

TUNKHANNOCK BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
March 2, 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, Marshall Davis, Stacy Huber, Joseph Myers, Robert Robinson, Lisa Tesluk, Ruth Vincenti; and Borough Manager Dawn Welch. Absent: Council Member Scott Douthett.

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

On motion by Joseph Myers, seconded by Lisa Tesluk, move to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 2, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

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

On motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Joseph Myers, move to go into executive session for legal/contractual matters at 7:04 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Marshall Davis, seconded by Ben Barziloski, move to go into regular session at 7:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Privilege of the Floor: N/A

Finance and Administration Committees:

Civil Service Commission (CSC)/Police Matters: The Civil Service Commission hopes to have the advertisement for the fourth full-time police officer position in the next month.

Proposed Natural Gas Service: There have been no updates since the last Council meeting. A recent inquiry to the Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce indicated that they are presently exploring grant possibilities for the purpose of conducting a required, detailed engineering study. The Chamber hopes to have additional information, in the near future.

Act 205 Actuarial Cost Study: The Pension Committee met on February 13th. The Committee approved conducting the study, which is in progress by our Pension Advisors, who have stated that the study will take approximately three to four weeks.

Transportation & Streets Committee (TSC):

Chairman Robert Robinson reported that a TSC meeting was held on February 27th and that three of the five (Riverside Park) tunnel lights have been replaced. At this time, we have not determined whether a total of five tunnel lights will be necessary.

Building and Property Committee:

Storm-water Project: In regard to our Storm-Water Diversion Project grant application, an announcement is scheduled later this month.

Riverside Park Commission:

There is no update from last month's report on the possible naming of a committee to review matters pertaining to Riverside Park, such as: ongoing maintenance needs, future equipment possibilities, and overall funding issues. We are trying to schedule a meeting involving Park Commission and Council members to try to move ahead on these matters. In the interim, Stacy and Dawn met with Christine Detorre of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to discuss availability of grants, other possible funding sources, and related matters. Christine mentioned the Lackawanna Heritage Region Park in Scranton for some ideas. Stacy made a visit to check it out and found it to be a very nice facility, but probably well beyond our current financial means.

Police Department:

Mayor Norman Ball requested that Council approve the proposed street closures for this year's scheduled activities. (Letter to the District Traffic Engineer will be attached.)

On motion by Joseph Myers, seconded by Ruth Vincenti, move to authorize Mayor Ball to complete/submit the required paperwork for street closures. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Carpenter presented a summary of the Police Report for the Month of February, 2017.

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

Chief Carpenter: a) had high praise Officer Dustin Cokely's outstanding work on a complex case involving indecent assault, harassment, and related charges involving a minor that also implicated individuals from Wyoming, Lackawanna, and Luzerne Counties; and b) stated that Officer Alaisha Sherwood was accepted into the Wyoming County Multi-Disciplinary Team.

Police Committee Chairman Marshall Davis reported that: 1). Chief Carpenter requested that the 2007 Chevrolet Impala be converted to an unmarked car, to which Council agreed; and 2). After the last two weeks of intense effort, the police officers have signed the 2014-2017 consolidated Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

On motion by Marshall Davis, seconded by Joseph Myers, to authorize the President of Council to sign the 2014-2017 consolidated CBA. Motion carried unanimously.

Planning and Zoning:

Hand-Break Holdings Issue: Hand-Break has filed a request for clarification of a recent court order, the result of which is that all actions are currently on hold.

Zoning Ordinance Re-write: We are awaiting additional, requested definitions from Zoning Consultant Carson Helfrich.

Council of Governments (COG):

Ben Barziloski reported that the COG had their reorganization meeting and the same officers were chosen for 2017. He also stated that the other municipalities were upset with the proposed (State) budgetary initiative to assess municipalities, which do not have their own police force, \$25.00 per person, per year, for coverage by the State Police.

Resolutions:

On motion by Marshall Davis, seconded by Lisa Tesluk, move to adopt Resolution 1-2017, Berkheimer Delinquent Cost and the Per Capita Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Ben Barziloski, seconded by Ruth Vincenti, move to adopt Resolution 2-2017 designating the Borough Manager as the chief administrative officer, principal point of contact, and executor for pension-related matters. Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business: Nothing to report

Council Privilege of the Floor:

On motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Joseph Myers, move to adjourn the meeting at 7:55p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Welch,
Borough Manager

