

Economy Borough Council
Council Minutes
September 22, 2020

Council President Mr. Frank Morrone called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers of the Economy Municipal Building.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL –

Mr. Frank Morrone, Mr. Gary Bucuren, Mr. Jeffrey Ruckert, Mr. Don Sivy, Mr. Glenn Sylvester, Mr. Roger Kowal and Mrs. Pat Skonieczny (via teleconference) and Mayor Jo Ann Borato. There were also 8 participants via teleconference.

STAFF PRESENT –

Borough Manager Randy Kunkle, Borough Assistant Manager/Secretary Travis Cavanaugh, representing the Borough Solicitor Mr. Joseph Askar, Esq.(via teleconference).

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS –

Mr. Morrone welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested the discussion(s) regarding Borough business be kept to 3 – 5 minutes in length.

Sheila Dattilo of 408 Independence Lane, Freedom
Cheryl Ashbaugh of 2061 Big Sewickley Creek Road, Sewickley
Laurel Beitsinger of 554 Pioneer Lane, Freedom

HEAR THE PUBLIC –

Ms. Dattilo expressed her concerns pertaining to the layout of the agendas and asked questions pertaining to items on the agenda.

Ms. Ashbaugh expressed her concerns pertaining to the layout of the agendas and about items on the agenda.

Ms. Beitsinger asked if all of Council members contact information be added to the website.

MINUTES –

Mrs. Skonieczny wanted to clarify that she is in favor of the changes to the minutes from August 25, 2020, but not in favor of how the changes were made to these particular minutes.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 8, 2020, were presented to Council. **On a motion by Mr. Sivy; seconded by Mr. Sylvester** to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2020, as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE – No agenda item at this time.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – No agenda item at this time.

PROPERTY and BUILDING COMMITTEE –

Mr. Morrone, Chairperson of the Property and Building Committee, presented Council with a quote pertaining to the replacement of the roof on the Borough Municipal Building.

After some review and discussion, **on a motion by Mr. Sylvester; seconded by Mr. Morrone** to approve the installation of a new roof on the Borough Municipal Building by Mazzant Painting & Disaster Restoration in the amount of \$ 19,998.75, with an amount not to exceed \$ 50.00, per sheet of 4 ft. by 8 ft. plywood, for any of the plywood that may be damaged. Motion was unanimously approved.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – No agenda item at this time.

PUBLIC WORKS (PW) COMMITTEE –

Mr. Sivy, Chairperson of the Public Works Committee, presented Council with a quote pertaining to the underground storage tank hybrid conversion for chipkey with SQL lite software update.

On a motion by Mr. Sivy; seconded by Mr. Ruckert to approve the installation of the hybrid conversion for chipkey with SQL lite software update to the underground storage tank by Petroleum Technical Services in the amount of \$ 5,538.00. Motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Sivy mentioned that The Great Grouping Church group is possibly looking into using the Quigley Catholic High School in November for the church masses. Discussion continued.

PARKS and RECREATION COMMITTEE – No agenda item at this time.

MAYOR'S REPORT –

Mayor Borato mentioned to Council, that the police department is going to be replacing six (6) shotguns in the amount of \$ 488.00, per shotgun from Witmer Public Safety Group. The old operable shotguns will be traded-in and receive a trade-in amount of \$ 125.00, per shotgun. Also, for the old non operable shotguns they will provide a trade-in value for them as well.

Mayor Borato mentioned to Council, that a Patrolman has requested to purchase an off-duty pistol utilizing his remaining unused clothing allowance from 2020. This was approved before in the past. Discussion continued pertaining to this matter and the consensus was to not allow any off-duty weapons to be purchased with any clothing allowance.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT –

Borough Solicitor mentioned to Council, that the draft for the early retirement offer was given to all members of Council and if anyone has questions or corrections to let him know.

ENGINEER'S REPORT –

Borough Manager read an email from the Borough Engineer pertaining to an update on the Energy Transfer grading permit. The email included, all of the items that were listed have been satisfied, the items that Garvin Boward Beitko had have been satisfied, now in a position to issue the Grading Permits and intend to do so, later this week or early next week, the permits will be conditioned upon Energy Transfer obtaining the necessary DEP Permits, providing required bonding and having a Geotechnical Engineer on-site for the landslide remediation work.

Chris Koop from Energy Transfer, mentioned to Council, that the Geotechnical report will be provided after post construction. Also, there will be a Geotechnical Engineer on site all the time from Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. Discussion continued on this matter.

1. Compton Road – No agenda item at this time. Borough Solicitor mentioned to Council, that he has not received any emails from Mr. Dornish pertaining to BLS Transit & Supply.

OLD BUSINESS –

1. Huey Claim – No agenda item at this time.
2. Cable Franchise Agreement – No agenda item at this time.
3. Appointing Pension Trustees Resolution – No agenda item at this time.

NEW BUSINESS –

Mr. Sylvester left the meeting to abstain from the next agenda item.

1. EBMA Board Appointment – Mayor Borato gave her support for Mr. Sylvester's reappointment to the EBMA Board. After some review and discussion, **on a motion by Mr. Ruckert; seconded by Mr. Morrone** to accept the reappointment of Mr. Sylvester to the EBMA Board for a five (5) year term ending on December 31, 2025. Motion carried – 6-1, with Mr. Sylvester abstaining.

Mr. Sylvester came back to the meeting.

2. Veteran's Service Center Request – **On a motion by Mr. Ruckert; seconded by Mr. Sivy** to accept the donation request for the Veteran's Service Center in the amount of \$ 500.00. Motion was unanimously approved.
3. Borough Municipal Building Alarm System –After some review and discussion, **on a motion by Mr. Ruckert; seconded by Mr. Kowal** to approve the installation of a new alarm system

with smoke detectors/heat sensors at the Borough Municipal Building and Public Works Garage by Knighthawk Alarm Services in the amount of \$ 2,549.00. Motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Borato read the Borough Mayor's Manual pertaining to Council meetings.

4. Disposition of Meeting Recordings – Mr. Ruckert brought up the reasons pertaining to the disposition of the meeting recordings. Discussion continued pertaining to this matter. After some review and discussion, **on a motion by Mr. Ruckert; seconded by Mr. Sylvester** to eliminate the tape recorder to record the meetings starting at the next regular Council meeting.

A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Bucuren	No
Mr. Kowal	No
Mr. Ruckert	Yes
Mr. Sivy	Yes
Mrs. Skonieczny	No
Mr. Sylvester	Yes
Mr. Morrone	Yes

Motion carried – 4-3.

HEAR THE PUBLIC –

Ms. Ashbaugh expressed her concerns pertaining to the elimination of the recordings.

Ms. Beitsinger expressed her concerns pertaining to the elimination of the recordings, minutes were not updated on the website for a while, against the teleconference, pleased with the Asst. Borough Manager responding to the Right-to-Know request quickly and in favor of keep the recordings for 6 months.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED –

Discussion continued on the elimination of the recordings.

5. Executive Session Protocol – Mr. Ruckert brought up the reasons pertaining to the Executive Session protocol for in-person only. He also mentioned that this is not picking on any particular Council member. Discussion continued pertaining to this matter. After some review and discussion, **on a motion by Mr. Ruckert; seconded by Mr. Morrone** to only allow Council members to participate in the Executive Sessions if they are in-person at the regular meeting only, unless a Council member has a true valid emergency.

A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Bucuren	No
Mr. Kowal	No
Mr. Ruckert	Yes
Mr. Sivy	Yes
Mrs. Skonieczny	No
Mr. Sylvester	Yes
Mr. Morrone	Yes

Motion carried – 4-3.

OTHER BUSINESS –

Mr. Kowal asked if the Code Enforcement Officer could attend the next Council meeting to discuss the issues with the NLSC. Also, asked about the road program paving schedule update.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – No agenda item at this time.

MOTION TO ADJOURN –

On a motion by Mr. Sivy; seconded by Mr. Sylvester to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Motion was unanimously approved.

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.



Travis Cavanaugh
Asst. Borough Manager/Secretary