

**TYRONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

JULY 13, 2020 @ 7:00PM

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The Regular Monthly Council Meeting of the Tyrone Borough Council was held on Monday, July 13, 2020 @ 7:00PM at the Tyrone Borough Municipal Building, 1100 Logan Avenue, Tyrone, PA. Pastor Bill Ewing, Calvary Tyrone, gave the Invocation and Mayor Latchford led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Latchford called the meeting to order and requested roll call. Present: Council members David Snyder, Ken Patterson, Robert Dollar, Charlie Mills, William Wisner and Mayor Latchford. Absent: Council Member Sarah Jane Miller. Also present were Borough Manager Ardean Latchford; Solicitor Dan Stants; Consulting Engineer Kevin Nester; Chief of Police John Romeo; Sewer Superintendent Jason Harris; Water Superintendent Michael Ashcroft; Highway Superintendent James Bywater; Code Enforcement Officer Marvin Frazell; and Administrative Assistant Kimberly Gurekovich.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Ken Sweeney, 325 W. 16th Street addressed Council regarding allowing chickens in the Borough. Mr. Sweeney was recently contacted by Code Enforcement regarding his chickens. Mr. Sweeney stated that these are his daughter's pets and have served as a coping tool since she lost her brother last year. Mr. Sweeney stated his chickens are contained and he cleans their pen weekly. Mr. Sweeney has \$3,000 tied up in his chickens and is requesting the Borough allow chickens, albeit with restrictions.

Borough Council suggested some type of permit process, although were not in favor of any fees for this permit. After some discussion by Borough Council and audience members in attendance, it was moved and seconded that Solicitor Stants compile an ordinance for the August meeting for Borough Council to review. Council agreed on 6 chickens and 1 rooster and an enclosed pen. Council unanimously approved said motion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded the June 8, 2020 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 June 30, 2020 be approved: (1) The Account Balance Report; (2) Statement of

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Revenues and Expenses; and (3) Cash Disbursement Journal. Council unanimously approved said motion.

BOROUGH MANAGER’S MONTHLY REPORT

Altoona Blair County Development (ABCD) Micro Loan Program

Mr. Steve McKnight was present at the meeting to discuss a Micro Loan Program for Tyrone Borough businesses (both new and established businesses). Mr. McKnight explained the Micro-Loan program is for any for-profit or non-profit business located in Tyrone Borough. Some of the criteria for qualifying for the loan are as follows:

- Loan Amounts from \$5,000 to \$20,000
- Can be used for real estate, renovations, equipment
- Interest rates from 2%-4% depending on credit score
- \$200 in application, closing and filing fees
- ABCD will take all applications and disburse all funds

Borough Manager, while very much in favor of this program, does not have time to manage a program of this nature. ABCD advised they are here to help the Borough and would be Stewards of the funds. ABCD will submit reports to the Borough. Mr. McKnight advised ABCD would establish a separate bank account. The funds would be revolving in that once loans are paid back the funds will go directly into this account.

It was moved and seconded that Council approve \$100,000 for the micro-loan program and \$20,000 for a grant program. It was noted the funds for these programs are not coming from taxpayer dollars but are being funded with Community Enrichment funds. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Council members Dollar, Wisner, Wills, Snyder, Patterson and Mayor Latchford. Nays: Council member Mills.

Mr. McKnight also advised of a program called “PA 30 Day Fund”. This program allows business owners that have at least 3 employees to apply for a grant of up to \$3,000. The application and approval process are simple and expeditious.

Blair Family Solutions-Request for Use of Reservoir Park

Council was in receipt of a request from Blair Family Solutions to use several pavilions at Reservoir Park for their Therapeutic Summer Program. Since the Tyrone School District is closed, they are in need of a place to hold their program. They are requesting use of Pavilion Nos. 13-17, Monday thru Thursday from 9am to 12 noon. They have provided a Certificate of Insurance and Clearances for their Counselors. It was moved

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and seconded that Council approve said motion. Council unanimously approved use of these pavilions by Blair Family Solutions.

Bid Award – Polyelectrolyte (Polymer)

The Borough accepted bids for Polymer on July 8. Five bids were received and are listed below:

Kroff	\$ 2.88/lb
Univar	\$ 1.95/lb
Neo Solutions	\$ 1.986/lb
Atlantic Coast	\$ 1.825/lb
Pollu-Tech	\$ 1.84/lb

Bids were reviewed by Sewer Department personnel and it is their recommendation to approve the low bidder, Atlantic Coast Polymer at their bid price of \$1.825/lb. It was moved and seconded that Council approve said award. Council unanimously approved said motion.

Paving-900 Block of Garden Alley

The Borough was recently contacted by business owners Stephen Grot and John Steinbugl regarding paving a portion of the 900 block of Garden Alley. Mr. Grot and Mr. Steinbugl have both made considerable renovations to their businesses located along Garden Alley. The request is for the Borough to share in the paving of this portion of the street. Council was provided a quote in the amount of \$8,990 as the Borough's share. It was moved and seconded that Council approve paving this portion of Borough owned street. These funds will come from the Community Enrichment line item. This amount is also under the bidding threshold thus will not require the bidding process. Council unanimously approved said motion.

Local Grant Program

Earlier this month, Council member David Snyder presented a proposal to Borough Council members for a Borough funded for Tyrone Borough businesses who may have suffered any loss during the COVID-19 epidemic. The proposal is for the Tyrone Chamber to be given a \$25,000 grant from the Borough's Community Enrichment Fund for the sole purpose of offering a reimbursement of mortgage/rent payments, utility bills and other operational expenses up to a certain dollar amount as will be determined by the number of qualified applicants. With the presentation by Mr. McKnight and ABCD

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Corp, Mr. Snyder withdrew this proposal. It was moved and seconded to un-ratify Mr. Snyder's request. Council unanimously approved said motion.

Use of Reservoir Park Pavilions – Backpack Giveaway

For the last several years, Tyrone's Verizon Wireless store has sponsored a Backpack Giveaway for school children with a street fair. Due to COVID-19 and the inability to social distance, their plans have changed and while they will still be giving away backpacks, there will be no street fair. They have requested use of Pavilion Nos. 6-12 at Reservoir Park on July 26 for backpack giveaway. Cars will travel thru Reservoir Park and backpacks will be handed to the cars and nobody will have to exit their vehicles. It was moved and seconded that Council waive any fees associated with this event. Council unanimously approved said motion.

Use of Borough Facilities For Fundraiser

The Borough has been contacted by Volition Cheer All-Stars, a competitive all-star cheer and all-star hip hop gym in the area. They would like to contract with the Brain Freezer truck for a fundraiser and would like to use the community pool or Reservoir park a weekend in August. Due to the Rules and Regulations for Tyrone Parks and because this organization is not a 501(c)3 this activity is not permitted. No motion was made.

Consumer Confidence Report

Attached is a copy of the Borough's Consumer Confidence Water Report. The Borough is required to distribute this report by July 1st every year. The link to this report was included on the water bills and copies are available at our office.

Community Swimming Pool

Due to the Department of Health's recent reports of increased cases of COVID-19 and ongoing problems at the outdoor pool, Council again discussed the future of the Community pool. It was suggested the number of patrons be reduced. Pool personnel have advised it is difficult to manage with 250-300 patrons. Mayor Latchford stated COVID is a revolving situation which changes often, and we are trying to adapt the best we can.

After some discussion, Borough Manager Latchford suggested refunding all season passes, charge daily fees and it would be on a first come first serve basis with no more than 150 patrons at any one time. It was also suggested the daily rates be changed to \$4 for adult and \$3 for kids. Mr. Latchford advised Council that by leaving the pool

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open, we may be providing an avenue for people to get sick should a patron be at the pool with COVID.

It was moved and seconded that effective July 20, 2020 the number of patrons will be reduced to 150, all season pass holders will be refunded and charge daily fees of \$4 and \$3. Council unanimously approved said motion.

Tyrone Events & Promotions Request-Exception to Ordinance No. 1331

The Tyrone Events and Promotions Committee is requesting an exception to Ordinance No 1331, prohibition of Open Container for their annual *Shops n Vines* event (formerly the Wine Walk) to be held on Saturday, August 1, 2020. This exception will include the City Hotel Park and W. 10th Street from Pennsylvania Avenue to Washington Avenue. The Committee will need to provide the Borough with a Certificate of Insurance along with providing private security for the event to ensure crowd control. It was moved and seconded to grant this request. A roll call vote of Council was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers Dollar, Mills, Wisser, Wills, Snyder and Mayor Latchford. Nays: Councilmember Patterson.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: The Solicitor had nothing to report.

CONSULTING ENGINEER: Council was in receipt of Mr. Nester's report. Mr. Nester requested Council approve final payment to Guyer Brothers for the Meadow Street Sewer Replacement Project in the amount \$9,146.56. This has been reviewed by GHD. It was moved and seconded that Council approve this final payment. Council unanimously approved said motion.

Mr. Nester also requested Council approve the final revised payment to ARS, Inc. in the amount of \$13,060 for the Clarifier Rehab project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. It was moved and seconded that Council approve said motion.

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Council was in receipt of Chief Romeo's report.

Chief Romeo was in receipt of a letter of resignation from part-time police officer Scott Turnbaugh. It was moved and seconded that Council accept Mr. Turnbaugh's resignation letter. Council unanimously approved said motion.

Sergeant Hollis was present to show Council the new proposed police uniforms. The uniforms are dark green in color, are made of a breathable material and come with a

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vest that can hold most stuff they now carry on their belts. Chief advised the officers have agreed to give up their uniform allowance for the year. They are participating in a wear and buy program where they can wear the uniforms before buying to see how they hold up. It was the consensus of Council to move forward with the new uniforms.

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.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Councilmember David Snyder asked if the weeds could be removed from the play area at Park Avenue Playground.
- Councilmember David Snyder asked if Bake Shop Bakes could set up a food station outside of the pool since we do not have the concession stand this year. It was noted that we did not approve Volition Cheer for the same thing earlier in the meeting.
- Councilmember Charlie Mills advised there are 3 streetlights out on E. 11th Street, Mr. Bywater will look into this. Mr. Mills suggested moving the streetlights to the backside of the sidewalks. Mr. Mills also inquired about the sidewalk in front of the post office and feels if we planted the trees we should maintain the sidewalk.
- Councilmember Bob Dollar advised the Historical Society is in the process of moving 25 years' worth of historical artifacts from the Sickler plaza to the Historical Museum. Mr. Dollar was asking Council's permission to seek grants for an addition to that building. Council gave their consensus to do so.
- Resident Homer Kann inquired as to paving 12th Street from Logan Avenue to the St. Matthew's Church. Borough Manager Latchford advised he has a meeting with PennDOT Representatives regarding the Borough's street paving program. However, the list has already been created for this year.

The Meeting Adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ardean C. Latchford/kdg
Borough Manager