

TUNKHANNOCK BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
January 5, 2017

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

Others present were: Police Chief Keith Carpenter; Citizens: Michael DiStadio, Susan DiStadio, Patricia Mead, Ned Slocum, Richard Morykon, and Wyoming County Press Examiner Reporter C.J. Marshall.

On motion by Scott Douthett, seconded by Joseph Myers, move to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 1, 2016. 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:

Richard Morykon, 34 Slocum Avenue, asked questions regarding shade trees. Robert Robinson invited him the Shade Tree Commission Meeting on January 16th at 7:00 p.m.

Appointments:

On motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Joseph Myers, move to appoint the following:

Planning Commission: Bill Wightman, term to expire 12/31/2021

Zoning Hearing Board: Mark Monsey, term to expire 12/31/2019

Shade Tree Commission: Ingrid Rogler, term to expire 12/31/2021

Park Commission: Jerry Bogedin, John Williams, and Jason Williams, terms to expire 12/31/2019

Tunkhannock Borough Municipal Authority (TBMA): A. Stacy Huber, term to expire 12/31/2021

Note: A. Stacy Huber abstained from voting on the TBMA appointment. Motion carried.

Finance and Administration Committees:

Hampton Inn Tax Appeal: Via email dated December 22, 2016, Council received a draft agreement from our Solicitor that would have the Borough engage, in cooperation with Wyoming County and Tunkhannock Area School District, the services of the law Firm of Sweet, Stevens, Katz, and Williams, LLP, to represent us in the matter of the tax appeal of Millett Real Estate/Hampton Inn. President Huber requested a motion to: a) approve the agreement; and b) authorize him to sign the document.

On motion by Scott Douthett, seconded by Ben Barziloski, move to approve the agreement and to authorize Council President to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

Williams Lawsuit: With reference to this litigation, Council also received correspondence regarding the proposed continuation of the services of the Law Firm of Schemery & Zecolello in representing the Borough's interests, along with those of the other municipalities involved in this action. President Huber requested authorization by Council for him to sign the documents on behalf of the borough.

On motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Joseph Myers, move to authorize the Council President to sign the documents on behalf of the borough. Motion carried unanimously.

Revolving Grant Loan Fund: A meeting will be held January 11th at 8:30 a.m.

Civil Service Commission (CSC)/Police Matters:

On motion by Joseph Myers, seconded by Lisa Tesluk, move to begin the process of hiring a fourth full-time police officer by asking the CSC to take the appropriate actions, in coordination with other committees, offices, and agencies, as may be required and/or appropriate, leading to the selection and hiring of a fourth full-time police officer. Motion carried unanimously.

Transportation & Streets Committee (TSC):

Chairman Robert Robinson reported that a TSC meeting was held on December 28th.

Building and Property Committee:

Chairman Robert Robinson reported that the recently approved security cameras are in place and that the final installation will be completed next week.

Riverside Park Commission:

Representatives of the Park Commission met with Mayor Ball, President Huber, and Council Member Robinson to discuss Park-related matters, such as ongoing maintenance needs, future equipment and improvement needs, personnel requirements, and overall funding. President Huber stated that he planned to appoint a committee to review the aforementioned matters, with an eye toward making possible recommendations for consideration by Council.

Police Department:

Chief Carpenter presented a summary of the Police Report for the Month of December, 2016.

Note: a copy of the report is on file in the Police Department.

Planning and Zoning:

Hand Break Holdings, 21 West Tioga Street, filed an appeal with the Court of Common Pleas, seeking to overturn the decision of our Zoning Hearing Board. A pre-trial conference is scheduled for January 17th at 1:00 p.m.

Previously, via letter, Realtor Jeannie Brady requested that Council consider changing/re-zoning Courthouse Square properties to what she referred to as an R-2 designation. At that time, Council: a) requested that the Planning Commission again review the matter and provide appropriate recommendations for Council's consideration; and b) opted to defer action on the Zoning Ordinance revision. The Commission has since provided its input, which has been forwarded to Council for review. In the interim, actions related to the Zoning Ordinance revision have been deferred until next month.

Council of Governments: Nothing to report.

Other Business: Nothing to report

Council Privilege of the Floor:

President Huber asked Members to advise if they wished to make any changes to their Council Committee assignments. He also reminded everyone that the Borough's many Commissions, Committees, and Boards are still in need of volunteers.

On motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Scott Douthett, move to adjourn the meeting at 7:50p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Welch,
Borough Manager