

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of February on Tuesday, February 6, 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, R. Daniel Evans, Mary Linkevich, Ritchie Linkhorst and David Mace. Absent were Councilmembers Thomas Cara and Brian Connely. Officials present were Mayor Nathan Gerace, Public Works Director Robert Jones, 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 President Mace followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Evans. The roll was called with five councilmembers present and two absent.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on January 16, 2018 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Evans, seconded by Linkevich, 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 24, 2018. 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 Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Jeanette Major, manager, requesting permission to place No Parking signs in front of the Christopher Columbus Society for a cancer benefit event on February 23rd and 24th for Jaime Napolitano. There was some discussion about clarifying the time for the event. 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.

Under the Borough Manager's report, Public Works Director Jones reported on the 2018 Municipal/County Emergency Operations Plan Update. Public Works Director Jones reported that he had a resolution and promulgation statement to officially approve the Basic Plan, which supersedes all previous plans, to present for council's consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-4
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE
BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, COUNTY OF SCHUYLKILL, COMMONWEALTH
OF PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING AN EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN.
IT SUPERCEDES ALL PREVIOUS PLANS.

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

Under the Borough Manager's report, a motion was made by Linkevich and seconded by Bowman, to advertise for bids for the bathhouse renovation project. After some discussion about Alfred Benesch and Company advertising for bids by using the Pennsylvania's Electronic Document & Bid Management Program (PennBid), an online bidding process, and notifying the public that

bids are available on PennBid, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to advertise for bids for the bathhouse renovation project on PennBid and to place a notice in the newspaper that bids for the project are being accepted on PennBid. There was some discussion about the following: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds; a list of renovations; a March bid opening; and the project should tentatively be completed by the end of May. 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.

Public Works Director Jones also reported that the current Refuse and Recyclable Materials Collection Contract with County Waste expires at the end of June and that a minimum notice of sixty-days must be given to County Waste. A recommendation was made to approve a one-year extension of the Refuse and Recyclable Materials Collection Contract with County Waste with a rate increase adjustment using the Consumer Price Index as required in the contract. 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.

Public Works Director Jones also reported on the following: the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) is still reviewing the submission for the Street Light Project and the borough is waiting for PUC approval; and the West Broad Street Wabash Tunnel Replacement Project detour map has been posted on the borough's website and Facebook page.

Director of Community Development Calabrese reported on the following: Tamaqua Community Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ) Authority inquiries; a more efficient and easier way to report rehabilitation loans; a meeting with Councilman Evans to discuss the rehabilitation loan program; posting program updates on Facebook and other social media; and revising the rules for the housing and rehabilitation program; and advertising the availability of the sidewalk program. There was some discussion about these matters.

Chairperson Linkevich of the Recreation and Youth Committee reported on the following: an open house event hosted by the Tamaqua Area Chamber of Commerce at the Owl Creek Reservoir on May 19th; a TreeVitalize Grant; the H.D. Buehler Memorial Pool Feasibility Study; and a committee meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to advertise for a vendor to operate the Pool Concession Stand for the 2018 pool 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.

Chairman Evans of the Street Light Committee reported on a COSTARS Energy Procurement Program. A recommendation was made to participate in a COSTARS Electricity Procurement Program at the expiration of the current electricity contract. 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 Evans, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to allow two Fire Chiefs to attend the Fire Department Instructor Conference (FDIC) training as budgeted. 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 Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve the transfer of ownership of Chief Weaver's duty weapon from the borough's ownership to Chief Weaver. 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.

Mayor Gerace distributed a copy of an estimate for window film installation for two police vehicles from Black Diamond Tint of New Ringgold, PA at a cost of \$723.00. The benefits of window film include personal protection of officers and devices inside the vehicles. There was some discussion about the tinting, pricing and if Black Diamond Tint is a COSTARS vendor. A recommendation was made to refer the matter to the Building and Equipment Committee to review. Solicitor Greek recommended contacting the borough's insurance carrier to see if window tinting would comply with the borough's insurance policies. 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.

Mayor Gerace stated that he would be video calling from San Diego at the next council meeting.

Mayor Gerace requested an executive session prior to adjournment to discuss personnel matters.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Lenore Rutman of 100 Orwigsburg Street discussed her continuing issues with George Geissinger as follows: she contacted the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regarding the idling of Mr. Geissinger's commercial vehicle in a residential area; the truck is left running in front of her house and the fumes from the truck go into her home and has set off her CO2 monitor; the No Parking Here to Corner sign installed by the borough did not help the situation; deliberate actions and threats by Mr. Geissinger; and she presented a video clip showing the exhaust coming from his truck. Ms. Rutman's brother, David Stankovic, also expressed his concerns about this matter. President Mace asked Mayor Gerace to look into what police enforcement has taken place regarding this matter. Ms. Rutman talked about her discussions with a DEP representative. Ms. Rutman stated that she never gets a response from the Tamaqua Police when she does call. Mayor Gerace gave Ms. Rutman the Schuylkill County non-emergency telephone number along with his telephone number to call when these situations with Mr. Geissinger occur. There was much discussion about this matter.

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

Solicitor Greek reported that he prepared a draft ordinance renaming the section of South Nescopec Street between Broad Street and Cottage Avenue as requested by the Tamaqua Remembers Committee. Solicitor Greek asked if a street name has been determined. President Mace stated that Memorial Avenue was suggested by the committee. A recommendation was made to advertise an ordinance renaming a section of South Nescopec Street between Broad Street and Cottage Avenue where there are no addresses and a large retaining wall to Memorial Avenue.

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.

Solicitor Greek commented on Pennsylvania's Diesel-Powered Motor Vehicle Idling Act (Act 124 of 2008), enforcement issues and a vehicle engaged in commerce. Solicitor Greek would look into the matter.

Under Unfinished Business, Councilman Evans discussed a 2017 Schuylkill County Demolition Program bid summary that includes the demolition of 252 West Cottage Avenue. The bids were not awarded yet.

Under New Business, Councilman Evans discussed a spreadsheet listing faded fire hydrants in the borough. There was some discussion about the following: painting the hydrants; using community service people to do the painting; and creating an Adopt-A-Hydrant program.

Under New Business, Councilman Evans discussed a spreadsheet listing faded stop signs. There was some discussion about this matter.

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 Bowman, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 8:06 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 9:11 p.m.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:11 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