

TUNKHANNOCK BOROUGH COUNCIL
Mid-Month Meeting
October 19, 2016

Council President Stacy Huber called the Mid-Month Meeting of the Tunkhannock Borough Council to order in the Borough Building, 126 Warren Street, Tunkhannock, PA at 2:00p.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, Scott Douthett, Stacy Huber, Robert Robinson, Lisa Tesluk, and Ruth Vincenti; and Borough Manager Dawn Welch. Absent: Council Member Joseph Myers.

Administrative Remarks: None

Public Privilege of the Floor: There was no one from the public present.

Finance and Administration Committees:

2017 Budget/2017 Tax Levy:

Finance Committee Chairman Scott Douthett provided an overview of the Committee's preparation efforts in developing the draft 2017 Budget, which resulted in the following proposed tax levies:

- a) General Fund: +2.5 Mills (23.9 Mills);
- b) Fire Fund: +0.5 Mills (1.5 Mills);
- c) Street Lighting Fund: No change (2.9 Mills).

A discussion followed during which:

- a) It was noted that last year's Budget included a two mill reduction within the General Fund, due to anticipated one-time lower costs within the Police Department Budget; and
- b) Marshall Davis noted his exception to the proposed increase of four percent (4%) in the non-Police "wages" categories. Specifically, he stated that: 1) the 4% increase for the Police was a mandate pursuant to a salary arbitration finding; and 2) for budgetary considerations, he would oppose (as he did last year) a 4% increase for other employees.

On motion by Ben Barziloski, seconded by Robert Robinson, move to advertise the 2017 Budget, with the intent to adopt on December 1, 2016. By a vote of six to one (6-1), with Marshall Davis voting no, the motion carried.

On motion by Scott Douthett, seconded by Lisa Tesluk, move to advertise the 2017 Tax Levy Ordinance, with the intent to adopt on December 1, 2016. The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance for the Transfer of Property/Fire Fund to Triton Hose Company:

After a discussion, the item was tabled pending additional review.

Transportation & Streets Committee (TSC):

Small Water & Sewer Grant:

The grant package is expected to be forwarded this week to Grant Writer Rachel Houser of Northern Tier Regional Planning & Development Commission, who is awaiting a letter of support from Senator Lisa Baker, after which the package will be formally submitted to the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

Wal-Mart Project:

The timing settings have been input and are operating in accordance with the established parameters for the Wal-Mart and CVS Projects. We are, however, still waiting to hear from Reading, Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad regarding on-site testing.

Building and Property Committee:

Committee Chairman Robinson, Department of Public Works Foreman Steve Stonier, and Manager Welch met with Riverside Park Commission Chairman Jerry Bogedin at Riverside Park to assess the work that needs to be done at the playground. After much discussion, the Manager was asked to obtain three quotes to dig and remove 10 inches of old mulch from two areas, the first - 25 feet by 25 feet; and the second - 31 feet by 41 feet. The quotes ranged from \$950.00 to \$2,645.00.

On motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Marshall Davis, move to accept the lowest responsive bid of \$950.00 from Superior Landscape Management. The motion carried unanimously.

Riverside Park Commission:

Mayor Ball reported that Chairman Bogedin has not scheduled a meeting and needs to do so. Manager Welch said that if the Mayor Ball would schedule a meeting, Jerry would attend.

Planning and Zoning:

Zoning Ordinance Re-Write:

Council had been provided copies of the draft revision to the Borough Zoning Ordinance, which was prepared by the Borough Planning Commission, in conjunction with Consultant Carson

Helfrich, and which was reviewed by Solicitor Litwin, who recommended a change regarding “Parking” requirements in the Downtown Commercial (C-1) District. A discussion followed, after which a motion was made.

On motion by Marshall Davis, seconded by Robert Robinson, move to approve and advertise the zoning ordinance amendments with the recommended change. By a vote six to one (6-1), with Stacy Huber voting no, the motion carried.

Other Business:

Master Watershed Steward Program:

Elizabeth Rosser, Master Gardener & Master Watershed Steward Coordinator, Penn State Extension, sent an email to the Borough regarding Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) regulations and Master Watershed Steward activities. As MS4 regulations do not apply to Tunkhannock Borough, President Huber will send a letter to her to respectfully advise that we are unable to participate at this time.

Council Privilege of the Floor:

Finance Chairman Scott Douthett reported that he, Attorney Litwin, President Huber, and Manager Welch participated in a conference call with Paul Macknosky (Director for Pennsylvania DCED, Scranton, Pennsylvania Area | Government Relations) regarding the Revolving Loan Fund. The new draft has a \$25,000 maximum loan and now limits total loans to 90% of the requested loan amount. We are awaiting final DCED approval of the Revolving Loan Fund Guidelines.

Marshall Davis requested to know if the light emitting diode (LED) bulbs, which we are testing as possible replacements in our decorative street lamps, are available in a wattage that is in-between the two types that we now have. The answer is no.

Mayor Norm Ball stated that it is time to promote Officer-in-Charge Keith Carpenter to Chief of Police. He needs to be Chief to do his job efficiently. Most of Council expressed agreement.

On motion by Ben Barziloski, seconded by Lisa Tesluk, move to adjourn the meeting 3:11 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Welch,
Borough Manager

