TYRONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 14, 2022 @ 7:00PM

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The Regular Monthly Council Meeting of the Tyrone Borough Council was held on Monday, February 14, 2022 @ 7:00PM at the Tyrone Borough Municipal Building, 1100 Logan Avenue, Tyrone, PA. Mayor Latchford led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and Pastor Benjamin Crum, First Assembly of Tyrone Church, gave the Invocation.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Latchford called the meeting to order and requested roll call. Present: Council members Robert Dollar, Sarah Hunter, Rob Poust, Ken Patterson, William Wiser, David Snyder and Mayor Latchford. Absent: Council member Charles Mills.

Also, present were Borough Manager Ardean Latchford; Solicitor Dan Stants; Chief of Police Jessica Walk; Sewer Superintendent Jason Harris; Water Superintendent Mike Ashcroft; Highway Superintendent Jim Bywater; Code Enforcement Officer Marvin Frazell; Consulting Engineer Kevin Nester; and Administrative Assistant Kimberly Gurekovich.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Latchford advised there was an Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Trina Illig, CDBG Grant Coordinator

The Borough's CDBG Grant Coordinator, Trina Illig was present to discuss a budget modification for the demolition of 822-824 Washington Avenue. A hearing was held with no attendees. Council was in receipt of a Resolution reallocating $26,496 to Demo & Clearance from the FY 2020 CDBG Program. Action on this Resolution will be discussed under the Solicitor's report.

Terry Tate, Tyrone Improvement Group (TIG)

Mr. Tate, along with several members of the Tyrone Improvement Group were present to discuss an email sent to the Borough earlier in the month with several requests for use of Borough facilities. Mr. Tate stated that TIG has unfortunately outgrown the Railroad Park area for their Food Truck Saturdays. They are requesting to move the event to Logan Avenue, from 10th to 11th Street and use of the Municipal Parking Lot. The dates of these events will be May 7, June 4, July 2 and August 6.

It was moved and seconded that Council approve the relocation of the Food Truck Festival to Logan Avenue, 10th to 11th Street and use of the municipal lot. Council unanimously approved said motion. It was noted that a new Certificate of Insurance will be provided to the Borough.

TIG also requested permission to hang the Veteran's banners from Memorial Day to Labor Day. It was the consensus of Council to grant this request.

Representative Jim Gregory

Representative Jim Gregory was present at the meeting. Representative Gregory stated when he ran for this office, he promised to visit local meetings. Representative Gregory also welcomed the new council members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded the January 10, 2022 Minutes of the Regular Council meeting be approved. Council unanimously approved said motion.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

It was moved and seconded the financial reports for the monthly accounting period ending January 31, 2022 be approved: (1) The Account Balance Report; (2) Statement of Revenues and Expenses; and (3) Cash Disbursement Journal. Council unanimously approved said motion.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT

AFSCME Contract – Non-Uniform Employees

The AFSCME Union and Borough have come to an agreement for the January 1, 2022 thru December 31, 2024 Union Contract. It was moved and seconded that Council approve the AFSCME Union Contract. Council unanimously approved said motion.

No Parking Request – Alley F

Council was in receipt of a request for "No Parking" in Alley F, from 11th Street to 12th Street. It was moved and seconded that Council approve this request. Council unanimously approved the no parking request and requested Solicitor Stants make the amendment to the parking ordinance for approval at the March 14 Council meeting.

Borough Engineering Services

As Council is aware, the Borough has been searching for Sludge disposal alternatives for approximately the last five years. During the course of this search the Borough held discussions with Rettew Engineering. After some discussions with Council and Staff, the Borough has decided to pursue a new Engineer of Record for the Borough. The Borough will not be renewing its Agreements with GHD.

It was moved and seconded that Council approve Rettew Engineering as the Borough's Engineer of record. Council unanimously approved said motion.

Fire Committee Meeting

The Fire Committee held a meeting on January 31st. This meeting included the Fire Chiefs, Police Chief, EMA, Borough Manager and Mayor. One of the main topics of this meeting was a lack of department funding for equipment replacement. The current ladder truck is 25 years and cost $650,000 then. The same truck today is $1.3 million. To assist the fire companies, one option that was discussed was to earmark a portion of the Borough's American Rescue Plan Funding for funding of a truck. This was before Council for discussion. The funding comes in two installments to the Borough. The Borough has already earmarked $48,300 to recoup losses at the Community Swimming pool.

Council asked the Borough Manager to reach out to the Hookies and inquire about their time frame for ordering a truck and report back to Council at the March meeting.

Ice Skating At Reservoir Pond/Hockey Rink

With the cold temperatures we experienced in January, the pond at Reservoir Park was open for ice skating. The ice was drilled, and the snow was cleaned from the surface. The rink is now closed due to warmer temperatures as well as people attempting ice fishing and drilling on the pond.

Miscellaneous:

- The Borough had recently discussed uses of Shea Field with the Paper Mill, the Borough leases this field from the Paper Mill). The Mill is not opposed to more community uses for this area. Some discussion by Council was for a dog park and/or a skate park. Council member Wiser does not wish to interfere with any youth organizations that have used that area for practices for many years. Council members Poust and Snyder suggested replacing the gate and fencing. Councilmember Patterson inquired about the use of the former Lincoln school site. Solicitor Stants will check on some Dog Park Ordinances. Borough Manager will also reach out to owners of the former Lincoln school site to see if they have any intentions.
- Burgmeier's Hauling Spring Cleanup – April 5, 6 & 7
- Irish Heritage Festivities – March 18 and 19

SOLICITOR'S RERORT: The Solicitor had the following to report:

Resolution No. 2022-01 – Reallocation of FY2020 CDBG Funds

Earlier in the meeting, Mrs. Trina Illig, Blair County Grant Coordinator, presenting Council with information to reallocate $26,496 to the Demolition and Clearance Fund to demolish 822-824 Washington Avenue. It was moved and seconded that Council approve this re-allocation. Council unanimously approved said motion.

CONSULTING ENGINEER: Council was in receipt of Mr. Nester's report. Mr. Nester thanked the Borough for allowing GHD to serve as the Borough's Engineer for many years and offered their assistance in the future should the Borough require it.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: Council was in receipt of Mr. Frazell's report.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Council was in receipt of Chief Walk's report. Chief Walk advised Council the Civil Service Commission had recently met to certify the list of eligible candidates for the full-time position. It was moved and seconded that Council appoint the following applicants to full time positions with the Tyrone Borough Police Department:

Otto G. Barton, effective February 15
Austin Miller, effective February 16

Council unanimously approved said motion.

SEWER DEPARTMENT: Council was in receipt of Mr. Harris's monthly report.

WATER DEPARTMENT: Council was in receipt of Mr. Ashcroft's monthly report.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Council was in receipt of Mr. Bywater's report. Mr. Bywater requested that with the recent snowstorms, the plow drivers have had great difficulty getting thru 7th and 8th Streets. Mr. Bywater has asked if Council would approve these streets at Snow Emergency routes. Council wishes to re-visit the Borough's snow ordinance for the next winter season.

Mr. Bywater also advised that somebody had been drilling on the ice at Reservoir Pond for ice fishing. It was noted that this activity is not permitted.

MISCELLANEOUS

- The Tyrone Historical Museum will be open for Irish Heritage weekend and for all Food Truck weekends.
- Council Member Sarah Hunter would like Council to consider offering a grant program for new downtown businesses. Funds would be given to the Chamber from the Borough's Community Enrichment Fund and would offer a $2,000 grant to those who would apply and meet the parameters. These grant requests would go before a Board appointed by the Chamber to oversee such a program; those appointed would serve as underwriters for these grants. Mrs. Hunter suggested leaving the Chamber handle the grant requests hoping that it would strengthen and grow Chamber members. Mrs. Hunter also stated applicants would need to be Chamber members in hopes to boost Chamber membership. Council member Snyder also likes the idea of the Chamber running such a program because they more intimately know business and the people and likes the idea of giving them the means to be able to help businesses; however, Mr. Snyder suggests the grant amount be $5,0000. Council member Hunter advised State College has a similar program; she will reach out to them to see how their program is run. Mayor would like to hear what State College has to say. Borough Manager Latchford advised the Borough currently uses ABCD Corporation to run other Borough funded programs. ABCD has experience checking the viability, credit scores, worthiness of credit. The Borough also must be cautious of business owners approving grant funds that they or their business may personally benefit from. Using a third party also makes the approvals cleaner from an auditing perspective.

The Meeting Adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ardean C. Latchford/kdg
Borough Manager