

TUNKHANNOCK BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
June 6, 2019

Vice President Ben Barziloski 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, David Wiggins, Dan Gay, Lisa Tesluk, Ruth Vincenti, and Borough Manager Dawn Welch. Absent: President Robert Robinson, and Scott Douthett.

Others present were: Ned Slocum, Ron Coolbaugh, Patti Mead, Sue Barziloski, Mike DiStadio, Susan DiStadio, Linda Sherman, Frank Oliver, Merriel Oliver, Barbara Arnoldini, Robert Arnoldini, Pastor Joel Byer, Mike Lione, David Sickler, Barb Landon; Recovery Oriented System of Care, Jerry Bogedin, Sandy Vieczorek; Wyoming County CARES, Ronald Vieczorek, Robert Parr, Kenni Parr, Carlos Penedos, Janice Gay, Stephen Vincenti, Catherine Garbus, and County Press Reporter Brooke Williams.

On motion by Lisa Tesluk, seconded by Dan Gay, move to approve May 2, 2019 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Dan Gay, seconded by David Wiggins, move to approve the payment of bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Privilege of the Floor:

Mike Lione asked if UGI would be restoring the bike path down by Roslund Elementary School that links to the trail. The Manager will look into this and back to him.

Jerry Bogedin wanted to know what the status of the caboose is because it is a liability to the Borough.

Finance and Administration Committees:

Noise Ordinance:

On motion by Dan Gay, seconded by Ruth Vincenti, move to authorize the Solicitor to move to the next step to advertise the ordinance and/or send it to the PLCB. Motion carried unanimously.

Sherwood Storm Water Agreement:

On motion by David Wiggins, seconded by Ruth Vincenti, move authorize the Solicitor to provide Sherwood the Stormwater Agreement proposal, subject to further modification requested by our engineer. Motion carried unanimously.

Police Committee:

Chief Carpenter presented a summary of the Police Report for the Month of May 2019. Note: a copy of the report is on file in the Police Department.

Chief Carpenter asked the Council to advertise for a crossing guard.

On motion by Marshall Davis, seconded by Ruth Vincenti, move to advertise for a crossing guard. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Ball reported that the Chief has been doing an excellent job with the full and part-time officers he has.

Police Chairman Davis reported that the Police Committee met on May 20 along with the Mayor Ball, President Robinson, Vice-President Barziloski, and Manager Welch. He reported that: a). One of our three current full-time officers will be leaving the force no later than January 2020, b). The committee is requesting Council to approve that the Borough move forward with the recruitment and police officer selection process be completed and a certified list of approved candidates for the police officer be submitted to Council by the Civil Service Commission no later than October 3, 2019, and c). Council to authorize the Police Committee, Chief, and Manager to come up with a time-line for advertising and testing for a full-time officer.

On motion by Marshall Davis, seconded by Lisa Tesluk, move to authorize the Police Committee, Police Chief, and Manager to come up with a time-line for advertising and testing for a full-time officer. Motion carried unanimously.

Transportation and Streets Committees:

Building and Property Committees:

Riverside Park Committee:

Mayor Ball would like to have a committee meeting to reconstitute the park.

Planning & Zoning Committees:

Chairman Gay reported the Planning & Zoning Committee met on May 15th to discuss amending the Zoning Ordinance to include Residential 2 (R2). There was support from homeowners and business owners present along with letters of support from the Visitor Center, Wyoming County Chamber, and the Tunkhannock Business and Professional Association. The

Planning Commission has given their response to the Council that the Council does not amend the Zoning Ordinance. The Planning Committee would like to move forward and have the Manager contact Carson Helfrich, Community Planning to move forward with amending the Zoning Ordinance to include R2 designation as this is what is needed to move this town forward. Other items that need to be looked at are Electronic Text Message Signs, Sober-Halfway Houses, and Townhouses within the Special District.

On motion by Dan Gay, seconded by Ruth Vincenti, move to authorize the Manager to contact Carson Helfrich, Community Planning regarding R-2, Electronic Text Messages Signs, Sober-Halfway Houses, and Townhouses. Motion carried unanimously.

Council of Governments (COG):

Chairman Barzilowski reported the next COG Meeting is June 11, 2019.

Medical Assisted Treatment Centers:

Merriel Oliver referred to the May 15th "Letter to the Editor" by Sandy Vieczorek. "The letter accused my husband, Frank, of "Selfishness". He simply wrote a column asking that Hope "Help us Understand" as he questioned the misleading and obscure language of the Hope Coalition's plans". After much conversation, Merriel said it would be gracious of Sandy to apologize for denigrating her husband's reputation and for representing issues he never wrote about and never said." When Sandy was asked if she was going to apologize by Robert Arnoldini, she said "No".

"And in the future, if you want a better understanding between the Coalition and the community you might consider: 1). More transparency, openness, and clarity of language and goals, rather than operating seemingly by the credo "It is easier to ask forgiveness, than to ask permission."... This marks the Coalition as a group who cares more about getting what it wants, than maintaining good relationships with those around them. 2). Also, you might consider the Coalition meetings to evening in order to allow others into your circle. During your usual time of 9:30 am at the Dietrich –the majority of people, seeking to understand your goals and contribute ideas, are working and not able to attend. Mike Donahue mentioned to me that he would like to open the Coalition to others. I think Mike's idea is a good one and moving the time from morning only, would encourage inclusiveness."

Sandy Vieczorek Co-Chair, Wyoming County CARES; "I will start by assuring everyone that I'm not here to advocate for MAT in the borough. I believe that MAT Clinic should be at the hospital, mainly because substance use disorder, or SUD, is a medical condition and should be treated in a medical setting. Hopefully, Tyler Hospital will be able to provide this service, much as the Geisinger system has in 3 of its locations."...

"I know this council wants to do what's right for Tunkhannock, all I'm asking is that you listen and try to understand that our community will be stronger and healthier when we provide treatment for those who suffer from substance use disorder and support the families who love them."

Pastor Joes Byer, Tunkhannock Pilgrim Holiness Church, Endless Mountains Christian Academy. "I am speaking this evening as a concerned citizen, pastor, and private school administrator. I am the administrator of our private Christian school, Endless Mountains Christian Academy, which is located right next door to the Children's Service Center. I live on 102 West St, our church and school is located at 135 w. Tioga St. and all 3 of these building share the same parking lot."...

"It is with great concern then that I hear about a proposed drug rehab clinic coming next door in very close proximity to all these children. Please understand, this is not an "us" vs. "them" scenario. My heart breaks for those caught in the throes of drug addiction. I am not for stigmatizing anyone anywhere for what they have done or what has been done to them. This caution is not really about the addicts themselves, it is about a program in a proposed geographical location that is very close to where lots of kids from kindergarten on up regularly spend a lot of time. In fact, of all the locations in town, I am honestly not sure where you could find a spot more densely populated with kids than perhaps the center of a school classroom. I'm here to learn and I always want to have an open and understanding mind and hear various opinions, but this spot seems to be about the most dangerous of all the potential sites that could be chosen."...

Barb Landon, ROSC (Recovery Oriented System of Care) Committee. "Around 6 years ago the Northeast Behavior Healthcare Consortium (NBHCC) formed a ROSA committee that I was privileged to be asked to join and give input on the needs of Wyoming County. Northeast Behavioral Healthcare Consortium is a joiner of Luzerne, Lackawanna, Wyoming and Susquehanna Counties that provide mental health and drug and alcohol services. NBHCC had reinvestment dollars to form Recovery Centers in four counties. These centers are coming to all different counties and are very successful in helping with recidivism. We are very fortunate because Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties were the first to be awarded these centers.

Trehab has been a leader in organizing and writing the proposals for Recovery Oriented System of Care. They have had Susquehanna Counties up and running since December. Wyoming County will be opening the wellness-Resource Center within the next month. The idea behind this is to create a community effort and have volunteers help with the process. There will be therapist available. They will also have certified Recovery Specialist. They will provide such services as GED classes, job seeking opportunities, housing opportunities, and other opportunity to live a healthy life style."

Frank Oliver, "I'm sad. I've known the Landons for more than 50 years. I knew their fathers and mothers and their siblings. Jim and Barb's son was a friend of my son Paul.

My daughter Erin describes Sandy and Ronnie's decease son as her best friend in high school.

I don't know what I wrote that provoked such ire. And I'm told... personal attacks on me. I did not read the Viecezorek letter or the Krewson-Fransis letter... but I've heard about them.

My guest column last month began with a complaint about a front-page Examiner article referencing a Wellness Center. It claimed Tunkhannock people were somehow unable to understand what was going into a Warren Street building, next to Twig's Restaurant. I got curious about the matter when I found an earlier article in which Mike Donahue referenced a "Recovery Center" on Warren Street.

I got more curious about the matter when a letter to the editor from Bob Robinson, revealed the Borough was blindsided about the whole enterprise.

At that point, I researched the Hope Coalition's Plan. I found it very difficult to understand, and my column argued that it used deliberately incomprehensible language."...

(Merriel Oliver, Sandy Vieczorek, and Frank Oliver's full statements are on file.)

Kenni Parr said the MAT Center does not belong in the Borough, it belongs at Tyler Hospital which is the backyard for Wyoming County.

Other Business:

Founder's Day is June 22, 2019

7th Grade Stem Academy will be cleaning up Riverside Park June 14th.

On motion by Dan Gay seconded by David Wiggins, move to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Welch,
Borough Manager