

**TYRONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 13, 2022 @ 7:00PM**

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The Regular Monthly Council Meeting of the Tyrone Borough Council was held on Monday, June 13, 2022 @ 7:00PM at the Tyrone Borough Municipal Building, 1100 Logan Avenue, Tyrone, PA. Pastor Randy Zitterbart, Hillside Church, gave the Invocation and David Snyder led the group in the Pledge of the Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

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; Rettew Consulting Engineer Steve Siegfried; and Administrative Assistant Kimberly Gurekovich.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Rhonda Holland, Washington Avenue, President of Blair County Tea Party

Rhonda Holland of the Blair County Tea Party group addressed Council to once again request that it consider the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement drafted by her group.

Joe Addink, Attorney & Treasurer of Blair County Tea Party

Joe Addinck, identifying himself as the Treasurer of the Blair County Tea Party, again addressed Council to state his belief that the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement must be changed to grant standing to private individuals to bring lawsuits challenging new state and federal laws related to the regulation of firearms. He also opined that because a court has not said that local governments may not exercise such powers they are not prohibited from doing so. At the conclusion of his remarks the Solicitor explained that there was no need to add such standing as any resident may file a mandamus action against local officials to compel them to comply with the terms of the agreement if they are not doing so. Also, the Solicitor again explained the limitations on the legislative acts of local governments and why the absence of a court ruling prohibiting something does not allow a local government to exercise powers not granted to it by statute.

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There was no further public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded the Minutes of the May 9, 2022 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 May 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

Electric Rates-Talen Energy (Borough Electric Supplier) Bankruptcy

Council was advised of a recent bankruptcy notice received from Talen Energy, the Borough's electric supplier. As a result of this filing, the courts have moved our electric rates to Penelec. Penelec's current rates are approximately 0.12 cents per Kwh and with Talen we were contracted at 0.04225 cents per Kwh. The Borough was advised by our Energy Broker, URA (Utility Rates Analysts) to sign a 6-month agreement with Constellation Energy for our Sewer department which is the Borough's largest account. We are hoping the energy market will make a turn for the good by the end of this contract and we can get the rates closer to 7 or 8 cents per Kwh.

Memorandum of Agreement – Police Department

Council was in receipt of a Memorandum of Agreement establishing the position of Detective within the Police Department. Council had previously given their consensus for establishing this position. It was moved and seconded that Council approve the Detective position. Council unanimously approved said motion.

Change Order for 9th Street Bridge Area

Council was presented with a Change Order for the 9th Street Bridge project in an amount not to exceed \$15,500. The initial project cost for this portion, was \$10,500 in July 2020. There were permitting delays and the weather simply would not cooperate to

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get this project completed as soon as we all would have liked. Fuel prices have also increased tremendously. In conjunction with rising costs and the scope of work, these are the main drivers of the increased cost for the project. It was moved and seconded that Council approve this not to exceed amount of \$15,500. Council unanimously approved said motion.

Informational:

- Tyrone Community Pool opened full time on June 3rd
- Senior Citizen Stroll in the Park has been postponed
- The Tyrone Community Yard Sale is scheduled for September 18
- Burgmeier's Fall Cleanup – September 20, 21 and 22

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

CONSULTING ENGINEER: Council was in receipt of Rettew's Engineering Report. Council member Sarah Hunter would like to see a few tables located within the new First Responder's Park. A mural was discussed for the wall of the adjoining building. Borough staff feel the integrity of that building may not be the best for a mural.

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Council was in receipt of Chief Walk's report. Chief Walk asked Council's permission to hire two part time officers. It was moved and seconded that Council approve hiring two additional part time officers. Chief Walk also advised that Officer Chad Weaver will be appointed as Detective effective June 14, 2022.

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

- Council member Patterson inquired as to the Borough's street closures and if we could use detour signs when we close streets. Borough Manager Latchford advised that is usually up to the event planners. Council member Snyder said we could look into this.
- A "Slow, Children at Play" sign was requested for Wertz Alley.

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- Council member Dollar thanked the Water Department for explanation of the water meters after the Church of the Good Shephard had an extremely high water bill.
- Council member Dollar also suggested that Council pick a day and time for the Community Outreach Meeting. Council decided on Tuesday, June @ 6pm. Councilmembers Patterson and Wisner cannot make the meeting.
- Council member Hunter distributed handouts to Council regarding a grant program. The Major points as listed in her presentation are as follows:
 - Idea of multiple grants, not just one that could go to multiple businesses a year
 - Grant, unlike loans, would be not having to be paid back and would go directly into community via local businesses
 - Help to revitalize our downtown alongside the ABCD Corp. Loan program after the hardships of COVD on local businesses as well as inflation that has hit our local community as of late
 - Help to grow and strengthen our local Chamber of Commerce
 - Two different categories of grant funding could also attract new businesses to our downtown and create a welcoming atmosphere

Mrs. Hunter suggests Council decide on the amount, \$2,500 was initially discussed; however, she feels \$5,000 may be more appropriate. Mrs. Hunter also advised that you would be required to be a member of the Chamber in order to participate in this program. Borough Manager Latchford again advised against this and reminded Council that ABCD Corp. already has a program set up for Tyrone Borough.

- Councilmember Hunter advised she had a few mothers aske about a physical barrier between the play area and Route 453 at Reservoir Park. Some suggestions were a split rail fence. Council member Patterson suggested something more than a split rail fence. All agreed it needs to be easy maintenance and aesthetically pleasing. Borough Manager Latchford will discuss this with a fencing contractor. If the quote is over the bidding threshold, Council approved the Borough Manager moving forward with receiving bids.

The Meeting Adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ardean C. Latchford/kdg
Borough Manager