

**TYRONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 8, 2021 @ 7:00PM**

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The Regular Monthly Council Meeting of the Tyrone Borough Council was held on Monday, November 8, 2021 @ 7:00PM at the Tyrone Borough Municipal Building, 1100 Logan Avenue, Tyrone, PA. Pastor Randy Zitterbart, Hillside Church, 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 Robert Dollar, Tammy Wills, David Snyder, Ken Patterson, William Wiser and Mayor Latchford. Absent: Council members Charlie Mills and Sarah Jane Miller. 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tracy Brumbaugh, 824 Washington Avenue

Ms. Brumbaugh advised she had purchased 824 Washington Avenue at a Judicial Sale in 2019. She has since received a demolition order from the Borough, and they were present at the meeting to request Council remove this order. She further advised she has previously requested a list of the violations for this property and was denied. She also expressed her displeasure that the Borough did not disclose all the violations to them prior to purchasing the property. Attorney Stants advised there is a long history with this property and the demolition order was given in 2018 under the former owners. Attorney Stants further explained that when you purchase the property at a Judicial Sale you are purchasing it from the County and those liens only pertain to taxes, not code violations; it is not the responsibility of the Borough to inform purchasers of code violations; code violations carry along with the property during a sale. Attorney Stants advised they purchased the property without doing their due diligence. When Ms. Brumbaugh inquired as to having the demolition order removed, Attorney Stants advised that if the Owner presents a remedial work schedule, the Code official has the authority to work with the customer. A gentleman that was with Ms. Brumbaugh and unidentified, stated he wanted their request for the violations made part of the public record. Attorney Stants advised them to fill out a Right to Know Request and they would receive the information they need. Ms. Brumbaugh advised they would be in the office in the office the next morning.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded the Minutes of the October 11, 2021; 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 October 31, 2021, 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

Approval of Juggernaut Consulting

Jason Jennings, Consultant for Juggernaut Consulting, LLC has long been the Borough’s Consultant for the Cost of Service (COS) Study as related to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Council was provide with a proposal for Juggernaut Consulting to continue these services to the Borough in the amount of \$11,000/year. It was moved and seconded that Council approve this Agreement with Juggernaut Consulting. Council unanimously approved said motion.

Lease Agreement – Liberty Solutions

Council was in receipt of a new Lease Agreement with Liberty Solutions with regards to windmills. This Lease has been reviewed by Attorney Stants. It was moved and seconded that Council approve the new Lease Agreement with Liberty Solutions. Council unanimously approved said motion.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Application

Council was presented with an Agreement between the Borough and the Blair County Planning Commission whereby the Borough agrees to participate in the planning process of the Blair County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023 update. It was moved and seconded that Council approve the Agreement. Council unanimously approved said motion.

Award of Aerial Spraying Bid

Council accepted bids on November 3 for Aerial Spraying of Gypsy Moths on watershed property. One bid was received and is listed below:

Tallman Aerial Spraying	\$ 39/acre	Total \$ 136,500
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It was moved and seconded that Council award to the sole Bidder, Tallman Aerial Spraying. Council unanimously approved said motion.

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Parking Meter Decorating Contest for Christmas

Two years ago, Mr. William Wisner approached the Borough about decorating the parking meters downtown. A few weeks ago, the Tyrone Park & Recreation Committee began a parking meter decorating contest for the Christmas season. The Borough offers free 2-hour meter parking during the month of December. This year the free parking season would be November 20th thru January 5th. It was moved and seconded that Council approve this change. Council unanimously approved said motion.

2022 Proposed Budget Presentation

The 2022 budgets were prepared using a conservative approach towards revenue and expenses, and where possible, includes some funds to cover unforeseen expenses. A 2.5% wage increase for Uniformed employees pursuant to the current Collective Bargaining Agreement is reflected. The Borough is presently in negotiations with AFSCME, the Non-Uniformed employee union.

The American Rescue Plan Act has allocated \$537,895.08 to the Borough. We have already received half of the funds and will expect to receive the remainder in 2022. Council is working to come up with a plan to utilize these funds in a way that would best serve our residents.

The General Operating Fund has been balanced for 2022 by using a prior year surplus of \$395,867. This includes a \$160,000 transfer to the Capital Expenditure Fund to cover projected capital requirements as related to the General Fund Departments over the next ten years. There will not be a real estate tax increase for 2022.

The Water Operating Fund has been balanced for 2022. We are planning to transfer prior year surpluses to the Water Capital Fund totaling, \$900,000 to cover projected capital requirements over the next ten years, as well as a \$168,640 transfer to the Water Debt Service Fund to cover future loan payments. Water Rates will remain the same for 2022 and will be continually monitored.

The Sewer Operating Fund has also been balanced for 2022. We are planning to transfer \$593,000 to the Sewer Capital Fund to cover projected capital requirements over the next ten years. We continue to work diligently on a plan to remedy increased costs at the sewer plant along with other variables that could substantially impact sewer operations. We will be monitoring the sewer system closely with our engineers and sewer rate consultant.

No questions were asked and it was moved and seconded the 2022 Proposed Budget be advertised for the required 10 day public comment period. Council unanimously approved said motion.

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MISCELLANEOUS:

- Fall Leaf & Brush Pickup will run every Monday thru December 6
- Christmas Tree Lighting – December 3 @ 6pm
- Christmas Parade – December 4 @ 11am

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

CONSULTING ENGINEER: Mr. Nester had the following items for Council’s approval:

Council was in receipt of Application for Payment #12, Contract 1 in the amount of \$222,031.66. This AFP has been reviewed by GHD and they recommend payment. It was moved and seconded that Council approve Application for Payment #12, Contract 2 in the amount of \$222,031.66. Council unanimously approved said motion.

Council was in receipt of Application for Payment #10, Contract 2 (final) in the amount of \$80,692.30. The Contractor is scheduled to be on sight November 9, 2021, to address the final punch list items. GHD has reviewed this payment and recommend payment contingent upon the punch list items being completed. It was moved and seconded that Council approve Application for Payment #10 of Contract 2. Council unanimously approved said motion.

Council was in receipt of a Final Balancing Change Order in the amount of \$ 1,944.01. This adjusts all quantities based on the actual work completed. It was moved and seconded that Council approve the Final Balancing Change Order in the amount of \$1,944.01. Council unanimously approved said motion.

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Chief Walk had the following for Borough Council:

Chief Walk requested permission to advertise and hire an additional part time police officer. It was moved and seconded that Council approve Chief Walk’s request. Council unanimously approved motion.

The Borough was in receipt of a request for a private handicap parking space at 1355 Bald Eagle Avenue, 1st Floor. The requestor was interviewed by the police department and is found to be in compliance with the Borough’s Private Handicap parking regulations. Chief Walk recommends approval. It was moved and seconded that Council approve the request for this private handicap parking space. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Council members Patterson, Dollar, Wisner, Wills and Mayor Latchford. Council member Snyder abstained.

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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 has included the purchase of a truck in the 2022 budget. In order to receive this truck in a timely manner, the order needs to be placed by mid-November. Council granted permission to make this order.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Mayor Latchford asked Council to consider adding permission for residents to have ducks. This will be on Council's Agenda for the December meeting.

The Meeting Adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ardean C. Latchford/kdg
Borough Manager