

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of April on Tuesday, April 17, 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, Brian Connely, R. Daniel Evans, Mary Linkevich, Ritchie Linkhorst and David Mace. Absent was Councilman Thomas Cara. Officials present were Mayor Nathan Gerace, Officer in Charge Corporal Dwayne Hacker, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Solicitor Michael S. Greek, Assistant Borough Secretary/Treasurer Amy Macalush and Director of Community Development Ann Marie Calabrese.

The meeting was called to order by President Mace. The invocation was given by Councilman Connely followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Evans. The roll was called with six councilmembers present and one absent.

The reading of the minutes of the last Regular Council Meeting held on April 3, 2018 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Connely, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Pastor Steven Gintz of Revive Community Fellowship requesting permission to use Tamaqua Borough Parks to hold free summer activities for the children of the town. The dates and times of the events would be as follows: June 18th to 21st, South Ward Playground, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; June 18th to 21st, Dutch Hill Playground, 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; June 25th to 28th, South Ward Playground, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; June 25th to 28th, Dutch Hill ball fields, 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; July 16th to 19th, South Ward Playground, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; July 18th and 19th, Dutch Hill ball fields, 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; August 6th to 9th, South Ward Playground, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; and August 6th to 9th, Dutch Hill Playground, 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. A recommendation was made to grant the request contingent upon the coordination of activities with both Playground and Baseball Association members to avoid any conflicts with other events that may be scheduled at the parks. 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 Pastor Steven Gintz of Revive Community Fellowship requesting permission to use the Tamaqua Borough Train Station lot on Tuesday, July 17, 2018, from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for a Community Family Fun night which would include food, games, crafts, snow cones and inflatable bounce houses. A recommendation was made to grant the request. 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 Alyssa Bushkie, Branch Executive Director of the Tamaqua YMCA, requesting permission to use the H.D. Buehler Memorial Pool every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. from June 11th through August 24th for their Summer Day Camp. The communication also requested permission to use the pool on Friday, June 8th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. A Certificate of Insurance listing the Borough of Tamaqua as Additional Insured was provided with the communication. A recommendation was made to grant the requests. 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 members of Brownie Troop 33013 stating that they have been learning the values of the Girl Scout Law and one of those values is to make the world a better place. The communication is requesting the borough's help with identifying a location for a community garden. The troop would work to raise the money necessary to get the garden started, and with the help of other stakeholders would ensure that the garden stays clean and in good repair. A recommendation was made to refer the request 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 Connely, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Christine Murphy Dowell of Coaldale expressing her concern regarding reports of gang activity starting in our area and would like to discuss ideas on deterring crime and mischief, and possibly reactivating a Crime Watch Group for Tamaqua and /or surrounding areas.

Council recognized Christine Murphy Dowell who expressed her concern regarding gang activity in the area that has recently been reported on social media. Ms. Murphy Dowell stated that although she lives in Coaldale, she does her business in Tamaqua, goes to the gym and to the library and has witnessed "gangs" of kids in the area. Ms. Murphy Dowell stated that she would like to see a Crime Watch Group put back into place and asked Council for some tips and advice on how to make that happen. President Mace stated that attempts have been made to start Community Watch Groups, but have unfortunately failed due to lack of interest and volunteers. President Mace also stated that the borough and/or police department would do whatever they could to help and suggested that Ms. Murphy Dowell speak with Mayor Gerace and Officer in Charge Cpl. Dwayne Hacker after the meeting to discuss a path going forward.

Communication was received from Lee Calkins, President of the Board of Trustees of the Southward Playground Association, thanking everyone involved for the load of mulch that was recently delivered to the playground. Mr. Calkins also stated that the light issue at the playground has been fixed.

Communication was received from Linda Marchalk, Trout Derby Chairperson of the Tamaqua Chamber of Commerce, requesting permission to use the Tamaqua Water Authority lot across the street from Lehigh Tire and the American Jeep Dealership on Saturday, April 28, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for registrations for the Trout Derby. A recommendation was made to grant the request. It was noted that the request is to use the Fire Training area and that the Fire Chiefs are in agreement with it. 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 unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on bid results for the Building Improvements for the Bungalow Park Bath House and Admission Building Rehabilitation Project. Contract 1 is the Building Improvements which consist of the roof replacement on both bath houses and the admissions building and the wall reinforcing to the women's bath house, and two bids were received for this project. Manager Steigerwalt stated that Alfred Benesch & Company is recommending that Contract 1 for the Building Improvements be awarded to the lowest bidder, Spotts Brothers, Inc. A recommendation was made to award Contract 1 for the Building Improvements for the Bungalow Park Bath House and Admission Building Rehabilitation Project to the lowest bidder, Spotts Brothers, Inc., in the amount of \$47,925.00. 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.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that the borough was notified by the Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau of bids that were received from Arthur H. Brenneman III of 9 Timothy Leo Court, Fleetwood, PA for the repository sale of a property at 250 Brown Street and an adjacent parcel which has no physical address. Manager Steigerwalt reported that research on the bidder showed no code enforcement violations and that he does not own any other property in Schuylkill County. A recommendation was made to approve the Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau Repository Sale of 250 Brown Street for tax parcel #65-11-0042.001 and adjoining property on Brown Street for tax parcel #65-11-0041.000 to Arthur H. Brenneman III of 9 Timothy Leo Court, Fleetwood, PA. 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.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: he and Public Works Director Jones met with Leona Rega of the Tamaqua Community Arts Center and found a good, highly visible spot in Depot Square Park to temporarily place a large art sculpture that would not conflict with utilities or trees; property settlement for 216 Penn Street was scheduled for today; construction on the West Broad Street Bridge Replacement project is scheduled for June 6th to August 19th, with contractors working 10 hour days, seven days a week; implementing parking and traffic changes prior to the start of the West Broad Street bridge project in order to get the public acclimated to the changes; and the permanently posted streets that are cleaned every Thursday and Friday will be cleaned beginning this week and not next week as reported in the press release.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that the borough recently acquired a blighted property at 241 Lafayette Street through a repository sale, which will be turned over to the County for their demolition grant program. Manager Steigerwalt stated that he had a resolution authorizing the submission of a demolition request to the county. The following resolution was presented for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION 2018-6**  
**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, APPROVING SUBMISSION OF A**  
**DEMOLITION REQUEST TO THE COUNTY OF SCHUYLKILL**

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

Under the Borough Manager's report, Councilman Connely requested that a press release be issued reminding the residents of the borough's trash collection schedule. Councilman Connely stated that there is trash lying all around and the town is getting junked up. Councilman Connely encouraged Code Enforcement to continue enforcing the Quality of Life (QOL) Ordinance.

Director of Community Development Calabrese reported on the following: 45 trees will be planted at the Bungalow Park next week as a result of a tree vitalize grant; there were several new inquiries regarding Community Revitalization Improvement Zone (CRIZ); and Tamaqua Remembers, Celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Memorial Day, program of events booklets are available at the borough office for anyone interested.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to contribute \$1,000.00, which would be held by Attorney Riedlinger in an escrow account, to pay for advertising and legal costs to amend the Eastern Schuylkill Planning Commission Zoning Ordinance. 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.

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. 2018-7**  
**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL, TAMAQUA, PENNSYLVANIA,**  
**REGARDING GRANTS FROM THE JOHN E. MORGAN FOUNDATION, INC.**  
**BUNGALOW POOL OPERATING EXPENSES**

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 Linkhorst, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Nathan Steigerwalt as Assistant Pool Manager at a pay rate of \$12.50 per hour 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 Connely, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire the 22 life guard applicants set forth on the list provided at a base rate of 8.50 per hour with a \$0.25 per hour increase based on years of service, for the 2018 pool season. The part-time life guards are as follows: Casey Akins, Emily Andrews, Caroline Balogach, Tyler Calkins, Emma Coccio, Brianna Dumond, Kailyn Erbe, Chelsea Frantz, Ashley Jones, Kirstin Jones, Carly Kosciolk, Gabrielle Markiewicz, Victoria Markiewicz, Chris Miller, Jacob Rudy, Kaitlyn Shlanta, Olivia Stanek, Kaitlyn Stauffenberg, Sophia Susarchick, Megan Toth, Ethan Turrano and Hannah Wollweber. Chairwoman Linkevich stated that the Recreation and Youth Committee will meet next Tuesday to take care of the remaining pool staff. 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.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to open the pool the weekend of June 2nd and 3rd, close on June 4th and 5th and then permanently open for the season on June 6th. President Mace stated that the pool will close June 4th and 5th in order to allow the students to finish out the school year. 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.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to internally post the position for a full-time police chief. Chairman Connely stated that the position is open to full and part-time officers and applications are due by 4:00 p.m. on May 2nd. 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.

Chairman Evans of the Street Light Committee reported that the borough received the final invoice from PPL for \$66,390.00 for the purchase of the streetlights, and that final payment for the streetlights, not to exceed \$70,000.00 was approved by Council at the last meeting. Chairman Evans also reported that the streetlight replacement bid package will be available online via the PennBid Program ([www.PennBid.net](http://www.PennBid.net)) until 2:00 p.m. May 10, 2018. A recommendation was made to advertise for bids for the streetlight replacement project. President Mace stated that the streetlights would be converted from high pressure sodium (HPS) to light-emitting diode (LED) fixtures. 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.

Mayor Gerace reported that a committee had previously met to discuss a discount on utility bills for senior citizen homeowners, and it was decided that it would not be pursued at this time due to lack of resources, but could be revisited sometime in the future.

Mayor Gerace also reported that all of the officers are working really hard and he is very proud of the Police Department.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Marlene Boyle of 314 Elm Street questioned the borough's ordinance on barking dogs and who is in charge of enforcing the ordinance. Ms. Boyle stated that she had placed multiple calls to the police regarding barking dogs and not much is being done about it. Council informed Ms. Boyle that police are in charge of enforcing the ordinance and can issue citations. There was some discussion about this matter.

Jen Schaeffer of OnTheGrind (OTG) Association reported that the group's first Easter Egg Hunt at Willing Park had a tremendous turnout, with approximately 50 kids participating. Ms. Schaeffer updated Council on a few upcoming fundraisers and maintenance and cleanup activities at the park. Ms. Schaeffer also requested permission to hold a small carnival at the park on Father's Day weekend in June. A recommendation was made to approve the request to hold a carnival on Father's Day weekend at Willing Skate Park. 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.

Jen Schaeffer also discussed a brick drive for Willing Park's new entrance way. There was some discussion regarding the brick entrance way and the size of the bricks. A recommendation was made to refer the brick entrance way project to the Recreation and Youth Committee for further discussion. 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.

Jen Schaeffer also asked if it would be possible to get a dumpster at Willing Park for the summer months. Council recognized Michelle Mehallic of the Southward Playground Association, who asked if it would be possible to get a dumpster at the Southward playground during the summer for their lunch program. Manager Steigerwalt stated that he would contact the borough's trash collector (County Waste) about the dumpsters.

John Sienkiewicz of Safer Streets for Tamaqua's Little Feet stated that there are two memorial benches in the Spruce and Hunter Street parking lot that may need to be removed to prevent damage due to construction being done in the area. After some discussion regarding the

construction plans for the area and the location of the benches, it was decided that the benches should be moved to storage during construction and then replaced when the work is done. Manager Steigerwalt will contact Mr. Sienkiewicz when the benches will be moved so that they can be returned to the organization for safe keeping until the work is complete.

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 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 Bowman, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

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 Connely, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 8:05 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:30 p.m.

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

A recommendation was made to increase the hourly rate of Edith Moyer by \$0.50 retroactive to January 1, 2018. 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.

A recommendation was made to increase the hourly rate of Christine Zamudio by \$1.00 retroactive to January 1, 2018. 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.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:32 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkhorst, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

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Amy Macalush, Assistant Borough Secretary/Treasurer