

Economy Borough Council
Council Minutes
February 8, 2022

Council Vice-President, Mr Donald Sivy 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 Bucuren, Mr Kowal, Mr Ruckert, Mr Sivy, Mr Metz, Mr Sylvester, Mr Morrone (absent due to illness), Mayor Borato

STAFF PRESENT

Borough Manager Randy Kunkle, Assistant Borough Manager/Secretary Travis Cavanaugh (absent-excused) Solicitor Joseph Askar Esq, Engineer Scott Shoup

Mr Bill Vescio – Pensions Update

Mr Vescio summarized the results of the Non-Uniform and Police Pension Plans for 2021. The plans increased in value by approximately 7%. The reports are on file.

HEAR THE PUBLIC

Sheila Dattilo, 408 Independence Dr, and the Café group urged Council to update the oil and gas ordinance to help protect the environment. She mentioned the new law governing agendas.

Chris Koop, representing Energy Transfer, said the gas line connecting the B15 well site to the B46 site will start this week.

Linda Stanley, 139 Winterset Rd, urged Council to update the oil and gas ordinance.

Casey Bowers, representing Penn Energy, said they obtained 1800 leases, representing 70% of the land in the Borough. The current oil and gas ordinance is more than sufficient, and fracking will start at B46 in a few weeks.

Cheryl Ashbaugh, no address given.

Laurel Beitsinger, 554 Pioneer Ln, brought the human aspect of drilling to the forefront.

John Moragne, Striffler Rd, asked who decides if the energy companies are complying or not?

MINUTES

Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 25, 2022 were presented. It was noted the year 2021 should be changed to 2022. After review and discussion, **on a motion by Mr Ruckert, seconded by Mr Metz** to approve the Minutes as adjusted, all voted aye.

Committee Reports

Finance: Mr Kowal asked if everyone had a chance to review the bills and if there are any questions? After review and discussion, **on a motion by Mr Kowal, seconded by Mr Silvester**, all voted aye to pay the bills.

The Treasurer's and Budget reports are on file.

Mayor's Report

There were 21 felonies in the Borough during the month of January, the highest month ever.

The Verizon Connectivity Pro (GIS for police vehicles) was brought up at the last meeting and was received most favorably. It will cost \$1,819.20 per year for all vehicles and can be cancelled at any time. After a lengthy discussion a roll call vote was taken:

Mr Bucuren	yes (to make the purchase)
Mr Kowal	no
Mr Metz	yes
Mr Ruckert	yes
Mr Sivy	yes
Mr Silvester	yes

Motion carried.

Everyone should be aware that police officer Rick Creese turned in his notice to retire on May 27th. In light of this Mayor Borato asked Council to have the Civil Service Commission start the process of producing a list of eligible hires. The general consensus is to wait until the retirement takes place before addressing this.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

No report; still waiting on the Student Resource Officer agreement with Ambridge Borough and School District.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

No report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr Sylvester gave a breakdown of the chronology of the potential update to the oil and gas ordinance (#440). Discussion followed.

Mr Askar will bring Mr Metz up to speed on the subject with the intention of bringing this to a close soon.

NEW BUSINESS

2003 John Deere Backhoe – Mr Bucuren asked that this be put on the next agenda, he wants to speak with the Public Works Foreman first. **Motion by Mr Bucuren, seconded by Mr Sylvester, to table this subject until the next meeting, all voted aye.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mr Sylvester, seconded by Mr Bucuren to go into Executive Session for a Personnel matter in the Police Department at 8:32 with a possible vote, all voted aye.

Motion to return to the regular meeting by Mr Bucuren, seconded by Mr Kowal, all voted aye.

ADJOURN

Motion by Mr Sylvester, seconded by Mr Ruckert, to adjourn the meeting at 9:30, all voted aye.

Respectfully Submitted


Randy S Kunkle
Borough Manager