

## **SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

MARCH 21, 2023

Present: Mayor David Velegol, City Manager Joe DiBartolomeo and  
City Clerk Dave Kurcina  
Council: Tammy Johnson, Charles McCoy, Nick Cekinovich,  
and Wendy DeAngelis

Absent: City Attorney Mike Gaudio  
Council: Alexis Russell and John Casinelli

Place: Council Chamber

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Subjects: **Building Permits and 2023-2024 Budget**

### **Public Request**

**Skip Cutrone** – He was at the meeting to talk about the traffic pattern for buildings that are going to be built, by Empire Green Energy, on the former site of Follansbee Steel. He owns a business on State Street and he is concerned the increase in truck traffic will affect his business and traffic on Route 2. He met with Scott Ewusiak and Farley Wood to discuss the traffic flow. It was decided that State Street would not be a feasible option for trucks to enter and leave their property. It was suggested using River Road to get the trucks off of Route 2 in the downtown area. Empire Green Energy stated that they would need 1,500 feet of City property access and that they would maintain the Road. By using River Road, the trucks would be able to use Veteran’s Drive. Skip is in support of the busing being built in the southern end of the City. The Mayor noted that there will have to be a Title search of River Road from Veteran’s Drive to State Street. He also stated that the that road would need an upgrade to meet the demands of the trucks. Nick would like to have a sound barrier along Veteran’s Drive to help eliminate noise for the residents along West Street. Farley said that there will be a minimal amount of trucks except when they are unloading barges which could be once a month or every other month. In addition, Empire Green Energy is pursuing the former Chuck Wright Building and property located at the south end of the City along Duquesne Street. Farley also stated that his Company will pay for any upgrades to River Road. Joe stated that there are some other issues with the proposed buildings; however, they have provided every thing to the City that has been requested.

**Iris Ferrell** – She wanted to know if Council will have to go through another vote for Empire Green Energy if they pursue another purpose for their building which was going to be used for Medical Waste. The Mayor stated that there will be an open meeting and a new vote would occur if they pursue another purpose.

**Building Permits**

**Motion by Charles McCoy/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tammy Johnson to approve, on a provisional bases, to permit Empire Green Energy to proceed with saw cutting and foundation formation at the former site of Follansbee Steel at Empire Green Energy’s own risk with the rest of the Buildings not being approved until a traffic pattern has been finalized and approved by Council.**

**3 in favor**

**1 opposed (Wendy DeAngelis)**

**2023-2024 Budget**

Joe handed out a copy of the proposed 2023 – 2024 Budget (\$3,332,248.00). He noted that there are limited opportunities in this Budget. The only amount that is locked in is the Property Taxes in the amount of \$803,984.00. He noted that the Building Permits will be going up the next Fiscal Year. Empire Green Energy is going to build a Pig Iron Plant and it will be a 240 million dollar project. He also stated that Council needs to address issues with the City Building when it comes to Security. Lastly, Council needs to take a look at the Police Department Budget.

**Motion by Nick Cekinovich/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tammy Johnson to adjourn at 7:05 p.m. Carried**

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**David P. Kurcina, City Clerk**