

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

**FEBRUARY 9, 2015 @ 7:00PM**

=====

The Regular Monthly Council Meeting of the Tyrone Borough Council was held on Monday, February 9, 2015 @ 7:00PM at the Tyrone Borough Municipal Building, 1100 Logan Avenue, Tyrone, PA. Mayor Fink led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Fink called the meeting to order and requested roll call. Present: Council members Christy Ray, Ray Detwiler, Mark Black, Courtney Rhoades, Terry Richardson, William Latchford, and Mayor Fink. Absent: Councilmember Mark Kosoglow. Also present were Borough Manager Phyllis Garhart; Director of Administration Brandi Miller; Solicitor Daniel Stants; Sewer Superintendent Tim Nulton; Highway Superintendent Jim Bywater; Chief of Police John Romeo; Consulting Engineer Kevin Nester; Code Enforcement Officer Patrick Rabits; and Administrative Assistant Kimberly Gurekovich.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mayor announced Council held an Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss personnel and real estate.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Mr. William Welsh, 1605 Hillside Court**

Mr. Welsh was in attendance at the meeting to voice his concern over dirt bikes in his neighborhood. Mr. Welsh is also concerned with the spring weather coming that this noise will increase. Chief advised they have dealt with this incident. The practice of the police department has been to give one warning and the next visit gets a citation. The parents of one of the kids advised Chief that the dirt bike had been sold. Mr. Welsh also voiced his concern over the age and safety of the kids riding these dirt bikes. Councilmember Latchford advised they could be cited under the noise ordinance.

There was no further public comment.

**Minutes-Regular Council Meeting  
Tyrone Borough Council – February 9, 2015  
Page Two (2)**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded the Minutes of the January 9, 2015 Borough 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 January 31, 2015 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**

**Insurance Renewals**

Council was presented with information regarding insurance renewal rates for the period of March 14, 2015 to March 14, 2016. The Borough will see a net savings of \$5,261, which includes a reduction in Property Liability and a slight increase in the Volunteer Fire Insurance Premiums. It was moved and seconded that Council approve said renewal. Council unanimously approved said motion.

**Park Avenue Drainage Improvements**

Borough representatives recently met with PennDOT to discuss the Park Avenue Drainage Improvement Project. Mrs. Garhart advised Council that the Borough's Liquid Fuels funds cannot be used for this project as originally discussed. Mrs. Garhart also advised that after reviewing the 2015 Grant Application for Low Volume Roads, it appears the Borough does not qualify because we do not have anyone certified and Penn State does not offer classes until after the deadline. After some discussion by Council, it was moved and seconded that Council pull the \$67,500 from the Highway Capital Construction budget to cover this cost. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Council members Latchford, Detwiler, Rhoades, Black, Ray and Mayor Fink. Nays: Council member Richardson. The motion carried.

**Ratify Procurement of Electric Rates**

It was moved and seconded that Council ratify the Borough Manager's action of securing electric rates for the next 24-30 months. Quotes were received from Constellation New Energy and were included in the Borough Manager's Report. The

**Minutes-Regular Council Meeting  
Tyrone Borough Council – February 9, 2015  
Page Three (3)**

Borough will see a substantial saving by locking in the renewing rates for all Borough accounts. Council unanimously approved said ratification.

Council unanimously approved said motion.

**Purchase of Surveillance Cameras**

It was moved and seconded that Council approve the purchase of three surveillance cameras for the police department (including the entrance, hallway and employee parking lot) and first floor of Borough building. Council unanimously approved said motion.

**Engineering Services – 10<sup>th</sup> Street Lots – Rain Garden**

Some years ago, several lots (located along 10<sup>th</sup> Street) were donated to the Borough by the Patt family of Hollidaysburg with the condition that it was used for public park purposes and dedicated to Morris and Bess Levine, longtime residents and business owners in Tyrone. Blair County Soil Conservation District Representative Beth Futrick contacted the Borough in December inquiring about the Borough's interest in a Rain Garden. Mrs. Futrick advised the Conservation District has grant funds available for construction of a Rain Garden and after some discussion the 10<sup>th</sup> Street lots were suggested. Additional suggestions for this area are kayak/canoe launch, resurfacing of the parking area and additional landscaping. Mrs. Futrick advised she would reach out to other partners to secure additional funding for these items.

Council member Rhoades suggested speaking to Todd Lewis and the Garden Club for their input as well. Council Member Ray suggested the name of the park to be the "Morris and Bess Levine Memorial Park"

Additional workshops are also being scheduled to educate individuals on the same.

The Conservation District is asking the Borough for the followings: Labor and equipment time to install the rain garden, regrade the parking lot and if funded installing additional landscaping, survey work for the design from the Borough's engineer (cost to be borne by the District).

It was moved and seconded that Council approve the quote for engineering services in the amount of \$7,500. Council unanimously approved said motion.

**Minutes-Regular Council Meeting  
Tyrone Borough Council – February 9, 2015  
Page Four (4)**

**Appointment of Personnel Committee**

Borough Manager Phyllis Garhart advised that a Personnel Committee was being formed and requested volunteers of Council to serve on said committee. Council members Christy Ray, Courtney Rhoades and Terry Richardson volunteered to serve on this Committee. As this was not on the Agenda, Mayor Fink called for public comment. There being none, said action was moved and seconded. Council unanimously approved said motion.

**SOLICITOR'S RERORT:** Solicitor Stants presented the following for Borough Council:

**Ordinance No. 1362 – Private Handicap Parking Space – 1308 Logan Ave**

It was moved and seconded that Council approve a private handicap parking space for Mr. Ed Laird at 1308 Logan Avenue. Council unanimously approved said motion.

**Resolution No. 2015-01 – Destruction of Contaminated Property**

It was moved and seconded that Council approve Resolution No. 2015-01, authorizing destruction of contaminated items, a list of which is attached to said Resolution. Council unanimously approved said motion.

**Resolution No. 2015-02 – Destruction of Old/Valueless Equipment**

It was moved and seconded that Council approve Resolution No. 2015-02, authorizing destruction of old and valueless equipment, a list of which is attached to said Resolution. Council unanimously approved said motion.

**CONSULTING ENGINEER:** Council was in receipt of Mr. Nester's report.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:** Council was in receipt of Mr. Rabits' report. Mr. Rabits advised that citations have been submitted for sidewalks and also explained this does not necessarily get the Borough compliance. Mr. Rabits advised the County will be improving the access to Judge Miller's office and the Village Pantry location. Also, Mr. Rabits noted that Council was in receipt of correspondence from Mr. Kilmartin regarding the property beside the Joshua House. Mr. Rabits has witnessed no infestation, however he is checking with the Structural Engineer of GHD to review the structural stability of the building. Mr. Rabits also noted that citations have been issued in the

**Minutes-Regular Council Meeting  
Tyrone Borough Council – February 9, 2015  
Page Five (5)**

past. Councilmember Ray suggested citing the property owner again.

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

Chief requested the purchase of additional weapons and accessories. These items were included in the 2015 Budget. It was moved and seconded that Council approve said purchase. Council unanimously approved said motion.

Chief advised Council of a "Cops in Shops" program they will be participating in. Police officers spend time in and around local pharmacies looking for suspicious activity. The program is being funded by Operation Our Town with cooperation from the PA Attorney General's office.

Chief advised Council of a strong armed robbery that occurred at Citizen's Bank in the Borough. The assailant had stolen a truck and handgun from Warriors Mark, held up an individual while obtaining money at the ATM then eluded police, and wrecked the truck in Allegheny Township.

Chief thanked Council for the improvements to the downstairs.

**SEWER DEPARTMENT:** Council was in receipt of Mr. Nulton's monthly report. Mr. Nulton advised the sale of nutrient credits is not in demand.

**WATER DEPARTMENT:** Council was in receipt of Mr. Latchford's monthly report.

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:** Council was in receipt of Mr. Bywater's monthly report.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

Mayor Fink read a prepared statement regarding recent bashing on Facebook regarding the Borough. Mayor encouraged all citizens if you have a complaint, contact the Borough offices and see what can be done rather than airing it on social media.

**Increase of Sewer Rates**

Mayor Fink asked Mrs. Garhart to advise Council of the upcoming sewer increase. Mrs. Garhart advised Council that a recent Cost of Service Study (COS) has been completed and a rate increase across the board was eminent. The rate increase will take effect with the February billing and will increase the average residential customer's sewer bill that uses 4,000 gallons per month by 16%. This increase is distorted due to adjusting the usage that is applied to the minimum charge from 3,000 gallons per month

**Minutes-Regular Council Meeting  
Tyrone Borough Council – February 9, 2015  
Page Six (6)**

(quarterly billing) to 1,000 gallons per month to reflect an actual monthly billing. The increase for the minimum charge increased by .71 cents and each increment increased by .47 cents. Now that the monthly minimum charge only includes 1,000 gallons, residents will start paying for the additional 2,000 gallons that was previously included in the prior minimum (quarterly usage). Therefore all customers will realize an increase of \$8.88 (4.44 for 2,000 gallons).

GHD prepared the current Cost of Service (COS) for the Authority to ensure that everyone is paying their fair share for the cost of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This is extremely important as we have a number of industries (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Class) that discharge a large volume flow, BOD and SS in addition to the residential (1<sup>st</sup> Class) flow that is sent to this facility. The COS also ensures that resident's rates are not subsidizing the industries that are serviced by the Borough. The last COS was started in 2005 and took 5 years to implement with a timetable to revisit every three years. As costs are always increasing, this practice will need to change to an annual report to insure that rates are adequate should DEP/EPA implement mandatory changes (testing etc.) to this facility. By addressing rates on an annual basis any increase that would be necessary would be addressed appropriately

While Council was not happy hearing this, they requested that a member of the Authority be at the next Council meeting to address the concerns and questions of residents/business people affected by this.

Mrs. Garhart advised that she has a meeting scheduled for February 10<sup>th</sup> with *The Daily Herald* to discuss this in further detail so that an article can be run in the local newspaper.

The Meeting Adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phyllis J. Garhart/kdg  
Borough Manager