

**Economy Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
10 Dec 2019**

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

ABSENT: Vice President RJ Burns
Mr Frank Morrone

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.

Roger Kowal, 479 Amsler Ridge Rd, asked if appointments will be made at the reorganization meeting, and if so, MOUs should be put out for the Solicitor and Auditor. Mr Westrom stated only council positions will be determined at the reorganization meeting.

Linda Stanley, Winterset Road understands that Council received an Act 14 notice regarding a pipeline between the two gas well pads. She would like Lisa Martucci to speak on her behalf; Mrs Skonieczny concurred. Mrs Martucci explained that the Act 14 notice gives Council one chance to be involved in a land disturbance, which involves zoning and land use issues. This notice is missing a lot of information, such as Council's ability to view the entire application. You have 30 days to comment on something you have very little information on. She provided Council with a sample letter to DEP explaining that it's not practical to respond to a project that they know very little about and out of fairness the time clock should be stopped until they have access to all of the plans.

Mr Westrom asked Mrs Nelko (representing Shoup Engineering) if she reviewed the Act 14 notice. She had not but will check to see if Scott did.

Roger Kowal said it won't hurt to send the letter (Martucci), you don't have time to wait.

Don Sivy 2741 Ridge Road Extension agreed with Mr Kowal that Council should respond and try to delay the project.

Laurel Beitsinger, dual resident, was originally concerned with the well pad in her neighborhood and now we have all of this massive infrastructure to be concerned with. Council needs to be concerned with the health, safety and welfare of residents. These projects will affect the value of homes and people need to be able to make informed decisions. Information should be put in the Economy Connection.

Mayor Borato stated more information is better, however, there already exists a large expanse of pipelines throughout most neighborhoods for heating and cooking. When questioned if she is a member of Council, she responded she is the Mayor and has the authority to comment on anything brought before Council.

Roger Kowal stated he believes the Mayor is out of line and cannot talk about every subject that comes up, she runs the police department and ordinances; Council runs the Borough. He demanded to see the law that says she can interject on every subject.

Carol Pearson 130 Amsler Ridge, we need to be more informed about wells and pipelines and the more expertise we bring in the better.

Minutes: November 26th, 2019. **Motion by Mrs Mutschler seconded by Mr Bucuren, to table the minutes, all voted aye.**

Committee Reports:

Finance: Mrs Mutschler asked if everyone has a copy of the list of bills. She would like to add two items: a bill for Officer Ashley's uniform allowance in the amount of \$217.96 and the stipends for people on the Planning Commission, Zoning Hearing if they met, Emergency Management and Fire Marshal and if there are any others. **Motion by Mrs Mutschler, seconded by Mr Fetkovich, to pay the bills that have been properly signed off on by department heads including those that were added, all voted aye.**

Mrs Mutschler also has a personnel issue to bring up in executive session; Mr Westrom mentioned he has four items.

Public Works: Nothing to report

Parks and Recreation: Mr Fetkovich reported breakfast with Santa will be on December 14th from 9 until 11 at the social hall for \$5.00 per person. He also thanked everyone who helped with the Recreation Board activities over the years.

Ordinance: Mrs Skonieczny pointed out ordinance 473 is on the agenda regarding breezeways, that is being pushed by the Planning Commission but didn't go through the Ordinance Committee. Mr Westrom stated the Planning Commission is permitted to recommend ordinances. Mrs Skonieczny believes this is improper protocol. She has no problem with the ordinance, she wants to limit the size of breezeways, but the proposed ordinance goes further by describing what

breezeways are. The description is problematic because it connects “two structures”, which is what happened on Golden Grove Road, two houses were built. Mr Thomas told her two more residents want to do the same thing, which, according to Mrs Mutschler is what the Planning Commission is eliminating. Mrs Skonieczny favors that but feels the definition of breezeway perpetuates the possibility of two homes being built on one lot. Mr Askar stated he believes Mrs Skonieczny is concerned that two residential structures can still be built on one lot. She feels that taking out the definition of a breezeway will solve the problem. After further discussion it was determined that the definition of Breezeway in Section 1 of the proposed ordinance shall read as follows:

“A roofed outdoor passage permitting pedestrian traffic with a maximum length of ten (10) feet.”

Mrs Mutschler recognized the Code Enforcement Officer, Jake Thomas. Mr Thomas stated the reason why they got away with two homes on one lot on Golden Grove Road is because our current ordinance states that by connecting any structure to a house makes it one structure. And if Council wants to prevent that type of situation more needs to go into the ordinance. Mayor Borato stated the UCC and the insurance codes both say that once two structures are connected, they become one unit. Mr Westrom asked Mr Thomas if the current proposed ordinance is a step in the right direction, he answered affirmatively. **Motion by Mrs Mutschler, seconded by Mr Fetkovich, to advertise the proposed ordinance, with the new definition of breezeway as heretofore stated, all voted aye.**

Public Safety: Nothing to report

Buildings and Property: Nothing to report

Personnel: Mr Westrom requests an executive session regarding personnel; two in public works, two in the borough office.

Mayors Report:

The monthly report is on file in the office.

The Eye Marksman program is being setup. There are pre-loaded shooting scenarios and the Chief can create his own throughout the borough.

The Ford Interceptor should be here by the end of the month. Originally C Harper was going to do the uploading but Ibigtek is now able to do this for over \$1800 less.

Solicitor’s Report: Attorney Askar is waiting to hear back from Animal Control regarding their agreement.

The Walmart Assessment appeal will get started at the end of January.

Engineer's Report: Nothing to report.

Mayor Borato asked if risers will be installed on Mary Reed Road. The risers come in 1-inch increments, which means they won't fit on all man-hole covers.

Old Business:

Advertising next year's meetings for Council, Recreation Board, Municipal Authority, Planning Commission, Zoning Hearing Board and the reorganization meeting; ***motion by Mrs Mutschler, seconded by Mr Fetkovich, to authorize the advertisement, all voted aye.***

Mrs Mutschler asked if the Manager is going to reach out to the 168 residents who opted out from having Valley Waste remove their garbage to verify why they are exempt, the answer was affirmative.

MGSofnet Computer Updates; to replace the three office computers would cost up to \$3,840; to update them will cost up to \$675. Manager Kunkle was asked if he had a recommendation; to update for now and to budget for replacements in a few years.

Motion by Mrs Fetkovich, seconded by Mr Mutschler, to update the office computers, all voted aye.

New Business:

Joint MS4 legal advertisement: Mr Westrom stated this is something we do every year and that by going in on the ad with everyone in Beaver County who is required to run an MS4 program we save significant money. ***Motion by Mrs Mutschler, seconded by Mr Bucuren, to approve the joint MS4 legal ad, all voted aye.***

Mr Westrom asked if there is anyone interested in making a motion to send a letter to DEP requesting additional information since we won't be meeting again before the deadline. ***Motion by Mrs Skonieczny, seconded by Mr Bucuren, to send a letter to DEP requesting additional information about the upcoming pipeline project, all voted aye.*** Mr Askar had some questions about the verbiage but concluded that Shoup Engineering is capable of sending an appropriate letter.

Mr Bucuren thanked those members who are moving on as did Mrs Skonieczny.

Motion by Mr Fetkovich, seconded by Mrs Mutschler, to go into executive session to discuss four personnel issues and the Mayor's contract issue, all voted aye at 8:11.

Motion by Mr Fetkovich, seconded by Mr Bucuren to go back into regular session, all voted aye at 8:55.

Mr Westrom stated there are three items to vote on.

Motion by Mr Bucuren, seconded by Mr Fetkovich, to interview and hire the best qualified public works employee as determined by the Personnel Committee along with the Public Works Foreman, all voted aye.

Motion by Mrs Skonieczny, seconded by Mr Fetkovich, to hire Sandy Dean as an interim Borough Secretary not to exceed 24 hours per week at \$30 per hour through the month of December with a mutually agreeable option to add January, all voted aye.

Motion by Mrs Skonieczny, seconded by Mr Fetkovich, to give Chief O'Brien a six-year contract with a 4% raise each year, all voted aye.

Motion by Mrs Mutschler and Mr Fetkovich, to adjourn, all voted aye at 8:58.

Submitted by

Randy S Kunkle
Borough Manager