

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of February on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Tamaqua Municipal Building, 320 East Broad Street, Tamaqua, PA.

Present were Councilmembers Ronald Bowman, Thomas Cara, R. Daniel Evans, Mary Linkevich, Ritchie Linkhorst and David Mace. Councilman Brian Connely joined later in the meeting via cell phone. Officials present were Chief of Police Richard Weaver, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Assistant Borough Secretary/Treasurer Amy Macalush and Director of Community Development Ann Marie Calabrese. Mayor Nathan Gerace participated in the meeting via a video call. Solicitor Michael S. Greek arrived later in the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by President Mace. The invocation was given by Councilman Cara followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Linkhorst. The roll was called with six councilmembers present and one absent.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on February 6, 2018 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Evans, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Solicitor Greek arrived at approximately 7:08 p.m.

Under Special Business, Chief of Police Richard Weaver presented awards to six officers in recognition of their service. The awards were presented as follows: Corporal Dwayne Hacker was awarded the Honorable Service and Community Service medals; Corporal Henry Woods was awarded the Police Commendation and Distinguished Service medals; Patrolman Michael Hobbs was awarded the Honorable Service and Community Service medals; Patrolman Anthony Stanell was awarded the Police Commendation and Good Conduct medals; Patrolman Thomas Rodgers was awarded the Police Commendation and Good Conduct medals; and Patrolman Rick Bekesy was awarded the Police Commendation, Good Conduct and Life Saving medals.

President Mace commended all of the officers for their service.

President Mace stated that Mayor Nathan Gerace was joining the meeting via a video call from San Diego.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the following: bids were advertised for the sale of 216 Penn Street and will be publicly opened and read on March 2, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.; bids for the pool bathhouse renovations will be received online via the PennBid (Pennsylvania's Electronic Document & Bid Management) Program until March 2, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.; Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for years 2014 and 2015 will be used for street resurfacing; he and Public Works Director Rob Jones are looking to use Liquid Fuels funds for street resurfacing and will have a list of suggestions for consideration at a future meeting.

Manager Steigerwalt stated that this is the time of year to start advertising for part-time summer help. A recommendation was made to advertise for part-time summer help for 2018. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt provided an update on the Penn State Facilities Engineering Institute (PSFEI) and COSTARS electricity procurement program and stated that all required information was submitted, but that it may take awhile to get results.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that he, Public Works Director Jones, and Assistant Borough Secretary/Treasurer Macalush met with a representative of Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT) to discuss a Procurement Card (P-Card) Program for the borough, and that he will be meeting with the Finance Committee to discuss the program.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the 2017 Act 205 Report Actuarial Valuation Report for the Tamaqua Borough Police Pension Plan and the Non-Uniformed Employee Pension Plan.

Manager Steigerwalt requested an executive session prior to adjournment to discuss real estate and personnel matters.

Under the Borough Manager's report, President Mace asked for an update on the smoke test in the South Ward. Manager Steigerwalt stated that the test will most likely be scheduled for March or April.

Director of Community Development Calabrese reported that there is still an advertisement on MAGIC 105.5 radio station for a vendor to operate the Pool Concession Stand for the 2018 pool season and to let her know when to pull it.

Director of Community Development Calabrese also requested permission to attend the 2018 Pennsylvania CD&H Practitioners Annual Conference at the Nittany Lion Inn, State College, PA from March 26-27, 2018 at a cost of \$362.66 and to attend a class on Writing Effective Grant Proposals hosted by the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) on March 15, 2018 in Harrisburg, PA at a cost of \$100.00. A recommendation was made to grant permission for Director of Community Development Calabrese to attend the 2018 Pennsylvania CD&H Practitioners Annual Conference at the Nittany Lion Inn, State College, PA from March 26-27, 2018 at a cost of \$362.66 and to reimburse expenses for mileage and meals according to the County of Schuylkill Personnel Policy and Procedure for reimbursement of expenses for mileage, meals, travel and lodging. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved. A recommendation was made to grant permission for Director of Community Development Calabrese to attend a class on Writing Effective Grant Proposals hosted by the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) on March 15, 2018 in Harrisburg, PA at a cost of \$100.00. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 316 Market Street. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkhorst, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 317 Penn Street. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkhorst, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 609 Arlington Street. There was no one from the floor

wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkhorst, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Councilman Linkhorst noted that a handicapped parking sign was removed from 203 Market Street.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve the season and daily pass fees for the H.D. Buehler Memorial Pool for the 2018 season. It was noted that the fees are the same as last year. Councilman Evans questioned how long the reduced rates have been offered and expressed concern regarding how funds would be sourced as the pool is aging and may be in need of extensive repairs and upgrades in the near future. President Mace stated that the first year of the Morgan Foundation grant was in 2004 and the season pass was free; from the second year on the season pass was \$10.00, and although pool operating expenses are covered by the grant, large expense items are not. Councilman Evans stated that a feasibility study would help to understand what improvements need to be made. Councilwoman Linkevich stated that a feasibility study would provide concrete answers as to the long term life of the pool and those results can be shared with the funder. Councilwoman Linkevich also stated that discounted pool passes for the Panther Valley residents would be discussed. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

The pool rates for 2018 are as follows:

	<u>SEASON PASS</u>
TAMAQUA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT RESIDENTS	\$ 10.00 per person
OUTSIDE OF TAMAQUA SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$ 100.00 per person
TEMPORARY GUEST PASS	\$ 20.00 per person per week
(Visitors staying with season pass holders)	(2 weeks maximum)
	<u>DAILY PASS</u>
TAMAQUA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT RESIDENTS	
Monday thru Friday (6 years and older)	\$ 5.00 per person
Saturday and Sunday (6 years and older)	\$ 6.00 per person
Pre-school (under 6 years old)	\$ 1.00 per person
OUTSIDE OF TAMAQUA SCHOOL DISTRICT	
Monday thru Friday (6 years and older)	\$ 15.00 per person
Saturday and Sunday (6 years and older)	\$ 20.00 per person
Pre-school (under 6 years old)	\$ 1.00 per person

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to open the pool on Friday, June 1, 2018 and to close the pool on Sunday, August 26, 2018. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to advertise for part-time lifeguards, pool clerks and assistant pool managers for the 2018 season. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Adrian Bumbulsky as pool manager for the 2018 season at a pay rate of \$15.00 per hour. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Chairperson Linkevich of the Recreation and Youth Committee, stated that a meeting would be held on Friday, February 23rd at 10:00 a.m regarding tree planting at the Bungalow.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, Councilman Evans stated that a letter was received from a resident on August 8, 2017 that he would be passing on to Councilwoman Linkevich to review and determine whether or not any action is warranted.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Stephen Bekesy as a part-time patrolman. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Evans, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Street Light Committee report, President Mace stated that a meeting with the consultant working on the upgrade of the streetlights from high pressure sodium (HPS) to light-emitting diode (LED) fixtures is scheduled for Wednesday, February 28th at 6:30 p.m. President Mace noted that a packet is with the PUC for consideration and the project is progressing.

Mayor Gerace reported that all is going well and that he is spending a lot of time with the Police Department.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Joan Love of Green Street expressed her concerns about the following; increases in garbage and sewer rates, especially for those on a fixed income; garbage rate is the same for single family as it is for multifamily; setting garbage and sewer fees based on usage; and potholes on Spruce Street behind Boyer's Food Market. President Mace stated that the sewer rate is not set by usage but by processing costs and then divided among users, and that the fees are determined by the Tamaqua Sewer Authority. President Mace also explained that there are no plans to go with a per bag system for garbage as it would be difficult to administer and people would find other places to put trash, which would likely cause more illegal dumping. Manager Steigerwalt stated he would look into the pothole issue on Spruce Street behind Boyer's.

With no one else wishing to address council, the meeting was closed to the floor.

A recommendation was made to accept and file the various reports of borough officials. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to pay all properly approved bills and claims against the borough. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Cara, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to hold an executive session to discuss real estate and personnel matters. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 7:45 p.m. while council met in executive session.

Councilman Brian Connely joined the executive session via cell phone at approximately 7:55 p.m. to approximately 9:01 p.m.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 9:01 p.m.

President Mace announced that an executive session was held to discuss real estate and personnel matters.

A recommendation was made to name Corporal Henry Woods as Officer in Charge of the Tamaqua Police Department effective March 1, 2018, unless the more senior ranking officer elects to serve in that capacity. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Evans, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made by Linkevich and seconded by Evans to approve the purchase of 241 Lafayette Street, tax parcel #65-11-120, from a Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau Repository sale. After some discussion on the property, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to approve the purchase of 241 Lafayette Street, tax parcel #65-11-120, from a Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau Repository sale contingent upon a lien search on the property. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Evans, and unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:05 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Amy Macalush, Assistant Borough Secretary/Treasurer