

TUNKHANNOCK BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
February 5, 2015

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 6:30p.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, Ruth Vincenti, and Wendy Sweppenheiser; and Borough Manager Dawn Welch. Absent: Council Members Scott Douthett and Ruby Sands

Others present: Wyoming County Press Examiner (WCPE) Reporter Josh Siegel, Ned Slocum, Annie Bonczek, Susan DiStadio, Michael DiStadio, Carlos Penedos, Tara Banfield (Keystone College Student), Josh Wilbur, Bill Hampton, and Chief of Police Roger Hardy.

On motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Ruth Vincenti, move to go into executive session at 7:02p.m. for discussions involving labor issues and potential litigation. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Joseph Myers, seconded by Wendy Sweppenheiser, move to go into regular session at 7:20p.m.. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Joseph Myers, seconded by Ruth Vincenti, move to approve the minutes, as amended, of the meetings held on January 5, 2015 and January 21, 2015. 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:

Tara Bandfield, Keystone College student, has prepared a survey concerning the impact of natural gas activities on our area. She requested that those in attendance fill out the survey. (Note: at the end of the meeting, the surveys were handed out/completed.)

Bill Hampton was asked by the Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce to inform Council that the United Gas Improvement (UGI) Company is hosting a luncheon on February 11, 2015 at the Warren Hotel to discuss a pilot program designed to bring natural gas service to the unserved and underserved areas in UGI's service territory.

Finance and Administration Committee:

Mayor Ball reviewed the 2014 annual investment report(s) for the both the Police and Non-Uniformed Pension Plan(s), as required under Trollinger Consulting Group, Inc., Investment Advisory Agreement for Municipalities, with Nationwide Financial as Plan Custodian. As of

December 31, 2015, the year-to-date Standard and Poors 500 Financial Services return was just over 11%.

Transportation & Streets Committee:

Committee Chairman Robert Robinson reported that the Committee met on January 27th. He then discussed the recent snow emergency declaration by the Mayor and the possible lack of public awareness thereof. A brief discussions followed.

Building and Property Committee: N/A

Riverside Park Commission:

Mayor Ball reported that the Commission met on February 4th. Members of the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership River Town Program were present to discuss the possibility of supporting Tunkhannock Borough as a Susquehanna Greenway River Town Community. The Commission is in favor of this initiative. Note: A draft resolution was provided for Council to review for possible future approval.

Police Committee:

Mayor Ball apprised the Council on planned 2015 civic event parades and road closures; and, he recommended that Council approve via a motion.

On motion by Wendy Sweppenheiser, seconded by Joseph Myers, move to approve the proposed parades and street closures for this year's events. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Hardy presented a summary of the Police Report for the month of January, 2015. Note: a copy of the report is on file in the Police Department.

Chairman Davis reported that the Police Pension Grievance Hearing, scheduled for February 5, 2015, had been postponed. Prior to the postponement, representatives of the Police Association (Chief Hardy and Corporal Roberts) met with two members of the Police Committee (Marshall Davis and Stacy Huber), to attempt to work out an agreement to resolve issues related to the grievance. After much discussion, they were able to come up with a proposed memorandum of understanding (MOU).

On motion by Marshall Davis, seconded by Joseph Myers, move to approve the MOU. By a roll call vote of 5 to 1, with Robert Robinson voting no, the motion carried.

Planning and Zoning:

President Huber reported that the Planning Commission (PC) has been short one person since Carlos Penedos was appointed to the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Nelson (Jody) Post, who lives on Susquehanna Avenue, has agreed to serve on the PC.

On motion by Marshall Davis, seconded by Robert Robinson, move to appoint Nelson Post to the Planning Commission to serve the term until December 31, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

COG: N/A

Old Business:

With regard to the planned Walnut Hill Housing Development (approximately nine single family residences to be constructed on a proposed new road (Furlong Drive), which lies in both Tunkhannock Borough [TB] and Tunkhannock Township [TT]), President Huber reported that we have been working with representatives of TT, the developer, and the Municipal Authority on a number of issues related to the project. One involves the proposed road and the respective ownership and maintenance responsibilities. As the road is in both municipalities, it is believed that an inter-municipal agreement would serve the best interest of both. Working with TT representatives and our Solicitor, a preliminary agreement, which delineates the respective roles/responsibilities was drafted and which (along with accompanying draft ordinances, one for each municipality) were distributed prior to tonight's meeting. Our next step is to approve the draft ordinance for legal advertisement for possible adoption at the March meeting. (Note: The inter-municipal agreement will be finalized via separate actions.)

On motion by Marshall Davis, seconded by Joseph Myers, move to authorize the Solicitor to advertise the TB Ordinance, authorizing entry into an agreement with TT concerning the maintenance of the proposed road (Furlong Drive). Motion carried unanimously.

President Huber updated Council on the status of the Federal Emergency Management Agency demolition property at 22 McCord Street. Some fill was trucked in by the contractor, added to the site, and then graded; however, additional work is still required but is currently on hold due to weather conditions and permit requirements.

New Business:

President Huber informed Council that he learned, although not totally surprisingly, that our friend and colleague of many years, Ruby Sands, would be resigning from Borough Council, effective today. Ruby was a member of Council for over 20 years, representing Ward 2, during which time she served this Borough and community with singular distinction and extraordinary dedication. She handled each issue – from the routine to the very complex – with fairness, courtesy, thoughtfulness, and a steady hand at the helm. She is one who made a difference; and, she will be missed. Speaking for those present, he expressed sincere thanks for a job very well done and extended his best wishes to her.

On motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Joseph Myers, move to accept Ruby Sands' resignation, effective February 5, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

As a possible replacement for Ruby as Council Member from Ward 2, President Huber recommended that consideration be given to naming Ms. Lisa Tesluk, a resident of the Borough

for nearly 10 years and who is a registered voter, currently residing at 41 Elk Street. She has an extensive background in accounting and bookkeeping, e.g., more than 30 years in the banking business and currently works at Horlacher and Sherwood and in the Accounting Department of the local Wal-Mart store.

On motion by Ruth Vincenti, seconded by Wendy Sweppenheiser, move to appoint Lisa Tesluk, as a Council Member from Ward 2. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Privilege of the Floor:

Marshall Davis still has concerns, mostly on the Tunkhannock Borough Municipal Authority (TBMA) side, with the contractors for (Wyoming County Engineer) CECO Associates entering TBMA property without permission on the FEMA Demolition site at 22 McCord Street. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), via their Environmental Group Manager Kevin S. White, stated that DEP's primary concern with the project is that the proposed remediation not change the course of or increase the elevation of flood flows. TBMA is still awaiting a response from DEP/Kevin White.

Marshall Davis and Ruth Vincenti extended their best wishes to Ruby Sands.

President Huber thanked Marshall Davis for the settlement of the Pension Grievance which was a difficult, demanding, and time-consuming process for which Marshall Davis deserves much credit. His singular efforts were instrumental in achieving these positive results. He then expressed his thanks and appreciation for a job very well done.

On motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Ruth Vincenti, move to adjourn the meeting at 8:00p.m.. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Welch
Borough Manager