

TUNKHANNOCK BOROUGH COUNCIL
Special Meeting
January 21, 2015

Council President Stacy Huber called a Special 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: Council Members Marshall Davis, Stacy Huber, Joseph Myers, Robert Robinson, Ruth Vincenti; and Borough Manager Dawn Welch. Absent: Council Members Scott Douthett, Ruby Sands, and Wendy Sweppenheiser.

Others present: Attorney Joseph C. Rudolf, Dilworth Paxson LLP

Public Privilege of the Floor: No members of the public were present.

On motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Ruth Vincenti, move to go into executive session at 6:30p.m. for labor relations/potential litigation. Motion carried unaimoulsly.

On motion by Ruth Vincenti, seconded by Joseph Myers, move to go into regular session at 7:10p.m.. Motion carried unaimoulsy.

At approximately 7:15p.m., Mayor Norman Ball arrived.

On motion by Marshall Davis, seconded by Joseph Myers, move to authorize the appeal of section 3B of the Arbritration Award. Motion carried unaimoulsy.

At approximately 7:30p.m., Attorney Rudolf departed.

Finance and Administration Committee:

President Huber reported that the Administration Committee had met today to review a draft letter to Chief Hardy concerning the regular submission of the schedules/rosters. The Committee also requested that Council review the Leave/Buyback Request and Absent Report forms.

On motion by Joseph Myers, seconded by Ruth Vincenti, move to approve the letter to be sent to Chief Hardy concerning the regular submission of the schedules/rosters. Motion carried unaimoulsy.

Building and Property Committee:

Building & Property Committee representatives and the Manager met with Borough Engineer Ned Slocum and a consultant regarding the Retaining Wall Project. The purpose was to present and discuss options and to answer questions. Preliminarily (based principally on cost factors), we are looking at a structured (versa-lock type block) retaining wall versus a like-kind (concrete) replacement. Our engineer will, in conjunction with the consultant, prepare a package for follow-on consideration by Council.

On motion by Marshall Davis, seconded by Joseph Myers, move to authorize Solicitor Litwin, to continue representing the Borough on the Walnut Hill Development and Federal Emergency Management Agency Demolition Properties. Motion carried unaimoulsy.

New Business: N/A

Old Business: N/A

Council Privilege of the Floor:

Marshall Davis 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 Property on 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.

Mayor Ball announced to Council that he is concerned about exceeding \$70,000 on the Police Arbitration. He felt that it was unnecessary, as the negotiations could have been settled. He further informed Council that citizens had expressed their concerns to him.

Note: Borough financial record for the two year period from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2014 show that a total of \$47,942.78 was expended on negotiations-arbitration matters with the Borough Police Association. Records additionally show that an additional \$16,388.04 was spent on labor-related consultations that covered several other matters. Council Members expressed disagreement with the Mayor's position and indicated that, should citizens have an opinion on this or any matter, they should address them to Council and not the Mayor.

President Huber reminded Council Members, who will be circulating petitions to get on the primary election ballot, that the first day for obtaining signatures is February 17th, with the last day for filing being March 10th.

The Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs has urged Council to oppose a proposed amendment to the PA Constitution that could lower the standard for an exemption for local property taxes for institutions of purely public charities. This means that more organizations could qualify for tax-exempt status.

On motion by Marshall Davis, seconded by Ruth Vincenti, that Tunkhannock Borough Council opposes any legislation that would enlarge the definition presently used for non-profit organizations that would be exempted from taxation. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Joseph Myers, seconded by Marshall Davis, move to adjourn the meeting at 8:11p.m.. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Welch
Borough Manager