

TUNKHANNOCK BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
April 3, 2014

Council President Stacy Huber called the Monthly Meeting of the Tunkhannock Borough Council to order in the Borough Building, 126 Warren Street, Tunkhannock, PA at 7:00 p.m. He led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present were: Mayor Norman Ball; Council Members Stacy Huber, Joseph Myers, Robert Robinson, Ruby Sands, Wendy Sweppenheiser, and Ruth Vincenti; and Borough Manager Dawn Welch. Absent: Council Members Marshall Davis and Scott Douthett.

Others present: Wyoming County Press Examiner Reporter Michael Wintermute; Citizens Patricia Mead, Susan DiStadio, Ben Barziloski, Mike DiStadio, Mark Monsey, and Ned Slocum.

Reading of Minutes and Bills:

On a motion by Joseph Myers, seconded by Ruth Vincenti, the minutes of the meeting on March 16, 2014, were approved. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Robert Robinson, seconded Ruby Sands, move to approve payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Privilege of the Floor:

Mark Monsey, Tunkhannock Business and Professional Association, reported that things are going well so far with this year's Founders' Day preparations.

Ben Barziloski requested some guidance on whom to talk to on different issues with CVS, such as the concrete curb-divider (Bridge Street entrance) that is broken, speed bumps, and snow removal. President Huber reported that Manager Welch had spoken to Mary Ann Wervey, Zaremba Group Regional Director (Agent for CVS Caremark Corporation), regarding the speed bumps that had been installed during the construction of the CVS facility. Manager Welch will check with Ms. Wervey on the other issues raised. President Huber said that certain of the concerns expressed may fall within civil (versus Borough-related) areas of responsibility.

Mark Monsey also wanted to know if there was any mechanism in place to alert business owners in the event of a fire in the downtown area. Mayor Ball will check into this.

Finance and Administration Committee:

President Huber reported that the 2013 Audit was completed with excellent results, due in large measure to the efforts of Manager Welch. He also reported that the Act 205 Report has been submitted to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Public Employees Retirement Commission by Uninvest Municipal Pension Services.

Department of Public Works (DPW) Committee:

DPW Chairman Robert Robinson reported that the Committee met on March 24th and is recommending that Council advertise for bids for the paving of Elk, South Hazel, Stark, and Avery Streets.

On motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Joseph Myers, move to advertise for bids for the paving of Elk, South Hazel, Stark, and Avery Streets. Motion carried unanimously.

Building and Property:

With regard to the Furnace Replacement Project and on motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Joseph Myers, move to authorize the issuance of the “Notice to Award” the contract to Scranton Electric and allowing the President of Council to execute the document and/or any other related documents as may be required, subject to review by the Solicitor and Engineer. Motion carried unanimously.

Riverside Park Commission:

Mayor Ball thanked Ned Slocum, Milnes Engineering, for his assistance with the plans to replace the bandstand. He also reported they have one volunteer, so far, for mowing the park.

Police:

Mayor Ball presented a summary of the Police Report for the Month of March, 2014. Note: a copy of the report is on file in the Police Department.

Planning and Zoning:

President Huber reported there are presently no hearings scheduled for April.

Council of Governments (COG): N/A

Old Business:

On motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Joseph Myers, move to withdraw the application for the 2011 Community Development Block Grant for renovations of the Police Department restrooms. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

On motion by Ruth Vincenti, seconded by Wendy Sweppenheiser, move to approve \$25.00 toward the reward fund to assist in the apprehension of those responsible for stealing street signs in various local municipalities. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Wendy Sweppenheiser, seconded by Robert Robinson, move to have our Solicitor update the Shade Tree Ordinance. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Ruth Vincenti, move not to host the bike race in the Borough, as proposed by Brenda Novak. Motion carried unanimously.

President Huber reported on a meeting that he, Mayor Ball, and Manager Welch attended concerning the Coalition Against Bigger Trucks (CABT). The CABT is partnered with statewide associations and community leaders to communicate with Members of Congress about the safety and infrastructure damage issues that would arise if these larger vehicles were allowed on our roads. Pamela Mann, CABT National Field Director, requested that we support this effort by sending a letter to our Congressman.

On motion by Wendy Sweppenheiser, seconded by Ruth Vincenti, move to send a letter to our Congressman concerning CABT. Motion carried unanimously.

President Huber that he would be attending a meeting on April 8th with representatives of the Public Utility Commission and PennDOT, concerning possible changes to the railroad crossing signalization.

Council Privilege of the Floor:

Robert Robinson announced that on April 25th the Shade Tree Commission, along with the Tree Association, will be celebrating Arbor Day by planting a memorial tree.

President Huber reported that Police Committee Chairman Marshall Davis wished to thank the Council Members who were able to attend and support Tunkhannock Borough during the Police Arbitration Hearing.

On motion by Joseph Myers, seconded by Ruth Vincenti, to go into executive session at 7:54 p.m. for discussions of contractual, real estate, and personnel matters. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Joseph Myers, seconded by Wendy Sweppenheiser, move to go into regular session at 8:04 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

At 8:07 p.m., on motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Joseph Myers, move to adjourn the meeting Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Welch
Borough Manager