

TUNKHANNOCK BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

May 1, 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 Marshall Davis, Stacy Huber, Joseph Myers, Robert Robinson, Ruby Sands, and Wendy Sweppenheiser; and Borough Manager Dawn Welch. Absent: Council Members Scott Douthett and Ruth Vincenti.

Others present: Wyoming County Press Examiner Editor Bob Baker; Citizens Patricia Mead, Susan DiStadio, Mike DiStadio, Kim Hogan, Becca Yuscavage, James Maillet; and Chief of Police Hardy.

Reading of Minutes and Bills:

On a motion by Joseph Myers, seconded by Ruby Sands, the minutes of the meeting on April 3, 2014, were approved. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Public Privilege of the Floor:

No comments.

Paving Bids:

American Asphalt Paving Co. - \$48,290.40

Pennsy Supply - \$50,509.80

Pikes Creek Site Contractors - \$60,831.75

On motion by Marshall Davis, seconded by Ruby Sands move to accept the lowest bid, American Asphalt Paving Co., subject to review of the Solicitor. Motion carried unanimously.

Finance and Administration Committee:

N/A

Department of Public Works (DPW) Committee:

DPW Chairman Robert Robinson reported there is still a problem with some individuals exceeding the 30 pound weight limit for refuse bags.

Manager Welch reported that trash items are still being illegally brought into town for the semi-annual clean-up projects, which continues to be a problem.

Building and Property:

Milnes Engineering is preparing the required documentation for the subdivision property exchange portion of the Retaining Wall Project.

Milnes and the contractor are working on the Certificate of Insurance for the Furnace Project.

Riverside Park Commission:

President Huber reported that former Chief of Police and current Chief Detective of Wyoming County David Ide has proposed a statue-monument project (to honor the sacrifices and contributions of police officers who have served our community-at-large) to be constructed in Riverside Park. To this point, the Park Commission has expressed its general support for the project. If the Borough wishes to support this endeavor, we would have to proceed with obtaining the approvals and permits.

On motion by Marshall Davis, seconded by Robert Robinson, move to have the Zoning Enforcement Officer review the land use, flood plain, zoning, and possibly other matters within his purview and report back to Council. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Ball reported he has everything in place to begin the Bandstand Replacement Project (floodplain permit, zoning permit, and engineering drawings) and is requesting Council's approval to proceed.

On motion by Joseph Myers, seconded by Wendy Sweppenheiser, move to approve the construction of the bandstand. Motion carried unanimously.

Police:

Chief Hardy presented a summary of the Police Report for the Month of April, 2014. Note: a copy of the report is on file in the Police Department.

Chairman Davis asked council to authorize the Police Committee to review two options for selling the old police car to get the most for it.

On motion by Marshall Davis, seconded by Robert Robinson, move to have the Police Committee review all options for the sale of the police car. Motion carried unanimously.

Planning and Zoning:

President Huber reported there are presently no zoning hearings scheduled for May.

On motion by Marshall Davis, seconded by Joseph Myers, move to accept Eric Hueg's resignation from the Zoning Hearing Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Council of Governments (COG): N/A

Ordinance: Shade Tree Ordinance 2014-2

On motion by Marshall Davis, seconded by Robert Robinson, move to adopt the Shade Tree Ordinance 2014-2, as written by our Solicitor, subject to clarification of a possible typographical error issue. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business: N/A

New Business:

As discussed last month, regarding the Railroad Siding Project near SR92 South in Tunkhannock Township, Borough representatives attended the meeting on April 8th to discuss the proposed siding near SR92 South and its likely adverse impact on traffic at and around the railroad crossing on Bridge Street. Mayor Ball and President Huber sent a letter (with Council's concurrence), which expressed the Borough's concerns, to the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC). In addition, President Huber then contacted our Solicitor for his assistance. Solicitor Litwin has since corresponded with the PUC point of contact about the possibility of filing a formal objection to the proposal and is awaiting a response from her. The possibility exists that the Solicitor may recommend that the Borough file a formal objection on this matter.

Triton Hose Company President Chuck Sands sent a letter to the Borough asking to sell two of Triton's older vehicles, i.e., their pick-up truck and their utility vehicle and then purchase a new pick-up truck through the COSTARS Program. Manager Welch, in consultation with Solicitor Litwin, has been working with President Sands regarding procedural matters.

Marshall Davis expressed his appreciation to President Sands for sending the letter to the Council explaining their intentions.

On motion by Marshall Davis, seconded by Joseph Myers, move to follow the procedures to sell and buy the new pick-up truck. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Privilege of the Floor:

Marshall Davis congratulated President Huber for receiving this year's "Don James Lighthouse of Service Award".

On motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Wendy Sweppenheiser, to go into executive session at 7:55 p.m. for contractual matters, property, and personnel. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Robert Robison, seconded by Joseph Myers move to go into regular session at 8:31 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Joseph Myers seconded by Robert Robinson, move to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Welch
Borough Manager