should go in. Mr Bucuren disagrees, it is a bad area around the bend, and doubts PADOT will lower the speed limit. Pat stated if the Borough's ordinance is more restrictive than the state requires, the ordinance trumps the state.

Ed Moore Shefflen Co – Project Engineer; Deon McMullen – McLaren Road Properties (the developer) and Jarret Crosby – Wooster & Associates the Traffic Engineer were present. They would like to know if Council would approve the development with one full access and one emergency access. This started on February 11th when the developers met with Council. Since then changes have been made due to the Traffic Engineer's suggestions. On April 15<sup>th</sup> they sent the current plan to the Borough, on April 30<sup>th</sup> there was a teleconference with a committee of Council. On May 7<sup>th</sup>, the Committee sent a report to Council summarizing the teleconference and recommended denial. On May 13<sup>th</sup>, the Traffic Engineer submitted corrections to the Committee's report. The Northern access is the full access and the Southern access is the emergency entrance.

Jarret Crosby spoke in depth about the entrances. Local roads and driveways have different specifications. PennDOT told them they would approve a full and emergency (access) the latter meets the specs for a driveway. Mrs Skonieczny stated having a gated emergency access is not providing two accesses, and they are not 800 feet apart as the ordinance states. Mayor Borato pointed out that modifications to the ordinance were granted to the Liberty Hills and Villas of Economy developments. Walmart has one main entrance and a gated emergency access, and the two Schools in the Borough are the same way only they have dirt roads as the emergency access. Mr Moore pointed out the plan is a PRD, which allows for modifications.

Mr Askar asked if Council feels comfortable with this development moving forward based on what they've been hearing? Mr Ruckert would like a traffic study done to see if the speed can be reduced to 25 mph, thus enabling two full access points, then he would consider a modification to the 800 feet. A poll of Council took place, four view it favorably, two oppose and one opposes at this time. This poll does not convey any authority.

Mayor Borato stated Officer Truskowski would like an MOU signed for him to work with the Beaver County Drug Task Force. This has been done in the past and the Chief is in favor of it.

**New Business: Span Lot Line Revision – fresh date. Motion by Mr Ruckert, seconded by Mr Kowal, to re-approve this revision, all voted aye.**

Mr Kowal mentioned a letter sent by concerned citizens to maintain the Zoom platform or something like it, Mr Askar concurred, he has been contacted as well. Mr Askar also mentioned complaints about the website not being up to date and suggested MG Softnet could take care of that; Mr Ruckert mentioned the new Secretary/Assistant Manager may be able to take care of that.

Mr Sivy asked where things stand with the Comcast Franchise. They are still providing service, but we need to have an agreement. Without a Franchise Comcast will not be able to continue to provide service, which will be a burden to many residents. Mayor Borato stated we cannot force someone else to come in. This will be on the next agenda.

Executive Session. **Motion by Mr Sivy to suspend the regular meeting and go into Executive Session for Personnel where no vote will follow**

Mr Ruckert asked if they will vote to re-organize; Mr Morrone responded affirmatively.

**Motion failed for lack of a second.**

**Motion by Mr Ruckert to re-organize, seconded by Mr Morrone, all voted aye.**

Mayor Borato Chaired the meeting and asked for nominations for President. **Mr Bucuren nominated Mr Kowal for President. Mr Ruckert nominated Mr Morrone.** There being no further nominations, Mayor Borato called for a roll call vote on the first nomination

Each member stated who they wanted as President

|                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| Mr Bucuren     | Mr Kowal   |
| Mr Kowal       | Himself    |
| Mr Morrone     | Himself    |
| Mr Ruckert     | Mr Morrone |
| Mr Sivy        | Mr Morrone |
| Mrs Skonieczny | Mr Kowal   |
| Mr Sylvester   | Mr Morrone |

Mr Morrone will remain as President per the four to three vote.

Mr Morrone nominated Mr Ruckert as Vice President, all voted aye.

Mr Ruckert nominated Mr Sivy for President Pro Temp, all voted aye.

**Motion by Mr Sivy, seconded by Mr Sylvester, to suspend the regular Council session and go into Executive Session after which the meeting will adjourn, all voted aye.**

Submitted by

Randy S Kunkle  
Borough Manager