

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of March on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 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, R. Daniel Evans, Micah Gursky and David Mace. Absent was Councilmember Kerry Lasky. Officials present were Mayor Christian Morrison, Chief of Police Richard Weaver, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Solicitor Michael S. Greek and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire.

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 Connely. The roll was called with six councilmembers present and one absent.

The reading of the minutes of the last Regular Council Meeting held on March 1, 2016 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Cara, seconded by Connely, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Donna Gerber, service chairman of Preceptor Alpha Upsilon Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, requesting permission to hold a community Easter Egg Hunt at the Bungalow Park from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on March 19, 2016. A recommendation was made to grant the request. 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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Project Engineer James S. Tohill, P.E. and Project Manager Jennifer M. Kowalonek, P.E., LEEP AP, GGP of Alfred Benesch and Company stating that the Borough of Tamaqua may be interested in a comprehensive watershed study which involves both the Mill Creek and the Schuylkill River because the borough is located in the watershed and contributes flow to one or more of these streams. The communication is inviting the Borough of Tamaqua to a roundtable meeting on April 20, 2016 at 6 p.m. at the Port Carbon Borough Hall.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the following: the Refuse and Recyclable Materials Collection Contract expires at the end of May; the street sweeper is now running; a Town Hall Meeting to discuss Heroin, A Rural Epidemic to be held on March 30, 2016 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Tamaqua Middle School Auditorium; and there have been no jammed parking meters since Chief Weaver started the new policy effective March 1, 2016.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a four-year lease agreement with Community Leasing Partners for a 2016 Ford SUV Police Vehicle with annual payments of \$10,969.83. There was some discussion about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Connely, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to erect a 24 foot by 24 foot standalone commercial pavilion to the rear of the structure at 300 East Broad Street for Clyde Bachert of Hang Loose. There was some discussion about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Cara, seconded by Gursky, and unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District report, Chairman Cara discussed a Historical Architectural Review Commission application from M&S Hardware of 20 South Railroad 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 2016 season. It was noted that the fees are the same as last year. 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.

The pool rates for 2016 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 (Visitors staying with season pass holders)	\$ 20.00 per person per week (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 May 28, 2016 at 11:30 a.m. and to close the pool on August 28, 2016. 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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a three-year Lease Agreement with Salute LLC of 300 East Broad Street, Tamaqua, for the Pool Concession Stand. 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 Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve an amendment to the Public Access Agreement with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission for the Owl Creek Reservoir property. 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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to provide a letter to the Schuylkill River National Heritage Area in support of bringing their Bike Share Program to Tamaqua working with local partner Rich Stianche of DnA Bikes. 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 Gursky, and unanimously approved.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Kathy McGeehan of 122 Washington Street expressed her concerns about the location of a neighbor’s smoker grill and it being a fire hazard; and a jeep that is parked on the street that has been broken down for months. Chief Weaver would look into these matters.

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

Solicitor Greek requested an executive session to discuss legal matters prior to adjournment.

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 Connely, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under Unfinished Business, there was much discussion about the 13 South Lehigh Street property. The discussion included, but was not limited to, the following: the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) consultant and Schuylkill County expressed their concerns about using CDBG funds for demolition; the county is requiring an engineering study and plan for the shoring up of the adjacent property to be completed before approving the funding; the demolition was approved by the Historical Architectural Review Commission (HARC) but the borough is waiting for a mitigation agreement from the state; a listing of county approved engineering firms; a structural assessment; CDBG funds allocated for demolition; Karen Parish, CDBG consultant for Schuylkill County offered to meet with council; Requests for Proposals for demolition and stabilization; the purchase of 216 Penn Street with the intent to demolish; the cost to demolish 13 South Lehigh Street; Barry Isett and Associates, Inc. (BIA) performed a site visit and structural assessment summary; shoring up the adjacent property at 15 South Lehigh Street; and the cost of shoring up the adjacent property might exceed the current property value. Councilman Connely requested an executive session to discuss real estate matters prior to adjournment.

Under Unfinished Business, a recommendation was made to accept a proposal from Alfred Benesch and Company in the amount of \$47,000 for the design, permitting and construction administration for the Wabash Culvert Repair Project. There was some discussion about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Gursky, seconded by Cara, 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 Gursky, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, Councilman Connely expressed his concerns about the borough's code enforcement company, Barry Isett and Associates (BIA). Councilman Connely stated that he has been getting complaints about code enforcement, delays in their processing of paperwork, and unanswered phone calls. There was much discussion about this matter. President Mace assigned Micah Gursky, Thomas Cara and Brian Connely to an ad-hoc committee of council to meet with BIA to discuss code enforcement issues.

A recommendation was made to hold an executive session to discuss personnel, real estate and legal 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 7:59 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:35 p.m.

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

A recommendation was made to retain the employment of Timothy Ziegler. 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 Gursky, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to ask Barry Isett and Associates for an incremental cost for the demolition of 13 South Lehigh Street and the shoring up of 15 South Lehigh Street and if the incremental cost (engineering and construction) is \$30,000 or less, then to go ahead and prepare the specifications. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Gursky, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Evans and seconded by Cara to prepare a Request for Proposal for the demolition of borough owned property in the 200 block of Penn Street and to utilize 2014 Community Development Block Grant funds for the demolition. After some discussion, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to advertise for bids for the demolition of borough owned property in the 200 block of Penn Street and to utilize 2014 Community Development Block Grant funds for the demolition. 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

There was some discussion about PPL Electric Utilities Corporation regarding the streetlights, and also the West Broad Street Bridge project.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m. on motion of Connely, seconded by Bowman, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer