

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of March on Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Tamaqua Municipal Building, 320 East Broad Street, Tamaqua, PA.

Present were Councilmembers Thomas Cara, Brian Connely, R. Daniel Evans, Micah Gursky, Kerry Lasky and Justin Startzel. Absent was Councilmember David Mace. Officials present were Mayor Christian Morrison, Chief of Police Richard Weaver, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Solicitor Michael S. Greek, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire and Fire Chief Thomas Hartz.

The meeting was called to order by President Gursky. The invocation was given by Councilman Cara followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Startzel. 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 3, 2015 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Connely, seconded by Startzel, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Antoinette Allesch, president of Salute, LLC of 300 East Broad Street, expressing an interest in operating the Tamaqua Swimming Pool Concession Stand for the 2015 season. A recommendation was made to refer the matter to the Recreation and Youth Committee. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Startzel, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under Special Business, President Gursky introduced Leona Rega, Tamaqua Art Center and Safety Initiative Coordinator. Ms. Rega distributed a handout and discussed the Dear Tamaqua: "Tamaqua in a New Light" vision for a transformative community event that would be held on August 4, 2015 in conjunction with National Night Out. Ms. Rega asked for support from Borough Council, the fire companies, the fire police, the Tamaqua Police Department, local businesses and residents. There was some discussion about this matter. President Gursky referred the proposed walking path for the event to the Parking and Traffic Committee.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the bid results for the 2015 Demolition Project. The CDBG funds budgeted for demolition is approximately \$99,000 and the funds are not enough to do all of the projects.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that the Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau has notified the borough that a bid was received from Bruce W. Ebert of Andreas, PA for the repository sale of a property at 160 West Spruce Street. This property is listed as a demolition project. There was some discussion about this matter.

A recommendation was made to award the contract for the demolition of 160, 162 and 162 ½ West Spruce Street to the lowest bidder, Northeast Industrial Service Corporation of 507 North Shamokin Street, Shamokin, PA, at a cost of \$48,800.00. 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 Startzel, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to disapprove the Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau Repository Sale to Bruce W. Ebert of Andreas, PA for tax parcel #65-16-0036.000, 160 West Spruce Street. 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to award the contract for the demolition of 133 and 135 Gay Street to the lowest bidder, Northeast Industrial Service Corporation of 507 North Shamokin Street, Shamokin, PA, at a cost of \$28,970.00. 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 Startzel, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to award the contract for the demolition of 216 Pitt Street to the lowest bidder, SDL Construction LLC of 325 Eisenhower Drive, Orwigsburg, PA, at a cost of \$22,890.00. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Mace, seconded by Connely, and unanimously approved.

Under the Borough Manager's report, a motion was made by Connely, and seconded by Startzel to publish the list of names of those who received Quality of Life citations/violations on a monthly basis in the Times News newspaper. Council recognized Andy Leibenguth of 429 Rear Mauch Chunk Street who asked how often it would be published. After some discussion about publishing the list twice a week instead of monthly, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to publish the list of names of those who received Quality of Life citations/violations twice a week in the Times News newspaper. There was no one else from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Connely, seconded by Startzel, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that the Refuse and Recyclable Materials Collection Contract expires at the end of May. In 2011, the borough awarded a three-year contract to Tamaqua Transfer and extended the contract for one year. Manager Steigerwalt discussed a second, one-year extension of the contract with a rate increase adjustment using the Consumer Price Index. A recommendation was made to approve a second, one-year extension of the Refuse and Recyclable Materials Collection Contract with Tamaqua Transfer and Recycling Company with a rate increase adjustment using the Consumer Price Index as required in the contract. Council recognized Andy Leibenguth who asked what is considered a bulky item. There was some discussion about these matters. There was no one else from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Cara, seconded by Startzel, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that the borough's insurance agent, The Seltzer Group, suggested obtaining appraisals of all borough buildings. A recommendation was made to have MIB, Inc. of Harrisburg, PA perform a Segregated Cost Analysis of the Borough of Tamaqua at a cost of \$5,570.00. 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 Cara, seconded by Startzel, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt asked for clarification on the reimbursement of health care copayment differences for employees. President Gursky stated that the borough is contractually obligated to reimburse the UAW employees but not the non-union office staff; but all of the employees should be treated equally. A recommendation was made to reimburse the UAW employees and non-union

office staff for the difference in the health care copayments from 2014 to 2015 and excludes reimbursements to retirees. 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 Startzel, and unanimously approved.

Chief Weaver reported that two part-time police officers would be leaving the department for full-time employment positions elsewhere. Chief Weaver asked council to consider advertising for part-time police officers. A recommendation was made to advertise for part-time police officers. Council recognized Andy Leibenguth who asked about the number of part-time police officers. There was some 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 Connely, seconded by Startzel, and unanimously approved.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to advertise an ordinance establishing minimum qualifications for assistant fire chiefs. 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 Connely, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve an agreement with Schuylkill County for one mobile radio and four portable radios for the ladder truck. 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 Connely, seconded by Evans, and unanimously approved.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a Police Department Standard Operating Procedure for Body-Work Cameras. There was some discussion about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Connely, seconded by Startzel, and unanimously approved.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve an agreement with the North Central Highway Safety Network Inc. for a Buckle Up PA Project grant. 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 Startzel, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for Joseph Smith of 27 East Elm Street. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Lasky, seconded by Evans, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a motion was made by Cara, and seconded by Startzel, to remove three parking spaces on East Broad Street at the intersection of Greenwood and East Broad streets to create a left turning lane onto South Greenwood Street. There was much discussion about this matter. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The motion failed on a 3-4 roll call vote with Councilmembers Cara, Connely and Startzel voting in favor and Councilmembers Evans, Lasky and Gursky opposed and Mayor Morrison casting the tie-breaking vote in opposition of the motion.

Chairman Evans of the Building and Equipment Committee reported on the following: the account balance in the building and equipment fund is approximately \$100,000; the tax rate for

building and equipment purposes is one mill, which is approximately \$70,000 that would be added to the account in 2015; a \$12,400 obligation for the second of three payments due for the police vehicle; an offer from the water authority to the borough to purchase its 2003 backhoe for approximately \$12,000; and trading in the Street Department's 1993 backhoe. A recommendation was made to approve the purchase of a 2003 backhoe from the Tamaqua Area Water Authority at a cost of \$12,000 and to trade in the Street Department's 1993 backhoe. 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 Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Chairman Evans of the Building and Equipment Committee also reported on the following: the 2000 Case wheel loader is out of service and needs extensive repairs; the 1993 GMC dump truck would probably fail the next inspection; replacing the dump truck with a 2016 Ford F550 at a cost of approximately \$80,000; and financing options. There was much discussion about these matters.

A motion was made by Evans to purchase a dump truck and wheel loader at a cost of approximately \$250,000 from funds designated from the Equipment Fund and to have Manager Steigerwalt execute some credit agreements. After some the discussion the motion was seconded by Connely. After more discussion about this matter, the motion and second were amended as follows: a recommendation was made to purchase a 2016 Ford F550 dump truck at a cost of approximately \$80,000 and a wheel loader at a cost of approximately \$170,000 for a total cost of approximately \$250,000 from funds designated from the Equipment Fund and to approve financing option one which is a ten-year term with an annual payment of \$29,734.64 from Community Leasing Partners. 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 Connely, and unanimously approved.

Mayor Morrison reported that Girl Scout Gold Award recipient Rachael Paisley would be honored at the Girl Scout in the Heart of Pennsylvania's Gold Award Ceremony on June 20, 2015. Mayor Morrison stated that Ms. Paisley was presented with a Certificate of Achievement for the completion of her Girl Scout Gold Award at the council meeting of October 21, 2014.

Mayor Morrison requested an executive session to discuss personnel issues prior to adjournment.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Scott Hampton of 135 West Cottage Avenue expressed his concerns about traffic and vehicles traveling on West Cottage Avenue. Mr. Hampton requested that West Cottage Avenue be made a one-way street from South Railroad Street to Nescopec Street. Mayor Morrison addressed his concerns and asked that the matter be referred to the Parking and Traffic Committee.

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 Connely, seconded by Startzel, 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 Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, President Gursky discussed a notification received from the Department of Revenue stating that any business located in the City Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ) must file all tax reports electronically through the Department of Revenue.

Councilman Mace arrived at approximately 8:55 p.m.

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 Startzel, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 8:55 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 9:05 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer