

**TYRONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 13, 2021 @ 7:00PM**

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The Regular Monthly Council Meeting of the Tyrone Borough Council was held on Monday, September 13, 2021 @ 7:00PM at the Tyrone Borough Municipal Building, 1100 Logan Avenue, Tyrone, PA. Pastor Eric Feather, Tyrone Church of the Brethren, 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, Sarah Jane Miller, Tammy Wills, David Snyder, Charlie Mills, William Wiser and Mayor Latchford. Absent: Council member Ken Patterson. Also, present were Borough Manager Ardean Latchford; Solicitor Dan Stants; Interim Chief of Police Jessica Walk; Sewer Superintendent Jason Harris; Water Superintendent Mike Ashcroft; Highway Superintendent Jim Bywater; Consulting Engineer Kevin Nester; and Administrative Assistant Kimberly Gurekovich.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded the Minutes of the August 9, 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 August 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

PENSION PLANS 2022 MMO's – UNIFORM AND NON-UNIFORM

Council was in receipt of 2022 MMO's for both Uniform and Non-Uniform employees. Each year by the end of September municipalities are required to report the Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for their pension plans. The 2022 MMO for the Uniform Plan is \$141,236 and the 2022 MMO for the Non-Uniform Plan is \$154,518. It was moved and seconded that Council approve the 2022 MMOs. Council unanimously approved said motion.

CDBG – ALLOCATION OF 2021 FUNDING

Trina Illig, Grant Coordinator for Blair County was present at the meeting to discuss the Borough's 2021 CDBG Allocation. Mrs. Illig advised the Borough currently has 13 individuals on the waitlist for housing rehabilitation. Mrs. Illig has not received any other requests and suggests the Borough's 2021 allocation be used for housing rehab. The Borough's allocated

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funds are \$89,621. It was moved and seconded that Council approve the 2021 CDBG Allocation for housing rehab. Council unanimously approved said motion.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUSLY DENIED PRIVATE HANDICAP REQUEST – WATTERS

At the August 9 Council meeting, Borough Council was in receipt of a request for a private handicap parking space from Mr. Wendell Watters. At the time of the meeting Mr. Watters had off street parking available to him thus the request was not approved. Since that meeting, Mr. Watters appealed the decision and provided the Borough with confirmation of eligibility. It is our recommendation that Council reverse their decision and grant this request. It was moved and seconded that Council approve this request. Council unanimously approved said motion.

K-9 KENNEL & HVAC SYSTEM

Council may recall that the Borough received a grant in the amount of \$10,000 from Operation Our Town. This grant was specific for the Borough's K-9 Unit. Council was provided an estimate for a kennel and HVAC unit in the amount of \$10,997.74. This particular unit was recommended by the K9 trainer and will be kept at Officer Winters' private residence. It was moved and seconded that Council approve the use of the grant funds for the kennel; approve the additional expense of \$997.74; and approve the K9 Kennel Agreement as presented to Borough Council. Council unanimously approved said motion.

DISCUSSION – BIOSOLIDS AGREEMENT WITH UNIVERSITY JOINT AUTHORITY

In response to GHD's recent *Energy and Sludge Evaluation Study*, Council was provided with a potential agreement with University Joint Authority for disposal of the Borough's sludge. It was moved and seconded that Council approve the Agreement with the University Joint Authority. Borough Manager Latchford noted this will answer the Borough's landfill issues as well, as Council may recall the Borough's landfill charges doubled at the last contract. Council unanimously approved said motion.

ISO RATING/COMMERCIAL FIRE CODE INSPECTIONS

Earlier this year, Borough Council discussed Commercial Fire Code Inspections. Last week the Borough held a conference call with Dale Broyles, of ISO (Insurance Services Office) ISO conducts the Borough's risk public protection classification survey. Given that their latest survey indicated the Borough went from a rating of 4 to a 6 on their Community Risk Reduction Rating (the lower number the better) the idea of Commercial Fire Code Inspections has resurfaced. It was the consensus of Council for the Borough Manager and Code Enforcement to move forward with a program to do such inspections. Councilmember Snyder stated he was not in favor of going into residential housing; however, if there are residential units in or above a commercial unit, those residential units would be subject to the inspections.

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APPROVAL FOR GYPSY MOTH SPRAYING – RESERVOIR PARK

At the August 9 meeting of Borough Council, Council agreed to seek bids for spraying Reservoir Park. Three telephonic bids were sought. It was moved and forwarded that Council approve Tallman Aerial Spraying in the amount of \$17,172. Council unanimously approved said motion.

DISCUSSION/APPROVAL – APPOINTMENT OF JESSICA WALK AS CHIEF OF POLICE

Jessica Walk has filled in as Interim Chief of Police since John Romeo resigned in December, 2020. Appointment of Jessica as the full time Chief of Police was presented to Council for discussion. It was moved and seconded that Council appoint Jessica Walk as the Chief of Police. Council unanimously approved said motion. Attorney Stants will present an Ordinance under his report appointing Jessica Walk as the Chief of Police.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Faith Day – September 12, 2021, and has been moved to DelGrosso's Park
- Community Yard Sale – September 18, 2021
- Fall Cleanup – September 21-22-23
- Trick or Treat – October 28, 6-8pm
- Halloween Parade – October 30 @ 4pm
- Trunk or Treat – October 30, 6-8pm at Reservoir Park

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

Proposed Ordinance No. 1454 – Appointment of Chief of Police

It was moved and seconded that Council approve Ordinance No. 1454, appointing Jessica Walk as the Tyrone Borough Chief of Police. Council unanimously approved said motion.

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

Application for Payment #10, Contract 1

Council was in receipt of Application for Payment #10 of Contract 1 in the amount of \$375,848.48. Mr. Nester advised that Glenn Johnston has also requested a reduction in the retainage from 10% to 5%. Council inquired as to why reduce it at all. Mr. Nester advised the contract calls for a reduction in retainage at a certain point and the Borough certainly wouldn't want to hold more than it would cost to finish the project. This AFP has been reviewed by the Engineer and they recommend payment. It was moved and seconded that Council approve said motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Council members Wills, Miller, Snyder, Dollar, Mills and Mayor Latchford. Nays: Council member Wisner. The motion carried.

It was then moved and seconded to reduce the retainage to \$295,000. Per GHD, this amount

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represents the estimate of the remaining work per the unit prices, a 20% contingency, and an estimate of the additional engineering to prepare plans and specifications, bid and award a contract, and to administer the contract, should Glenn Johnston not complete the project. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Council members Miller, Snyder, Sollar, Mills, Wills and Mayor Latchford. Nays: Council member Wisler. The motion carried.

Application for Payment #8, Contract 2

Council was in receipt of Application for Payment #8 of Contract 2 in the amount of \$ 34,211.87. This AFP has been reviewed by GHD and they recommend payment. It was moved and seconded that Council approve AFP #8, Council unanimously approved said motion.

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

Council inquired to the status of 822-824 Washington Avenue. The Demolition Order was issued, the new owners appealed to the Borough Manager, that appeal was denied. Due to this property having recent new owners, it negated our prior demo order. The new owners have been in contact with the Borough.

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

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:

Mayor Latchford inquired as to the time frame for getting the river area under the bridges cleaned up along Park Avenue to help negate flooding issues. Borough Manager Latchford advised they are waiting for the water to recede. The weather has not cooperated with this effort.

The Meeting Adjourned at 7:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ardean C. Latchford/kdg
Borough Manager