

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of March on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 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, Kerry Lasky and David Mace. 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 President Mace. The roll was called with all councilmembers present.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on March 7, 2017 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.

Under Special Business, President Mace recognized the Tamaqua Area High School Raider Marching Band for their performance in the Magic Kingdom Parade at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida on February 16, 2017. Attending the meeting were band director Mark Beltz, and executive board members George Hegedus, Sara Miller, Emma Dillman and Carson Schoener. Certificates of Achievement would be presented to the following band members:

**CLASS OF 2017**

Jenny Beck  
Hannah Betz  
Melissa Boerner  
Kendra Boyle  
Abigail Brickler  
James Bynon  
Emma Dillman  
Page Eltringham  
Allie Gerber  
Damon Gulick  
George C. Hegedus, IV  
Alissa Hollenbach  
Sarah Miller  
Michaela Noftz  
Stephen Oravec  
Deidra Ressler  
Kyle Ruch  
Alysa Schappell  
Gavin P. Seip  
Monika Shimko  
Adam Shumgart

**CLASS OF 2018**

Rebecca Ansbach  
Danika Beers  
Alyssa Campomizzi  
Molly Clemson  
Kayla Clouser  
Jason Comisac-Nelson  
Antonetta Gerace  
Amy Hadesty  
Emma Hoch  
Jeff Letterhouse  
Haley Macalush  
Maddie Mace  
Brianna Morrison  
Hannah Murphy  
Tyrone Rarick  
Flo Rios  
Faith Roberts  
Megan Robertshaw  
Carson Schoener  
Robert Smith  
Nathan Steigerwalt  
Maizy Troxell  
McKayla Wall  
Lauren Wandzilak  
Madison Wickersham

**CLASS OF 2019**

Juliet Billig  
Alexis Breiner  
Maddy Carroll  
Brandi DeAngelo  
Ashley DeAngelo  
Hannah Kistler  
Sierra Klinger  
Airyanna Kowalski  
Takota Kromer  
Olivia Lattanzi  
Morgan Lusch  
Sarah Martinez  
Meghan McArdle  
Dylan Miller  
Jacob Rudy  
Nathan Shellhamer  
Melanie Shimko  
Elizabeth Stahl  
Shelly Valentine  
Holly Wagner  
Kayla Zamudio

**CLASS OF 2020**

Ashlei Arthurton  
Derek Bennett  
Catherine Circosta  
Sarah Frantz  
Dale Fredericks  
Bella Hamm  
Amber Kistler  
Madison Kohlmeir  
Hayley Leslie  
Salvatore Maganelli  
Sarah McCabe  
Sadie Morrison  
Nathaniel Noftz  
Jaclyn Ohl  
Gretchen Pucklavage  
Jocelyn Rega  
Jayden Rios  
Jaylen Smith  
Kipp Tonkin  
Alana Troxell  
Ethan Turrano  
Mackenzie Welker

**CLASS OF 2021**

Alexander Barron  
 Juliana Bowman  
 Zachary Campomizzi  
 Cheyenne Edmonds  
 Alexandra Frederick  
 Emily Frey  
 Jillian Hartranft  
 Elisah Hartranft  
 Rachel Hinkle  
 Jessica Hollenbach  
 Erica Imbody  
 Jessica Koscak  
 Brady Miller  
 Bryn Miller  
 Makenna Miller  
 Nastassia Orach  
 Angel Shiner  
 Caitlin Smith  
 Nick Wall  
 Nathaniel Zeigler

**CLASS OF 2022**

Calissa Blackwell  
 Derek DeAngelo  
 Benjamin Hehn  
 Alec Humes  
 Gabriel Fritz  
 Samantha Koch  
 DeAnna Kowalski  
 Laura Mace  
 Leah Mateyak  
 McKenna Meckes  
 Sabrina Pratt  
 Victoria Pratt  
 Kassia Radocha  
 Taylor Rodgers  
 Alexa Stianche  
 Sydney Woleslagle  
 Kallia Wall

**CLASS OF 2023**

Helen Florea  
 Alexxa Kowalski  
 Katie Miller  
 Ali Shiner

Manager Steigerwalt reported that snow removal efforts have gone well, the weather is cooperating and snow removal is planned through tomorrow.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the following: the garbage contractor was unable to pick up last week due to the weather; the normal pick up schedule resumed this week; and he asked residents to be patient as the pick-up may take longer than normal because they will be picking up two week’s worth of garbage and recycling. Councilwoman Lasky stated that the borough website and Facebook page were unique tools that did help get the word out to the community. Councilman Bowman stated that the phone messaging also made a difference. Councilman Bowman commended borough employee, Matthew Mateyak, who went beyond the scope of his work by going out on his own time to check the condition of the streets and to plan out work for snow removal. Manager Steigerwalt commended borough employee, Jay Stidham, who also did a good job and stated that all did well to plan out the work of snow removal.

Manager Steigerwalt stated that the one-year Refuse and Recyclable Materials Collection Contract with County Waste expires June 30, 2017. A recommendation was made to advertise for Requests For Proposals (RFP’s) for a Refuse and Recyclable Materials Collection 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 Cara, seconded by Gursky, and approved by a 4-3 roll call vote with Councilmembers Bowman, Connely and Evans opposed.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that a Community Development Block Grant Program Public Hearing was held prior to tonight’s meeting and he had three resolutions to present for council’s consideration.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that he had a resolution modifying the Community Development Block Grant Program for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 by using the funds designated for street reconstruction to reconstruct a retaining wall that supports Lincoln Street to present for council’s consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-6**  
**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA**  
**MODIFYING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM FOR**  
**FISCAL YEARS 2014 AND 2015**

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 Cara, seconded by Connely, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that he had a resolution revising the Community Development Block Grant Program for fiscal year 2013 by using the funds in the amount of \$59,862.00 budgeted for demolition and replacement of the women's bathhouse to renovate the men's and women's bathhouse and first aid station to present for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-7**  
**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA**  
**REVISING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM FOR**  
**FISCAL YEAR 2013**

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 Cara, seconded by Connely, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that he had a resolution to extend the contract period of the Community Development Block Grant Program for fiscal year 2013 for the Parks and Recreation Facilities Activity by one year to June 30, 2018 to allow additional time to complete the revised activity to present for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-8**  
**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA**  
**EXTENDING THE CONTRACT PERIOD OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**  
**BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013**

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 Cara, seconded by Gursky, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that a draft of the Borough of Tamaqua Employee Handbook was emailed to Councilmembers for review and input. Manager Steigerwalt stated that once the handbook is adopted, it would be distributed to employees and an employee handbook acknowledgment signature would be obtained. There was some discussion about this matter and council was directed to provide their comments to Manager Steigerwalt in a timely fashion.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District report, Councilman Gursky stated that the Tamaqua Area Community Partnership received a nice donation from Betty and Lowell Koch for improvements to the Depot Square Park. Councilman Gursky stated that the donation was made in memory of Betty's father, Charles Billig. The improvements planned are to redo the gardens and to install a golf-course style sprinkler system. Councilman Gursky stated that Graver Landscaping would be designing the landscaping and doing the installation work. Councilman Gursky described the scope of the work. A motion was made by Gursky and seconded by Lasky to approve the Depot Square Park improvements as presented by the Tamaqua Area Community Partnership. After some discussion, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to approve Depot Square Park improvements as presented by the Tamaqua Area Community Partnership and to send a letter thanking Betty and Lowell Koch for their donation. 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 Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a permanent handicapped parking space application for 305 Spruce 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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Building and Equipment Committee report, Councilman Bowman stated that the asphalt paver is listed on the invitation for bids for the sale of used equipment but does not have a minimum bid amount listed and that the asphalt roller was not listed on the invitation for bids. Manager Steigerwalt would check with Director of Community Development Linkevich about these matters.

Under the Building and Equipment Committee report, a motion was made by Bowman and seconded by Connely to purchase a used 2009 Wacker Neuson RD16-90 Roller machine at a sale price of \$13,900.00 from Medico Industries Inc. of Wilkes Barre, PA. After some discussion that included needing three quotes and the current threshold amount for the purchase of equipment, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to purchase a used 2009 Wacker Neuson RD16-90 Roller machine at a sale price of \$13,900.00 from Medico Industries Inc. of Wilkes Barre, PA contingent upon obtaining three quotes. 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 Connely, and unanimously approved.

Under the Street Light Project Committee report, Councilman Evans discussed the following: a meeting was held last Friday with PPL Key Account Manager Harry Devine II and PPL Distribution Design Supervisor Brendan Doty to discuss Phase 2 of the project; the utility make-ready work for the project; the project included one more light and the final count was 484 lights; the amount quoted by PPL for the utility make-ready work is \$294,549.00; an April-May-June timeframe for the PPL utility make-ready work; a Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) filing; and PPL's authorized list of contractors/vendors. A recommendation was made to move forward with Phase 2 of the Street Light Acquisition and LED (light-emitting diode) Upgrade Project and to authorize a payment to PPL in the amount of \$294,549.00 for the utility make-ready work. There was much discussion about the following: the customer make-ready work; a handbook/guideline book would be provided; additional costs; fifteen poles that are street light only poles with no other utilities on them; it would be an extra cost to purchase and maintain the fifteen poles that are street light only poles; and the invoice in the amount of \$294,549.00 from PPL will arrive shortly. 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. There was additional discussion about the project as follows: if the customer make-ready work could be completed simultaneously with the utility make-ready work; there is approximately 1,350 man hours involved with the work; using PPL's authorized list of contractors/vendors; two packages for RFP's, one for a customer make-ready work and another for a purchase price for the conversion; optimism that the project could be completed by the end of the year; and reaching out to Harry Devine to find out a cost for the customer make-ready work.

Mayor Morrison commended the borough staff for doing a great job handling Winter Storm Stella and that he is proud of everyone. Mayor Morrison also noted that he did not receive one phone call complaint.

Mayor Morrison also thanked the Koch Family for their donation for improvements to Depot Square Park.

Mayor Morrison presented a Proclamation designating the month of April 2017 as "Pennsylvania 811 Safe Digging Month". The Pennsylvania One Call System, a utility service information center celebrating its 45<sup>th</sup> year of continuous service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, is key to preventing injuries and damage when excavating.

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

The meeting was opened to the floor.

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

Solicitor Greek discussed a new civil service certified list. A recommendation was made to send a letter to the Tamaqua Civil Service Commission requesting a certified eligibility list for the hiring of police officers. 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 Lasky, and unanimously approved.

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.

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 Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, a recommendation was made to reimburse Director of Community Development Linkevich according to the County of Schuylkill Personnel Policy and Procedure for reimbursement of expenses for mileage, meals, travel and lodging. Ms. Linkevich is attending the 2017 Pennsylvania CD&H Practitioners Annual Conference at the Nittany Lion Inn, State College, PA from March 20-21, 2017 being sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and the Pennsylvania Association of Housing and Redevelopment Agencies. 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.

Under New Business, Councilwoman Lasky asked that the borough look into placing signs to clean-up after pets in certain areas of town. There was some discussion about this matter.

Under New Business, Councilman Cara mentioned that the Zoning Hearing Board is holding a public hearing on Monday for the application of New Life Assembly of God.

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 8:07 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:34 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 8:34 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Connely, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

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Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer