

TUNKHANNOCK BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
September 1, 2016

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 7:00p.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, Scott Douthett, Stacy Huber, Joseph Myers, Robert Robinson, Lisa Tesluk, and Ruth Vincenti; and Borough Manager Dawn Welch.

Others present were: Citizens Harold May, Susan DiStadio, Michael DiStadio, Michael and Susan Henn, and Lois Testa; Wyoming County Press Examiner Reported C.J. Marshall; Triton Hose Company (THC) President Charles Sands and Tunkhannock Community Ambulance Association (TCAA) President Michael Markovitz; and newly assigned Police Officers Patrick Butkiewicz, Paul Henn, and Alaisha Sherwood.

Swearing in of New Police Officers:

Mayor Norman Ball conducted the swearing in ceremony for new Police Officers Patrick Butkiewicz, Paul Henn, and Alaisha Sherwood.

Administrative Remarks:

President Huber noted the following: "As we will very shortly be welcoming the senior representatives of our premier emergency services organizations, I would ask for your indulgence to note that we are quickly approaching the 20th anniversary (September 16th) of the tragic fire that reduced the TCAA facility, and virtually all assigned equipment, to rubble and ashes. The TCAA leadership was confronted with a daunting challenge that would have overwhelmed most organizations. Through the heroic efforts of these leaders, and aided by strong community support, they were able to rebuild and subsequently prosper in a new facility. Among those leading TCAA at that time were President and Chief Mark Henn, Assistant Chief Don Smith, former Council Member Bette Gardner, Mike Lione, Patti Zurad, Judy Bartron, Ken Kerr, and a then, very young Mike Markovitz (from whom we will be hearing in a few minutes). I wanted to take note of that landmark event, salute them in recalling their noteworthy achievements, and extend our best wishes for continued success."

Act 8 Annual Review:

In accordance with the annual reporting provisions of Pennsylvania Act 8, President Huber welcomed TCAA President Markovitz and THC President Chuck Sands. President Huber expressed his appreciation for their many contributions to the community. Presidents Sands and

Markovitz each: a) presented brief recaps of their respective current and projected organizational activities; b) stated that their organizations are capable of meeting the emergency services needs of the Borough; and c) thanked the Borough for its support.

Agenda Items:

On motion by Scott Douthett, seconded by Lisa Tesluk, move to approve the minutes of the meetings held on August 1, 2016 and August 17, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Public Privilege of the Floor: There were no comments from the public.

Finance and Administration Committee:

Revolving Loan Fund: Chairman Scott Douthett reported that the Finance Committee has decided that it would be to the Borough's advantage (logistically and financially) to administer the Revolving Loan Fund in-house, versus through the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission (NTRPDC). The Committee believes that the costs associated with outside management (loan origination fees, servicing, attorney fees, etc.) would constitute too large a percentage of loans envisioned.

Triton Agreement: Months ago, Council gave preliminary approval of a draft agreement with Triton Hose Company regarding, among other things, payment for services and the associated millage. THC President Sands, earlier this evening, stated that the agreement looked fine; but he is awaiting the approval of his Board.

Transportation & Streets Committee (TSC):

Bridge Lighting: As for the long awaited Susquehanna River Bridge Lighting Repair Project, President Huber stated that he had spoken to Eaton Township Supervisor Paul Rowker who advised that: all required materials have been ordered, are expected to arrive within 10 days, and (pending a revised permit approval from PennDOT) the project is expected to be completed within two to three weeks.

Storm-water Issues: With regard to the Storm-water Project near Slocum Avenue, Council requested (at our Mid-Month Meeting) that Milnes Engineering provide detailed cost estimates and scope of work data to be used in a grant preparation and submission package for possible funding of the project. Ned Slocum, who was unable to be here tonight, is working on the package, which will then be reviewed and forwarded to the grant writer (Rachel Hauser) from NTRPDC.

Chairman Robert Robinson reported that: a) the TSC had met August 22nd; and b) Electronic Recycling is scheduled on September 17th.

Building and Property Committee: Nothing to report.

Riverside Park Commission:

Mulch for Riverside Park Playground Area: The replacement mulch for the Playground Area is scheduled to be put in place next week.

Police Committee:

Mayor Ball was pleased that Council had hired three part-time officers.

Officer in Charge (OIC) Carpenter presented a summary of the Police Report for the Month of August, 2016. Note: a copy of the report is on file in the Police Department.

He then thanked the Council for providing him this opportunity, by which he hopes to take the Department in a new direction.

Police Chairman Marshall Davis gave OIC Carpenter a verbal commendation for a new record time in getting everything up to date in the police station.

Planning and Zoning:

With regard to the re-write of the Borough Zoning Ordinance, the final draft was approved by the Borough Planning Commission and is available for review by Council and our Solicitor. The next steps would be:

1. At the October 6th meeting, seek approval to advertise the ordinance for possible adoption at the November meeting;
2. Prior to the start of the November 3rd meeting, conduct a hearing to receive public comments and input; and
3. Barring unforeseen issues and following the hearing, adopt said ordinance.

On motion by Joseph Myers, seconded by Ruth Vincenti; approve to send the draft zoning ordinance re-write to Solicitor Litwin. Motion carried unanimously.

The Zoning Hearing Board conducted a hearing on August 15th for the Handbreak Holdings (HBH) property at 21 West Tioga Street to address their appeal/request for a Special Exception Use, at which said appeal was denied. As of this time, HBH's intentions for possible follow-on action is unknown.

Council of Governments: Nothing to report.

Other Business: Nothing to report

Council Privilege of the Floor: There were no comments

On motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Joseph Myers, move to adjourn the meeting at 7: 40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Welch,
Borough Manager