

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of May on Wednesday, May 16, 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, Thomas Cara, R. Daniel Evans, Mary Linkevich and David Mace. Absent was Councilmember Brian Connely. Councilmember Ritchie Linkhorst arrived later in the meeting. Officials present were Mayor Nathan Gerace, Officer in Charge Corporal Dwayne Hacker, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Solicitor Michael S. Greek and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire. Director of Community Development Ann Marie Calabrese arrived later in the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by President Mace. The invocation was given by Councilman Cara followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilwoman Linkevich. The roll was called with five councilmembers present and two absent.

President Mace announced that the Recreation and Youth Committee met in executive session prior to the council meeting to discuss personnel matters.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on April 17, 2018 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Joseph Greco, Fire Chief of American Fire Company No. 1 of Lansford, requesting written permission to utilize Fire Police to assist with traffic control during the Carbon County Veterans Day parade on November 11, 2018, with a rain date of November 18, 2018. A recommendation was made to grant the request and to authorize the Fire Police to assist with the 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from John Gartner stating that he is resigning from his position at the Still Creek Water Treatment Plant and his last day of work will be on May 15, 2018. A recommendation was made to accept the resignation of John Gartner. 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 Lisa M. Hoey, Community Development Representative, stating that the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life for the Tamaqua and surrounding areas will be held on June 23, 2018 from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. at the Tamaqua High School Stadium. This year is the 25th Anniversary of the Relay for Life in our area. A pre-event promotion called "Paint the Town Purple" will be celebrated June 18th through June 23rd. The organization is asking the borough to consider hanging purple flags along Broad Street, Route 309, Stadium Hill or anywhere else that would not interfere with the construction. The organization is requesting that a yard sign be posted at Depot Square Park (and any other locations) which will have the Relay for Life event information on it. A recommendation was made to grant permission for the Relay for Life Committee to hang flags and place a yard sign at the Municipal Building. 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.

Councilmember Linkhorst arrived at approximately 7:07 p.m.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the following: the annual spring street cleaning; the swimming pool was drained, cleaned and is being refilled; the contractor finished the roof work; this year's pool passes have a patriotic theme in honor of the 150th observance of Memorial Day; and PennDOT began the preliminary work for the West Broad Street Wabash Creek Bridge Project. Council recognized John Sienkiewicz, president of Safer Streets for Tamaqua's Little Feet, who complained that a contractor for the bridge project scratched the memorial benches and also placed lights on the benches at the corner of Hunter and Spruce streets. Councilman Linkhorst would contact the contractor. There was some discussion about this matter.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that milling and patching of the detour streets starts tomorrow. Council recognized Michelle Weaver of 219 Orwigsburg Street who asked about the detour route. Manager Steigerwalt explained the project and stated that more information could be found on the Borough's website. Manager Steigerwalt also stated that PennDOT would be holding a pre-detour/construction meeting for businesses located in or near the construction area on May 23rd.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: the Streetlight Project; a signed lease agreement for the pool concession stand; and a signed UAW contract.

Under the Borough Manager's report, Councilman Cara expressed his concerns about an area on East End Avenue that becomes flooded and has debris.

Under the Borough Manager's report, Councilman Evans asked Manager Steigerwalt to provide an updated list of demolition properties for the next meeting. Councilman Evans also asked for an update on street paving projects that utilize CDBG funds. There was some discussion about this matter.

Under the Borough Manager's report, Mayor Gerace stated that on behalf of Leona Rega of the Tamaqua Community Arts Center, she is grateful for the help given by Manager Steigerwalt, Public Works Director Jones and Street Department employees.

Under the Officer in Charge (OIC) report, Councilman Linkhorst commended OIC Corporal Hacker for doing a good job on the issue on Market Street. President Mace commended the Police Department on the drug bust on North Railroad Street and the work and hours involved with the preparation of the case. Officer in Charge Corporal Hacker stated that there is a process they have to go through to get results.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 310 Van Gelder Street. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkhorst, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, Councilman Evans gave a history and summary of parking meters in the borough and discussed parking meter replacements, parking meter revenues and purchasing additional parking meters.

Chairman Linkhorst of the Parking and Traffic Committee stated that residents are expressing concerns about the pedestrian crosswalk in the area of the Post Office. There was some discussion about this matter.

Director of Community Development Calabrese arrived at approximately 7:46 p.m.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, Councilman Evans asked Manager Steigerwalt to look into a missing stop sign at Nescopeck and Mahanoy streets.

Director of Community Development Calabrese reported on the following: there were 45 trees planted at the Bungalow on May 1st; the H.D. Buehler Memorial Pool Feasibility Study; the City Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ) letters are out to businesses; and a student volunteer would be working on the Owl Creek Reservoir brochure.

Chairman Cara of the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee reported that there is an issue with using Liquid Fuels funds for the blue street signs with white lettering. Chairman Cara also discussed establishing the speed limit at 25 miles per hour for certain borough streets. A recommendation was made to advertise an ordinance setting the speed limit at 25 mph for all borough streets except for Owl Creek Road and portions of State Routes 209 and 309. There was some discussion about this matter. Council recognized Michele Mehalic of 411 Lehigh Street stating that there is a 25 mph sign coming into town. 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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Chairman Cara of the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee also reported on the following: a sign at the Borough Hall; looking for sponsor sources; signs are made by inmates; and council likes the Clinton style example.

Chairman Cara of the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee also reported on the Welcome to Tamaqua sign at the north end of town as follows: Graver's will send a quote; in contact with PPL to move the pole; the site is maintained by Thorn Devlin and a thank you should be sent to him; and there is a sponsor for this sign.

Chairman Cara of the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee showed a video clip of children crossing the railroad tracks near the old Anchor Deep building on Spruce Street. Another video clip showed the safety issues near there with a catch basin and metal plate. Manager Steigerwalt stated that it is all railroad property. President Mace stated that he had set a Railroad Committee, and he explained the purpose of this special committee.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Megan Toth as head lifeguard at a pay rate of \$9.00 per hour and \$10.00 per hour when acting as assistant manager. 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.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Beth Jones as second assistant manager at a pay rate of \$12.50 per hour. 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.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Dawn Clouser, Molly Clemson, Olivia Jones, Brianna Heck and Haley Macalush as pool clerks at a pay rate of \$8.25 per hour plus \$0.25 per year of service. 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.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Nicole Aguero-Ramirez as a lifeguard at a pay rate of \$8.50 per hour pending the required certification. There was some discussion about base rate adjustments for lifeguards. 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.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Ian Machay and Sierra Szabo as lifeguards at a pay rate of \$8.50 per hour. 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.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, President Mace announced that the Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission (ESRC) hired Nate MacDonald as the new part-time Executive Director on May 9, 2018. Mr. MacDonald finished his junior year at Misericordia University.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, President Mace stated that he is the borough's representative on the ESRC and he had agreed to stay on through the hiring process of the new ESRC Executive Director. President Mace stated that he is relinquishing his position on the ESRC to Councilwoman Linkevich. A recommendation was made to appoint Mary Linkevich as a borough representative to the ESRC. 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.

Chairman Evans of the Building and Equipment Committee reported that he will provide an update on the key system upgrade for the aerial building at the next meeting.

Under the Building and Equipment Committee report, Councilman Linkhorst asked about the ambulance building issue and CRIZ reporting. There was some discussion about this matter.

Mayor Gerace reported that he is asking council to consider purchasing printers and equipment for the police vehicles from funds provided by the J.E. Morgan Foundation grant at a cost of approximately \$1,900.62. A motion was made by Bowman and seconded by Linkhorst to refer the request to the Building and Equipment Committee to review. After some discussion, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to refer the request to the Public Safety Committee to review. 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 requested an executive session prior to adjournment to discuss personnel matters.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Michele Mehallic of 411 Lehigh Street asked who owns the former Anchor Deep building. President Mace suggested looking on the Schuylkill County Parcel Locator for information on the owners. Ms. Mehallic expressed her concerns about the wall of the building collapsing. Manager Steigerwalt stated that Code Enforcement would look into the matter.

South Ward Fire Chief Mark Bower asked for permission from council to get an old fire hydrant to use for training purposes. There was some discussion about this matter.

Tammy Sienkiewicz of 215 Bowe Street requested that the Tamaqua Police Department create a Facebook page as a way for community members to see what is going on in the community. Mayor Gerace has been working out the details and it is in the works to set up a system.

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 Cara, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under Unfinished Business, Councilman Cara reported that the Procurement Cards have been applied for and would arrive in a few days.

Under Unfinished Business, Councilman Evans stated he reached out to John Handler, who is in charge of the Citizen's Advisory Committee, regarding the Rehabilitation Program and it is moving forward.

Under Unfinished Business, President Mace asked Community Development Director Calabrese to advertise the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) sidewalk program.

Under Bills and Claims, Chairman Cara discussed the Record of Interfund Transfers report prepared by Secretary/Treasurer DeWire that is a part of her monthly report.

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 Bowman, 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 Evans, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 8:42 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 9:27 p.m.

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

A motion was made by Bowman and seconded by Linkevich to hire Richard Melicharek, Dominic Palumbo, Ryan Smith, Ryan Adams, Michael Bonetsky and Christian Slane for part-time seasonal general maintenance work. After some discussion, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to hire Richard Melicharek, Dominic Palumbo, Ryan Smith, Ryan Adams, Michael Bonetsky and Christian Slane for part-time seasonal general maintenance work with an hourly rate set as per the past practice of setting the starting wage for part-time seasonal general maintenance workers at \$8.00 per hour with a \$0.25 per hour increase for each year of service. 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 9:29 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