

TUNKHANNOCK BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
February 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; and Borough Manager Dawn Welch. Absent: Council Member Scott Douthett and Ruth Vincenti.

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

On motion by Joseph Myers, seconded by Marshall Davis, move to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 5, 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: N/A

Appointment:

On motion by Ben Barziloski, seconded by Joseph Myers, move to appoint Attorney Tim Michaels as the Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor. Motion carried unanimously.

Finance and Administration Committees:

Civil Service Commission (CSC)/Police Matters: The Civil Service Commission will meet February 7th to discuss the hiring process for a fourth full-time police officer.

Proposed Natural Gas Service: President Huber stated that the Mayor, Dawn, and he recently attended a meeting, hosted by the Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce, regarding proposed (or possible) natural gas service for the Borough. Attendees included representatives from the Chamber, County Commissioners, Tunkhannock Area School District, Northern Tier, and UGI Corporation, the prospective resource provider. The meeting was for both status information on this initiative and to cover some possible changes to the initial concept. Since the last informal presentation (a couple of years ago), the service area has been expanded to include both the High School and Roslund Elementary School. It was stated that the inclusion of these higher volume users was needed for economic planning viability. The time frame for next steps is uncertain, as there are a number of issues yet to be addressed, including, but not necessarily limited to: overall

funding, inclusion on the school district, engineering studies and analyses, possibility of grants and applications thereto, along with certain Borough issues.

The Borough representatives suggested that Tunkhannock Township and PennDOT be informed of and/or participants in this action as it goes forward. They also stated that, while the informal nature of the dialogue and discussions to date is understood, the Borough would like to have a more formal delineation of the proposals, requirements, etc. President Huber reiterated that the proposed time frame is not currently known but added that we will endeavor to keep all concerned informed, as Council will at some point need to weigh in. That process, he stated, will take time, as the Borough will need to consult with our engineer, solicitor, and others in performing due diligence in these matters.

Act 205 Actuarial Cost Study: A discussion regarding the possibility of conducting an Act 205 (Pension Plan) Actuarial Cost Study was held. It was determined that the Pension Committee will need to meet to discuss this action.

Transportation & Streets Committee (TSC):

Chairman Robert Robinson reported that a TSC meeting was held on January 23rd and that the tunnel lights have been ordered.

Building and Property Committee: N/A

Riverside Park Commission:

Mayor Ball reported that the Commission needs more members.

Police Department:

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

On motion by Marshall Davis, seconded by Lisa Tesluk, move to adopt Policy 3-13 of the Administrative Section of the Tunkhannock Borough Police Department Policy and Procedures. Motion carried unanimously.

Planning and Zoning:

The Pre-Trial Conference meeting regarding Hand Break Holdings, 21 West Tioga Street, was held on January 17th. It was reported that Judge Shurtleff had recused himself from the matter; and it appears that follow-on actions will be delayed until another judge is named.

The Van Duzer Sub-division was approved by the Wyoming County Planning Office.

The Zoning Ordinance Re-Write was deferred at the last month's meeting. Since that time, some questions arose concerning community living facilities, group homes, sober houses, and other related definitions. Zoning Enforcement Officer Woods will be contacting Consultant Carson Helfrich for some additional definitions. Once Woods receives these definitions, President Huber would like the Planning Commission to review these matters.

Council of Governments: Nothing to report.

Other Business: Nothing to report

Council Privilege of the Floor:

Marshall Davis complimented the Council for supporting Chief Carpenter. He added that "a better functioning Police Department is a sign of a good leader."

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Welch,
Borough Manager