

TUNKHANNOCK BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
March 6, 2014

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

Others present:; Wyoming County Press Examiner Reporter Michael Wintermute; Citizens Patricia Mead, Susan DiStadio, Carl Penedos, Mark Monsey, and Ned Slocum.

Reading of Minutes and Bills:

On a motion by Ruby Sands, seconded by Ruth Vincenti, the minutes of the meetings on February 6, 2014 and February 19, 2014, were approved. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Public Privilege of the Floor:

No comments.

Finance and Administration Committee:

Manager Welch reported that Murphy, Dougherty & Company has started the annual audit.

Department of Public Works (DPW) Committee:

With regard to the retaining wall behind the Prince Hotel (the major portion of which is owned by the Borough), Chairman Robert Robinson read excerpts of Solicitor Paul Litwin's letter to Council. "In order to maintain the wall in a manner that supports the parking lot, it makes sense for the Borough to acquire the small triangular piece of property" on the eastern side of the wall. The Solicitor also suggested negotiating the acquisition of the triangular piece with the property owner, 57 Realty Corporation. Through such negotiations, we would also want to maintain a permanent easement along the wall, for purposes of maintenance and construction."

On motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Ruby Sands, move to have Solicitor Litwin proceed with negotiating with 57 Realty Corporation on behalf of the Borough. Motion carried unanimously.

Citizens John Van Dyke and Mike Skumanick praised the DPW Crew for a terrific job with snow removal operations. In addition, Tunkhannock United Methodist Church Pastor Peter Geschwindner recognized the crew with a prayer of thanks.

Building and Property:

President Huber reported that the lowest responsive bid for the Furnace-Boiler Replacement Project, which was submitted by Scranton Electric Heating & Cooling (in the amount of \$152,723.00) had been reviewed and approved by both our engineer and solicitor.

On motion by Marshall Davis, seconded by Ruby Sands, move to award the contract to Scranton Electric Heating and Cooling and to authorize President Huber to sign the document. Motion carried unanimously.

Riverside Park Commission:

Mayor Ball reported that: 1) Bob Immoratti had agreed to serve as Chairman of the Commission; and 2) he would like Council's approval for the Commission to proceed with the Park's Bandstand Replacement Project.

On motion by Marshall Davis, seconded by Joseph Myers, move to approve the Bandstand Replacement Project concept, along with the proper procedures. Motion carried unanimously.

Police:

Mayor Ball presented a summary of the Police Report for the Month of February, 2014. Note: a copy of the report is on file in the Police Department.

Mayor Ball also asked for the Council to make a motion to accept Uninvest's proposal of a 1% cost of living adjustment increase for retirees David Ide and Richard Rosengrant.

On motion by Marshall Davis, seconded by Ruth Vincenti, move to approve the cost of living adjustment of 1%. Motion carried unanimously.

Planning and Zoning:

President Huber reported there are presently no hearings scheduled for March.

Council of Governments (COG):

COG representative Joseph Myers reported that: 1) the Borough had received a check from the COG for \$4,408.56; and, 2) there still was not an up-to-date code enforcement contract, which, coincidentally, was to be voted on (at a separate meeting of the COG) on March 6th.

Ordinance: 2014-1 Tax Collector Service Fees

On motion by Ruth Vincenti, seconded by Ruby Sands, move to adopt Ordinance 2014-1 Tax Collector Service Fees. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Robert Robinson, Civil Service Commission Chairman, reported that the Commission had: 1) met on March 5th; 2) made a revision to Section 3.5 of the Civil Service Regulations; and 3) signed the revised copy.

On motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Wendy Sweppenheiser, move to adopt the revised Civil Service Regulations. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

President Huber reported that: 1) FEMA has approved our Hazard Mitigation Plan; and, 2) the Wyoming County Cultural Center had made their first Revolving Grant payment for \$1,583.00.

Council Privilege of the Floor:

Marshall Davis requested to know the status of the Police Bathrooms Project. President Huber advised that John Jennings (Wyoming County Redevelopment Authority) needed additional information from Milnes Engineering.

Robert Robinson would like the Council to think about having clean-ups once a year.

Marshall Davis thanked the DPW Crew for fixing the building's exterior lighting situation.

President Huber reported that our Solicitor had recommended looking into updating the Nuisance Ordinance, which is approximately 40 years old.

At 7:50p.m., on motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Joseph Myers, move to go into executive session for contractual matters and personnel. Motion carried unanimously.

At 8:20p.m., on motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Ruth Vincenti, move to go back to regular session. Motion carried unanimously.

At 8:22p.m., on motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Joseph Myers, move to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Welch
Borough Manager