

**TYRONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 10, 2022 @ 7:00PM**

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The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Tyrone Borough Council was held on Monday, October 10, 2022 @ 7:00PM at the Tyrone Borough Municipal Building, 1100 Logan Avenue, Tyrone, PA. Pastor Randy Zitterbart, Hillside Community Church, gave the Invocation and Mayor Latchford led the group in the Pledge of the Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jen Powell, Tyrone- Snyder Public Library

Ms. Powell was present to review the Library's Annual Report. She provided a copy of the report for Council. She reviewed an extensive list of services and programs the library provides. The library will be implementing a program called Veteran's Voice soon, all geared toward the needs of our Veterans. Ms. Powell advised the library's annual budget from July 2021-June 2022 was \$140,235; the services they provided totaled \$346,930. Ms. Powell asked Council to consider increasing their yearly donation to the library.

Deb Moore, 5th Street

Mrs. Moore was present to address Council about the dilapidated buildings and seemingly abandoned vehicles around Tyrone Borough. Mrs. Moore passed around a poster board of pictures that her and her husband had recently taken. Mrs. Moore asked Council what their vision was for the future of Tyrone.

Trina Illig, Grant Coordinator, Blair County CDBG

Mrs. Illig was present seeking Council's approval for FY2022 CDBG Application; authorizing the Cooperative Agreement with Blair County to administer the Borough's CDBG program and to review the 3-year development plan.

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Mrs. Illig updated Council on the progress of the demolition of 822-824 Washington Avenue. Since this structure is on the Borough's Historical registry and we are using federal monies to demolish it, there is a lot more paperwork and people involved. This process was started in March, and they are hoping to have it down by the end of the year. Mrs. Illig must prove, to the State, that it is an imminent danger to the public and not financially feasible to repair. The estimated cost of rehab/repair to this structure is one million dollars. A meeting was recently held at this location to discuss the demolition. Those in attendance were a structural engineer, Borough representatives, concerned neighbors and a representative of the neighboring Church and CDBG representatives. The Borough will dictate what happens with this property because it is historical. Once the structure is down, the Borough needs to decide how to fill in the void it will cause from Washington Avenue to Garden Alley. Council wishes to see grass planted. The Borough will also be required to place signage at this location noting that it is a historical district. Mrs. Illig provided some examples of signage. Council preferred the "Historic District" sign to be placed on top of the Borough's current street signs.

Mrs. Illig also advised that since Tyrone has 18 applicants on their CDBG Housing Rehab list, and since the cost for a rehab has increased from \$25,000 to \$80,000 per unit, they are applying for additional funds for Tyrone at this time. With the Borough receiving approximately \$109,000/calendar year, that allows for only one house to be done/year.

There was no further public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded the Minutes of the September 12, 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 September 30, 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

Appointment of 1st Alternate Delegate – Blair County Tax Collection Committee

The Tyrone Area School District serves as the Borough’s Delegate for the Blair County Tax Collection Committee and has for many years. Due to the current lack of attendance, the BCTC has suggested that the Borough’s Finance Director, Shannon Wilson be appointed as first delegate for this committee. This would solve any quorum issues for the committee. If Council is in agreement, a Resolution is under the Solicitor’s report.

Transfer of Borough Funds to PA Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT)

The Borough’s interest rate for PLGIT in the month of September was 2.61%; the rate at Reliance was 1.14%. Borough Manager Latchford proposed transferring \$9 million to gain additional investment income. In the event we need to transfer money back to operations, this can be done in 1 business day. It was moved and seconded that Council approve said transfer. Council unanimously approved said motion. Council member William Wisser left the meeting early.

Increase To Fire Company Contributions

As Council will recall, at last month’s meeting Neptune Assistant Chief Chris Cherry presented Council with a proposal for an incentive program in hopes to gain more interest in volunteer firefighters. Mr. Cherry stated that in 1970 Pennsylvania had 300,000 volunteer firefighters; in 2021 that number had dwindled to 38,000. Council requested Mr. Cherry provide something in writing. Council was provided with a copy of Mr. Cherry’s proposal. Mr. Cherry was requesting \$10,000 from the Borough to implement this program.

After doing some research we found that the last significant increase for the fire companies was in January 2009. Borough Manager Latchford proposed an increase in the monthly allotment to Neptune Fire Company and Blazing Arrow Hook and Ladder (taking them to a \$4,000/month contribution). It was also noted that the Borough does carry insurance on the fire apparatus and worker’s comp insurance. It was moved and seconded the Council approve this increase in the 2023 Budget process. Council member William Wisser left the meeting early, Council unanimously approved said motion.

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PENNDOT Road Repairs

In reference to ongoing complaints regarding the condition of 11th Street and PA Avenue, coming into town. The Borough reached out to PennDOT in December of last year and several times since then. We are happy to advise that PennDOT has contracted with Grannas Bros. to complete this work. Per Tom Prestash of PennDOT, this work should commence the week of October 24.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION:

- Fall Leaf Pickup will run every Monday thru November 28
- Trick or Treat – October 27, 6-8pm
- Halloween Parade – October 29 @ 2pm
- Trunk or Treat – October 29, 4-7pm at Reservoir Park

Councilmember Patterson inquired as to Mrs. Catich's requests from last month's meeting regarding excessive flooding at her property on Oak Street during major rain events. Borough Manager Latchford advised they have done a band-aid repair to get thru until Spring and will do a full repair at that time.

Borough Manager Latchford also advised the fencing for Reservoir Park has been tied up due to not being able to get the materials.

Councilmember Hunter inquired as to the condition of Hunter Alley. Highway Superintendent Jim Bywater will look at this area.

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

Resolution No. 2022-06 – FY2022 CDBG Application Submission

It was moved and seconded that Council approve Resolution No. 2202-06, approving submission of the Borough's FY2022 CDBG Application. Council unanimously approved said motion.

Resolution No. 2022-07 – PA Act 57 of 2022 – Amending Tax Collection Law

It was moved and seconded that Council approve Resolution No. 2022-07, approving an amendment to the tax collection law. This law is to waive late fees if tax bill is not received by taxpayer. Council unanimously approved said motion.

Resolution No. 2022-08 – Verizon Right of Way – Underground Utilities

It was moved and seconded that Council approve a right-of-way request received from Verizon for underground utilities along E. 10th Street. Council unanimously approved said motion.

Resolution No. 2022-09 – Appointment of Delegate as BCTC Alternate

It was moved and seconded that the Borough's Finance Director Shannon Wilson be appointed as a delegate to the Blair County Tax Collection Committee. This request came from the BCTC to prevent a lack of a quorum. Council unanimously approved said motion.

CONSULTING ENGINEER: Council was in receipt of Rettew's Engineering Report.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: Council was in receipt of Mr. Frazell's report. Mr. Frazell presented Council with a proposal for the Borough doing Commercial Building Inspections in the downtown. Mr. Frazell's proposal is to do this once per year, and non-residential rentals at this time. Councilmember Hunter would like to see residential and commercial inspections. Council member Patterson stated he has a problem going into private homes. Borough Manager Ardean Latchford suggested starting with commercial inspections only. Councilmember Poust suggested a \$50 fee for inspections. Council member Snyder inquired as to the recourse if they refuse inspections. It was noted that the City of Altoona withholds their rental license until the inspection is done. Everyone agreed to starting this program in January 2023.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Council was in receipt of Chief Walk's report. Chief Walk was in receipt of a request for a private handicap parking space at 1353 Bald Eagle Avenue. This has been reviewed by the police department and they are recommending approval of this request. It was moved and seconded that Council approve this private handicap parking space. 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.

Council was in receipt of a request at their September meeting for stop sign intersections at Lincoln Avenue and 17 and 18th Street to slow or deter traffic for the

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MAG Industries building. Highway Department Superintendent Jim Bywater conducted a traffic study, and the current intersections meet all parameters for sight distance, speed, etc. This request was denied by Council based on Mr. Bywater's traffic study. Mr. Bywater did suggest other types of signage such as loading/unloading zones.

EMA Director

EMA Director Jay Young reminded Council again about taking their NIMS training. Mr. Young also advised of traffic not slowing down or pulling over for emergency vehicles. Mr. Young asked Borough Council to consider making Lincoln Avenue one way from 10th to 14th Streets. Council was not initially in favor of this and would like more information. Mayor Latchford advised that Mr. Young's concerns are all covered under State law.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Council member Poust inquired about a complaint Council received via email from m Noelle Hand regarding a parking ticket she received while she was working with a student in Caterpillar Day Care. Council was advised that Caterpillar Day Care leases 2 or 3 spots from the Borough and suggested since she only there for a short duration that she access one of their leased spots. Council member Snyder was asked about digital parking meters that he had mentioned several meetings ago and he advised they are cost prohibitive for what the Borough charges.

The Meeting Adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ardean C. Latchford/kdg
Borough Manager