

Council Meeting
February 4, 2021

Turtle Creek Borough regular monthly Council meeting held on February 4, 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 via phone	

Approval of the January minutes:

Motion

Ms. Henkel, Mr. Spencer approving the January 2021 regular meeting minutes as submitted. Motion carried.

Correspondence: none

Citizens Reports:

Beth Hamil – resident of 1413 Maple Avenue

- Thanked Council for the lights on the stop signs
- Thanked the Street Department for salting the roads during the snow
- Stated that the garbage cans were overflowing at the apartment building at 415 Mercer Street
- Stated that there is a lot of activity in Rose Alley at night and it shines light into her dining room

President Bianchi asked the Borough Administrator to call waste management about the dumpster size for the apartments and get their recommendation, and go from there.

Cathy Welsh – resident of Lynn Avenue stated that there are risks in our community and; gun violence, theft, etc. She wanted to know where the programs were for these children at risk. She stated that while the Borough has been shut down, she will do work on their own.

President Bianchi stated that it is important that they meet with the Mayor and the Crime Watch Group.

Mayor Kelley stated that they had done many of these things but can get no community volunteers to help.

Committee Reports:

President Bianchi stated that we have a concurring resolution that calls for the application of a CITF grant in the amount of \$150,000 for the repair and reconstruction of Maple Avenue which we had received bids on. Due to the pandemic, there have been delays to this work.

We would like to re-bid the project to include James Street from Monroeville to the County Line.

Motion

Mr. Spencer, Ms. Henkel approving the motion to reject those bids that were submitted and received by COG, and propose an alternative bid which will include James Street from Monroeville to the County line. Motion carried.

Very soon we will have to negotiate our cable contract with Comcast. We use a Law Firm for those negotiations since it is a cooperative effort among a number of the municipalities that are members of the Turtle Creek Council of Governments. It's hard to come up with an exact amount until the negotiations take place.

Motion

Mr. Spencer, Mrs. Tinsley agreeing to enter into an engagement letter with the Law Firm for Comcast audit and renewal negotiations and that COG come back with an amount that council would be responsible for, based on the number of municipalities that participate. Motion carried.

Q: Mr. Osman asked if we were bound to this contract.

President Bianchi stated that, as the Solicitor stated, it is an engagement letter, not a binding letter.

The Borough requested the Civil Service Commission to provide a test for new full-time Officers. We are currently looking at some opportunities to allow the Borough to hire 2 full-time Officers instead of 1, but have staggering start dates.

Motion

Mr. Estocin, Ms. Henkel approving the motion that allows the Police Committee and Council to hire two full-time Police Officers with staggering start dates, and that the action be ratified at the March Meeting. Motion carried.

Ms. Henkel – none

Mr. Estocin – stated that the Street Department did a great job.

Mr. Nolan – none

Mr. Osman – none

Mrs. Tinsley – none

Mr. Spencer – stated that handicap parking spaces come up for renewal every 5 years. There was one up for renewal, an application was sent out with no response. Therefore, the Committee recommends the handicap parking space in the vicinity of 1212 Center Avenue be removed.

Motion

Mr. Spencer, Mr. Osman approving the recommendation to remove the handicap parking space from the vicinity of 1212 Center Avenue. Motion carried.

Police and Public Safety:

Mayor Kelley –

Mayor Kelley read the Chiefs reports for January 2021

Chiefs Report for January 2021:

- Total Incidents 496
- Total Lock-Ups 13
- Traffic 69
- Suspicious Persons 22
- Theft 22
- Stolen Vehicles & Gun 3
- Wanted persons 6
- Domestic 33
- Overdose 4

Mayor Kelley thanked Cathy Welsh for the information she brought forth and asked her to please let her know if she came up with any volunteers.

Cathy stated that she knew how to gather people, and they will show up.

Chief Kraer stated that the car break-ins are not just a Turtle Creek issue. There is a Facebook page where a group decided where to go and hit cars.

Mayor Kelley stated that they use the Savvy Citizen App to get information out and suggested they all get it.

Solicitor – none

Old Business:

- Ratifying payment of the January 2021 bills.

Motion

Ms. Henkel, Mr. Spencer ratifying the action taken by the Borough Administrator in the payment of the January 2021 bills in the amount of \$941,416.89. Motion carried.

New Business: none**Motion**

Mr. Osman, Mr. Nolan adjourning until the next meeting on Monday March 1, 2021. Motion carried.

Recorded by: Kera Rocco