

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of January on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 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, Brian Connely, Mary Linkevich, Ritchie Linkhorst and David Mace. Officials present were Mayor Nathan Gerace, Chief of Police Henry Woods, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Solicitor Michael S. Greek, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire and Director of Community Development Ann Marie Calabrese.

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 Bowman. The roll was called with all councilmembers present.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on December 18, 2018 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Cara, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Joseph Catizone Jr., Mayor of the Borough of Girardville, requesting the assistance of the Fire Police to participate as part of their traffic control for the annual St. Patrick's Day parade on March 30, 2019. A recommendation was made to authorize the Fire Police, if available, to assist the Borough of Girardville for the annual St. Patrick's Day parade. 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.

Communication was received from David Yusella of 316 Mountain Avenue requesting two No Parking signs be placed directly across the street from his garage on the south side of Mountain Avenue. A recommendation was made to refer the matter to the Parking and Traffic Committee. 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.

Communication was received from Abviud Carvajal stating that he is resigning from his position as a part-time police officer with the Tamaqua Police Department. A recommendation was made to accept the resignation of Abviud Carvajal. 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.

Communication was received from Christian DeAngelo stating that he is resigning from his position as a full-time police officer with the Tamaqua Police Department and that his last physical day of work will be January 3, 2019. Mr. DeAngelo is requesting that he be paid out in full for his accumulated sick days, personal days, vacation days and compensatory hours which would determine his end date. A recommendation was made to accept the resignation of Christian DeAngelo. 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.

Communication was received from Jeremy Sborz stating that he is resigning from his position as a full-time police officer with the Tamaqua Police Department. Mr. Sborz stated that he accepted a position with the Schuylkill County Sheriff's Office effective February 3, 2019 but

would like to use his accumulated sick days before leaving and would like to be paid in full with the remaining days he earned with an effective ending date being February 28, 2019. Mr. Sborz also stated that he would like to remain a member of the police department by continuing to serve Tamaqua as a part-time patrolman. A recommendation was made to accept the resignation of Jeremy Sborz. There was some discussion about this matter. 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 reported on the following: gave an update on the Street Light Replacement Project; the Schuylkill County Commissioners are planning to award a bid for the demolition project at 241 Lafayette Street at their meeting on January 30th; the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) bathroom upgrades at the Municipal Building; and Solicitor Greek prepared draft ordinances increasing penalties for delinquent sewer and garbage bills. There was some discussion about the assessment of penalties, a flat rate penalty versus a penalty based on a percentage, the draft ordinances are for review and a recommendation to assess a penalty based on a percentage. Manager Steigerwalt also reported that the Street Department is collecting Christmas trees until the end of January, as time permits.

Director of Community Development Calabrese reported that the Community Development Block Grant end of year reports are done.

Chief Woods reported that the new police vehicle has arrived.

Chief Woods requested an executive session prior to adjournment to discuss personnel matters.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Michael Weaver as a full-time police officer to replace Officer Christian DeAngelo effective immediately. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Connely, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Corey Herring as a full-time police officer to replace Officer Jeremy Sborz effective February 3, 2019. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Connely, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Jeremy Sborz as a part-time police officer effective February 3, 2019. After some discussion, the motion and second were amended as follows: a recommendation was made to hire Jeremy Sborz as a part-time police officer effective March 3, 2019. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Connely, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve Officer Rodgers to attend taser training on April 18th and 19th at a cost of \$495.00. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Connely, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, Officer Michael Weaver and Officer Corey Herring were sworn in by Mayor Gerace.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 101 Coal 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.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to advertise an ordinance making Cottage Avenue one-way westbound from South Railroad Street to Memorial Avenue. Council recognized Thomas Schlorf of 223 Orwigsburg Street who expressed his concerns about the placement of a dumpster on a borough street and that it may be illegal. There was much discussion about this matter. There was no one else 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.

Chairwoman Linkevich of the Recreation and Youth Committee reported that she had a resolution accepting a \$60,000.00 grant from the John E. Morgan Foundation Inc. for pool operating expenses to present for council's consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-1
RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL, TAMAQUA, PENNSYLVANIA
REGARDING GRANTS FROM THE JOHN E MORGAN FOUNDATION, INC.

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution. 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 Connely, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Gerace reported that he met with the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee to discuss blighted properties.

Mayor Gerace also reported that he is starting a new group in Tamaqua called THRIVE (Tamaqua Has Residents Invested in a Vibrant Environment). The first meeting would be held on February 12th at 6:30 p.m. at the Tamaqua Borough Hall.

Mayor Gerace also reported that another Tamaqua Police Department Coffee with a Cop event would be held on February 23rd at 9:00 a.m. at Hope and Coffee located at 137 Pine Street.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

With no one 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 Cara, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under Unfinished Business, Councilman Connely stated that he had a resolution appointing Robert Amentler as a member of the Borough Council to fill the unexpired term of R. Daniel Evans to present for council's consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-2
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA,
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
TO FILL A VACANCY OF A MEMBER OF COUNCIL

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution. Councilwoman Linkevich stated that she was in favor of another candidate who expressed an interest in serving on council. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Connely, seconded by Bowman, and approved by a 4-2 roll call vote with Councilmembers Cara and Linkevich opposed.

Solicitor Michael Greek administered the Oath of Office to Robert Amentler.

President Mace stated that the committee assignments would remain the same with Councilman Amentler serving in the positions that Mr. Evans had occupied.

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.

Under New Business, Mayor Gerace stated that residents have expressed their concerns regarding water runoff in the area of the 600 block of Mountain Avenue.

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

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 7:51 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:10 p.m.

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

A recommendation was made to promote Michael Hobbs and Thomas Rodgers to the rank of Corporal effective immediately. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Connely, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:13 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer