

TUNKHANNOCK BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
May 4, 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, Mark Monsey, and Joe Faux; and Wyoming County Press Examiner Reporter C.J. Marshall.

On motion by Ben Barziloski, seconded by Ruth Vincenti, move to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 6, 2017. 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:

Susan DiStadio thanked the Police for their assistance during the Good Friday Cross Walk.

Finance and Administration Committees:

Proposed Natural Gas Service: On April 27th, the Mayor, Council President, and Manager met with Gina Suydam, Executive Director of the Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce, who provided updated information on the proposed project to provide natural gas service to the Borough (and certain adjacent portions of Tunkhannock Township). At the meeting, Gina provided a cover letter and attachment that were subsequently forwarded to Council. Other matters which came up at this meeting included:

- a) A required engineering study has tentatively been funded via the Wyoming County Industrial Development Authority and is expected to take 2-3 months to complete.
 - The study is expected to be performed by Borton-Lawson Engineering.
- b) The overall project is primarily intended for (per Summary provided) businesses, School District facilities, and the Courthouse, with Borough homes as secondary participants.
- c) When asked about a possible start date, we were advised that it could be in a matter of months, i.e., as early as later this year.
- d) In response to another question, we were advised that, due to other high priorities currently under consideration, the School District has not officially signed on.

- e) We: 1.) advised that we would likely ask our Engineer and Solicitor to review the study and proposals; and 2.) asked if such costs to the Borough were reimbursable.
- f) We again asked: 1.) for a more definitive drawing/depiction of the Project; and 2.) if PennDOT is involved and/or on-board (e.g., for Tioga Street).

Act 205 Actuarial Cost Study - Police Pension Fund: At last month's meeting, it was stated, among other things, that the Borough's Pension Committee would be reviewing the required (Act 205) Actuarial Study of the Uniformed Pension Plan as conducted by our Pension Advisors. It was further stated that the Pension Committee, in conjunction with the Finance Committee, our Solicitor, and Pension Advisors, would review the document and make an appropriate recommendation for consideration by Council. That review is in progress and is expected to be completed in the near future, after which the aforesaid recommendation will be made.

Transportation & Streets Committee (TSC):

Chairman Robert Robinson reported that: a) the Department of Public Works had the street-sweeper out on April 28th; b) May 6th is Electronic Recycling Day at the Wyoming County Recycling Center; c) 2017 Borough Clean-up dates are Ward 1-June 5; Ward 2-June 12; Ward 3-June 19; and Ward 4-June 26; and d) on April 28th, the Shade Tree Commission celebrated Arbor Day by, among other things, planting a Variegated Maple tree near the corner of Putnam and Harrison.

Building and Property Committee:

Storm-water Project: It was stated (at last month's meeting) that our grant application had been turned down by the Commonwealth Financing Authority. At this point, it is our intention to re-apply at such time as this grant program (or similar venue) becomes available. We will stay abreast of these matters and, in addition, have contacted the grant writer and requested that we be kept apprised of any such opportunities.

Riverside Park Commission:

Ben Barziloski reported that Riverside Park is in need of Volunteers for mowing. Ben introduced citizen Joe Faux who has volunteered to do so and who has lined up others to assist.

Police Department:

Mayor Norman Ball reported there were 99 traffic arrests during April, which may be a record. He also thanked Chief Carpenter for doing an outstanding job.

Chief Carpenter presented a summary of the Police Report for the Month of April 2017. Note: a copy of the report is on file in the Police Department.

Planning and Zoning:

Hand-Break Holdings (HBH) Issue: At last month's meeting, it was stated that a pre-trial conference would to be held on April 12th, with Judge Legg of Susquehanna County presiding. After this conference, the judge determined that: 1) the Borough had 14 days to submit its brief (April 26); 2) following that, the Zoning Hearing Board has 14 days to submit its brief (May 10); and 3) HBH has 14 days to file its reply (May 24). The Judge will then review the submissions and make his decision based on the briefs. If, however, the Judge determines that additional testimony and/or documentation is necessary, he will schedule accordingly.

Other Zoning Matters: The Borough Planning Commission (PC) met on May 2nd to review the most recent input from Zoning Consultant Carson Helfrich, which provided (among other things) additional definitions, as had been requested. The PC is in the process of responding to Mr. Helfrich, who will next provide a final draft for the Commission and ultimately for review and approval by Council.

Council of Governments (COG):

Chairman Ben Barziloski reported that Bureau Veritas would be sending their checks directly to the Borough. Also, they may switch to having two meeting per year versus bi-monthly.

Other Business: Nothing to report

Council Privilege of the Floor:

On motion by Joseph Myers, seconded by Robert Robinson, move to adjourn the meeting at 7:31p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Welch,
Borough Manager