

TUNKHANNOCK BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
December 3, 2015

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 Marshall Davis, Stacy Huber, Joseph Myers, Robert Robinson, Wendy Sweppenheiser, Lisa Tesluk and Ruth Vincenti; and Borough Manager Dawn Welch. Absent: Council Member Scott Douthett.

Others present: Wyoming County Press Examiner (WCPE) Reporter C.J. Marshall; Police Chief Roger Hardy; and Citizens Ned Slocum, Mark Monsey, Patti Mead, Nick Migliori, Frank Gaus, Jerry Bogedin, John Shemanski, Wayne Krause, David Ide, and Commander Charles Stockage, American Legion Dennis Strong Post 457.

Charles Stockage recognized/presented awards to Detective David Ide and firefighter Wayne Krause as Police Officer of the Year and for Fireman of the Year respectively.

Jerry Bogedin was present to support, provide background information, and answer questions in regard to the Borough's proposed joining the River Town Program.

On motion by Marshall Davis, seconded by Wendy Sweppenheiser, move to approve Resolution 7-2015 Supporting Designation as a Susquehanna Greenway River Town. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Joseph Myers, seconded by Ruth Vincenti, move to approve the minutes of the meeting held on November 5, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Public Privilege of the Floor:

Mark Monsey, Tunkhannock Business and Professional Association, advised that the recent train excursions were very successful, with a sellout of 2,940 people. Christmas in our Home Town is ready to go; and he thanked Ben Barziloski and crew for doing a great job with the Christmas decorations on the Borough's street lamps/poles.

C.J. Marshall asked why the fire siren went off on Thanksgiving morning. President Huber replied that it was the result of an electrical malfunction that the Borough, in conjunction with

the fire department, is looking into for the purposes of making the required repairs.

Finance and Administration:

On motion by Joseph Myers, seconded by Marshall Davis, move to adopt the 2016 Budget and 2015-2 2016 Tax Levy Ordinance. Motion carried unanimously.

President Huber briefly recapped last month's meeting in regard to the Triton Hose Company's request to increase the Fire Fund Tax by one mill. After said meeting, the Borough notified Triton President Chuck Sands that, due to timing considerations, Council was unable to take action on the request at the November Meeting; however, Council would consider re-addressing the matter in January 2016, as is allowed by law. Since this issue involves other municipalities, he further advised that: a) additional information would be helpful; b) a meeting be considered to provide information and to address specific questions; and c) a meeting of Council's Finance Committee would be held, after which formal correspondence from the Borough would be forthcoming. In the interim, we had spoken to representatives of some of the other municipalities involved, with the general consensus being that such a meeting should be held. Triton indicated that they would host the meeting. As of this time, a date and other specifics have not been finalized. (Note: Triton Hose Company plans to host a meeting December 22, 2015.) Certain specifics related to Triton's capital plans are not known to us: 1) total spending to be proposed; 2) how many/what type(s) of apparatus are being considered; and 3) a proposed payment schedule. Also unresolved is whether this would be a continuing tax or a time-limited initiative with funds derived from other budget source(s).

Council is required to authorize a Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) adjustment, as determined by pension actuaries, based on the federal Consumer Price Index (CPI) for retired Police Chief David Ide's retirement payment.

On motion by Marshall Davis, seconded by Joseph Myers, move to approved David Ide's 2016 COLA increase (0.2%) as requested by the fund plan manager. Motion carried unanimously.

The pension management transition (from Univest to the PA State Association of Boroughs) is continuing and is near completion. The transfer of funds will take place on December 15, 2015.

On motion by Joseph Myers, seconded by Marshall Davis, move to approve Resolution 5-2015 to establish a retirement plan for certain employees known as the Non-Uniform Employees' Pension Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Marshall Davis, seconded by Ruth Vincenti, move to approve Resolution 5-2015 to establish a retirement plan for certain employees known as the Police Pension Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

Robert Robinson reported that the Civil Service testing, for the position of Sergeant, will take place on December 16, 2015.

On motion by Ruth Vincenti, seconded by Robert Robinson, move to approve the 2016 Borough Council Meeting Schedule and the 2016 Borough Holiday Schedule. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Marshall Davis, seconded by Robert Robinson, move to accept the one bid of \$650.00 for the (unmarked 2000 Ford Crown Victoria) police car, once approved by the Solicitor. Motion carried unanimously.

Transportation & Streets Committee (TSC):

Chairman Robert Robinson reported that the Department of Public Works has completed vacuuming leaves for this year; and, any remaining leaves will have to be bagged for pick-up.

Robert Robinson recommended changing from two Borough Clean-Up projects per year to one. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made.

On motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Joseph Myers, move to change from two clean-ups per year to one and limiting the size/quantity of the pick-ups to four feet by eight feet by two feet (approximate dimensions) per household. With Wendy Sweppenheiser and Marshall Davis voting No, the motion carried by a vote of 5-2.

Building and Property Committee:

The Retaining Wall Project is nearly complete. Part of the project design included a ten to twelve inch railing above the "Jersey-type" barriers. We have been advised that, with the height of the barriers above the wall, the railing is not required. Accordingly, our engineer has proposed a change-order to delete the railing, with a savings of approximately \$9,500.00 to the Borough.

On motion by Marshall Davis, seconded by Wendy Sweppenheiser, move to: a) execute Change Order Number 1, reducing the contract amount by \$9,360.00 for elimination of the proposed hand railing; b) execute the certificate of substantial completion; and c) execute the Final Payment Request in the amount of \$64,880.00; upon completion and/or review and execution of the referenced documents by the Borough Engineer and his acknowledgement that they are in order and ready for execution by the Council President. Motion carried unanimously.

Riverside Park Commission:

Mayor Ball reported that the ice skating rink is not yet open due to the warm weather.

Police Committee:

Mayor Ball reported that the recent, annual fireman versus police football game was held, with the Police prevailing by a score of 36-34.

Chief Hardy presented a summary of the Police Report for the month of November, 2015. Note: a copy of the report will be placed on file in the Police Department.

Planning and Zoning: N/A

Council of Governments (COG): N/A.

Other Business:

President Huber recognized and commended Council Member Wendy Sweppenheiser, as she completes her term of office, for her many contributions to the Borough, such as to the Council, Shade Tree Commission, and Beautifications Areas.

Manager Welch thanked Robert Robinson for again donating the beautiful Christmas wreath to the Borough, as he has for the past several years.

Council Privilege of the Floor: N/A

On motion by Joseph Myers, seconded by Lisa Tesluk, move to go into executive session for discussion of matters pertaining to possible litigation at 8:23 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Ruth Vincenti, seconded by Joseph Myers, move back to regular session at 8:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Ruth Vincenti, seconded by Joseph Myers move to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Welch,
Borough Manager

