

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

August 8, 2016 will be the 175th Anniversary of the Incorporation of Tunkhannock Borough, which (at the time) was part of Luzerne County. Shortly thereafter, with the establishment of Wyoming County, our Borough, as the County Seat, went on to play a sustained and important role in the long and proud history of Wyoming County. This occasion was recognized and celebrated this evening (at 6:30), prior to the regularly scheduled Council meeting.

Present were: State Senator Lisa Baker, State Representative Karen Boback. Wyoming County Commissioners Tom Henry, Judy Mead, and Ron Williams; and Tunkhannock Business and Professional Association (TBPA) Representatives: Mark Monsey and Nancy Parlo.

Senator Baker, Representative Boback, the County Commissioners, and Mayor Ball presented Proclamations; and, the TBPA Representatives presented a plaque. On behalf of the Council and Mayor, President Huber expressed his thanks and appreciation for this recognition.

Present for the monthly meeting were: Wyoming County Press Examiner Reporter C.J. Marshall; Citizens Ned Slocum, Roger Hadsall, Police Department Officer-in-Charge Keith Carpenter, and Representative Karen Boback.

Agenda Items:

On motion by Joseph Myers, seconded by Lisa Tesluk, move to approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 7, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Public Privilege of the Floor:

C.J. Marshall stated that Officer-in-Charge Carpenter did a fine job directing traffic during a recent power outage.

Finance and Administration Committee:

President Huber reported on the proposed Revolving Loan Fund, which: a) is designed to promote and enhance economic and community development within the Borough by providing loans to small to medium size (Borough) businesses, primarily to support the creation of new jobs; and b) is to be based on funds associated with a grant from Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and follow-on loan to the Wyoming County Cultural Center-Dietrich Theater. The proposal has been under review for some time; and the Finance Committee believes that we are ready to take the next step, which would be to engage our Solicitor to work with the Committee, Council, and other agencies, as may be appropriate, to proceed with the required actions and documentation.

On motion by Ben Barziloski, seconded by Robert Robinson, move to approve engaging Solicitor Litwin to proceed. Motion carried unanimously.

Josh Kilmer, of the Kilmer Group (our principal insurance carrier), presented a dividend check in the amount of \$10,218.86 from our participation in the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs Program. This dividend is a direct result of above average loss experience; and this year's dividend is the largest in the history of the program. President Huber extended his congratulations and appreciation to all Borough employees who made this possible.

Transportation & Streets Committee:

Bridge Lighting: The start of the repairs to the light poles on the Susquehanna River Bridge has been delayed pending final approval by PennDOT of the required traffic flow plan. Eaton Township Supervisor Paul Rowker has advised that approval has been granted; and (upon receipt by the contractor of the needed parts and equipment) the project is expected to begin and be completed in the near future.

Storm-water Issues: The *ad hoc* Storm-water Committee met July 29th (on an informational basis) to review options related to storm water issues in the area of Slocum Avenue, near the Wyoming County Correctional Facility. The Committee plans to explore the possible availability of grant funding and to search for a grant writer.

On motion by Marshall Davis, seconded by Joseph Myers, move to authorize the Committee to pursue the hiring (up to \$7,500.00) of a grant writer. Motion carried unanimously.

Building and Property Committee: Nothing to report

Riverside Park Commission:

The Dietrich Theatre sponsored "River Day" on July 23rd. On this day, the Borough was officially designated as a River Town by the Endless Mountains Heritage Region and the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership.

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, along with the Pennsylvania Organization of Watersheds and Rivers, announced that the North Branch of the Susquehanna River has been designated as a National Recreation Trail and National Historic Water Trail (which are part of the National Park Service/National Trails System).

Police Committee:

Mayor Ball reported that 38 warnings were handed out for the (two hour limit) Municipal Parking Lot across from the Post Office.

Officer in Charge Carpenter presented a summary of the Police Report for the Month of July, 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 reported that on July 26th, all police officers met with the Mayor, Council President, Manager, and himself. Chairman Davis feels that we are moving in the right direction.

Planning and Zoning:

The Planning Commission meeting of July 5th was postponed and has been rescheduled for August 2, 2016.

The Zoning Hearing for Hand Break Holdings, LLC, which is seeking, as a Special Exception Use, a Continuation of Non-Conforming Use for its property at 21 West Tioga Street was continued (postponed) from July 13th to August 15, 2016.

Council of Governments: Nothing to report.

Other Business: Nothing to report

Council Privilege of the Floor:

Marshall Davis is optimistic for the future of the Police Department.

Council wished Officer-in-Charge Carpenter good luck.

President Huber again, thanked Representative Karen Boback for attending the meeting.

On motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Lisa Tesluk, move to adjourn the meeting at 7: 45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Welch,
Borough Manager