

Council Meeting  
December 6, 2021

Turtle Creek Borough regular monthly Council Meeting, held on December 6, 2021, was called to order by President Nick Bianchi who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:**

President Bianchi – present	Mr. Osman -- present
Mr. Estocin – present	Mr. Spencer – present
Ms. Henkel – present	Mrs. Tinsley -- present
Mr. Nolan – present	Mayor Kelley – present
Solicitor – present	

President Bianchi turned the meeting over to Mayor Kelley. Mayor Kelley swore in the new Part Time Police Officer Ross Becher.

**Approval of the November minutes:**

**Motion**

Ms. Henkel, Mr. Osman approving the November 2021 minutes as submitted. Motion carried.

**Correspondence:**

Resolution 703-21 of the Borough of Turtle Creek authorizes the execution of the Cable Franchise Agreement between the Borough and Comcast of Pennsylvania.

**Motion**

Mr. Spencer, Mr. Estocin authorizing Resolution 703-21, the execution of the Franchise Agreement with Comcast. Motion carried.

**Citizens Reports:** none

**Committee Reports:**

President Bianchi – stated that each year, the Borough solicits proposals for the Tax Anticipation Note. Two banks submitted proposals:

- S&T Bank
- 1<sup>st</sup> Commonwealth

**Motion**

Mr. Nolan, Ms Henkel authorizing the execution of the Tax Anticipation Note with S&T Bank at 2.75% term December 31, 2022, in the amount of \$225,000. Giving Julie Pantalone, Borough Administrator authorization to sign all loan documents. Motion carried.

Last month the Borough applied, through Community Development, year 48, a number of structures for demolition. We had to have a resolution approving the demolition and slums and blight. We made the submission of the application and now are asking to ratify the action taken in the approval of slums and blight for the CD 48 application.

**Motion**

Mr. Spencer, Mrs. Tinsley ratifying the action taken in the approval of slums and blight for the CD 48 application. Motion carried.

Last week we met with our Police Committee and exchanged proposals. We agreed to meet in 2 weeks. President Bianchi asked Julie to send a memo to the Police Committee asking the status of our proposal, and also, if they chose to counter our proposal. He asked that they have it before they meet in 2 weeks.

President Bianchi stated that they are working on the 2022 Budget. December 27, 2021 is the Final Budget approval.

President Bianchi stated that they are striving to hire 2 Full-Time Police Officers with this budget. That will bring us to 6 Full-Time Officers. It is the intent of Council to be able to hire in February at the very latest.

Ms. Henkel – none

Mr. Estocin –none

Mr. Nolan – none

Mr. Osman – stated that Santa will be around town on the Fire Truck on Saturday December 18, beginning around 9am. President Bianchi asked if the Street Department was ready for snow. Mr. Osman stated that they were prepared.

President Bianchi stated that Penn-Dot comes in annually and inspects our bridges and we have a situation on Maple Avenue. There is a difference in elevation of a sidewalk. Proposals were solicited and the lowest responsible bidder, DePasquale, came in at \$12,258.

### **Motion**

Mr. Estocin, Mr. Osman awarding the Maple Avenue sidewalk repairs to DePasquale Brothers, in the amount of \$12,258.  
Motion carried.

Mrs. Tinsley – stated that she attended the CONNECT Fundraiser, and it was nice to meet people in the surrounding Communities who are participating, on a more social level. She will continue to attend meetings and share the information, but will encourage more Council members to get involved with this program.

Mr. Spencer – stated that he would like to make the motion to hire Part-Time Police Officer Ross Becher.

### **Motion**

Mr. Spencer, Ms. Henkel ratifying the action taken by the Police Committee, in the hiring of Part-Time Police Officer Ross Becher, retroactive to December 5, 2021 at the rate of \$19.32/hour. Motion carried.

Mr. Spencer stated that they need to make a revision to the Minimal Municipal Obligation Uniform Pension Plan. They must amend this to \$116,659.

### **Motion**

Mr. Spencer, Mr. Nolan amending the September authorization to the MMO Uniform Pension Plan to \$116,659. Motion carried.  
\*This is 100% funded by the Borough.

President Bianchi – stated that before Mayor Kelley gave her report, he wanted to speak. He stated that people are sometimes quick to criticize and comment, but until you walk in our shoes, you don't realize that it is not an easy job. Kelley's family has been involved in this community for many, many years, and Kelley stepped up to run for Mayor 8 years ago. I commend her for the job she has done. I know she has said many times that she doesn't always make people happy, and you never can, but you do what is best for this Community, and she does. She has been an absolute great Public Servant and we look forward to continuing to work with her in the future. On behalf of this Council and the Borough of Turtle Creek, thank you for your time and effort. We greatly appreciate it.

### **Police and Public Safety:**

#### **Mayor Kelley:**

Mayor Kelley read the Chiefs reports for November 2021

#### **Chiefs Report for October 2021:**

- Total Incidents 334
- Total Lock-Ups 3
- Traffic 29
- Suspicious Persons 10

- Theft 6
- Stolen Vehicles & Gun 1
- Wanted persons 4
- Domestic violence 30
- Overdose 1
- Properties cited 7

Mayor Kelley stated that she wished there were more people at the meeting so she could thank everyone. She stated that it was an honor to serve the 2 terms that she was elected to. This was a job that she felt she could contribute to in some way, and maybe changes some minds, especially surrounding substance abuse disorder. It is something she is passionate about and she really wanted to try to change how Communities and Law Enforcement responded to people struggling with mental health issues and substance use. She feels strongly that she has done that here. She stated that she could not be more proud of the Police Department. They have all gotten to know each other and they got to see things from each others side. She appreciates it more than they will ever know. She is happy to have Chief McCaul as the Chief and is confident that he will continue to run a Department that people want to come and work for. This is a hard job, but she is grateful that she did it.

Mr. Osman – stated that he wanted to thank Mayor Kelley. She was the first female Mayor, which is a great thing, but that is not what she is all about. He stated that she was here for the people, not for herself. She cares about everybody, which reflects back on her mother and father who have put many years into serving this Community. Mr. Osman thanked her for caring about the people and not just telling people she was the Mayor. He stated that she never told people that. He stated that he watched her grow up and she really made “our” family proud.

Mrs. Tinsley – stated that she wants the Police Officers to know Mayor Kelley’s devotion to them, and how truly proud she is of them. She stated that she sees what they deal with on a daily basis and she sees, through your work, that you truly care about people.  
Thank you Mayor Kelley.

President Bianchi – stated that he speaks a lot about the Borough family. We have all given up in our own families to be a part of this family. “Kelley, I want to thank you and tell you that I am proud that you have been a part of our family. Keep doing what you do, because you are doing it for all the right reasons.”  
At this time, President Bianchi asked for a standing ovation for all of the time and effort that she has put forth.

Solicitor – none

**Old Business:**

- Ratifying payment of the November 2021 bills

**Motion**

Ms. Henkel, Mr. Spencer ratifying the action taken by the Borough Administrator in the payment of the November 2021 bills in the amount of \$296,270.20. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

- December 13, 2021 at 7pm – Tentative Budget Meeting
- December 27, 2021 at 7pm – Final Approval of 2022 Budget

**Motion**

Mrs. Tinsley, Mr. Spencer adjourning until the next meeting on Monday January 3, 2022 at 7pm. Motion carried.

Recorded by: Kera Rocco