

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of May on Wednesday, May 21, 2014 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, Kerry Lasky, David Mace and Justin Startzel. Absent were Councilmembers R. Daniel Evans and Micah Gursky. Officials present were Chief of Police Richard Weaver, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Solicitor Michael S. Greek, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire and Fire Chief Thomas Hartz. Absent was Mayor Christian Morrison.

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

The reading of the minutes of the last Regular Council Meeting held on May 6, 2014 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Mace, seconded by Startzel, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from the Citizens Fire Co. #1 Bazaar Committee stating that their annual block party would be held from July 11 to 13, 2014. The communication is requesting permission to close Hegarty Avenue from July 7 to 13, 2014 and all through traffic on Berwick Street from 6:00 p.m. to 11 p.m. on July 11th and 12th and from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on July 13th. The communication also requested permission to hold a fire truck parade on July 11, 2014. 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 Startzel, seconded by Mace, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Dave Rascavage, general manager of Hart Metals, Inc. of Tamaqua commending the Tamaqua Fire Department and Tamaqua Police Department for their rapid deployment and professionalism during a fire at their facility on April 30, 2014.

Communication was received from Charles J. Mateyak of 1430 Valley Road requesting permission to block off a section of North Lehigh Street from the top end of Hope's Mini Mart driveway up to Rowe Street starting at 9:00 a.m. on July 26, 2014 in order to hold a public auction at the residence of Paul Scherer, deceased. 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 Mace, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Anne Gibbons of GOALS Adventure Racing Association requesting the use of the Bungalow Park for the Krista Griesacker Memorial Adventure race event on August 2, 2014. 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 Mace, seconded by Startzel, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Joseph Chamoun of P.O. Box 23, Tuscarora, PA stating that he owns investment properties in Tamaqua and expressed his concerns about code enforcement issues, rental inspections, and violations and violation costs. Secretary/Treasurer DeWire noted that Mr. Chamoun's letter is available for the public to review after the meeting.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on a Repository Sale Notice pending for a property 537 East Elm Street. Manager Steigerwalt reported that he spoke with John J. Sweeney, the bidder of the

property, regarding the issue that his business was not found to be registered in Pennsylvania. Manager Steigerwalt stated that according to Mr. Sweeney, his business is incorporated; he will submit the necessary paperwork to the state; and he wants to bid as an individual instead of under his business. A recommendation was made to approve the Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau Repository Sale of 537 East Elm Street for tax parcel #65-04-0006.000 to John J. Sweeney of 1430 Spruce Street, Easton, PA, 18042. Council recognized Mr. Sweeney who stated that the business he owns is located in New Jersey and is in good standing. Mr. Sweeney also stated that he lives in Pennsylvania because it is less expensive than living in New Jersey. Mr. Sweeney discussed the fictitious name registration for his business. There was no one else from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Mace, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on a proposal and costs to install a propane tank and line and to purchase a propane fryer for the concession stand. There was some discussion about this matter. A recommendation was made to approve the installation of a propane tank and lines at the pool concession stand and the purchase of a propane fryer with funds designated from the J.E. Morgan Concession Stand Fund. 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 Mace, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Jarrad J. Bernitsky as a full-time Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator at a pay rate of \$20.69 per hour. 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.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, Councilman Cara stated that interviews would be held tomorrow for the office positions. Councilwoman Lasky stated that there is also one interview scheduled for Friday.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Joseph Franko, Abigail Markovich and Savannah Szabo as part-time lifeguards for the 2014 pool season. 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 Mace, seconded by Startzel, and unanimously approved.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Raymond Bonetsky of 652 East Broad Street complained about a large pothole in front of the Turkey Hill Store. There was some discussion about this matter and that it is PennDOT's responsibility to patch the road.

Carol Schattner of 307 Race Street expressed her concerns about a code enforcement issue that condemned a home located at 613 North Railroad Street which she and her husband were living in. Mrs. Schattner stated that her husband is wheelchair bound and uses a hospital bed. Mrs. Schattner stated that they were trying to collect some of their belongings from 613 North Railroad Street and were met by police. Mrs. Schattner stated that she needs to remove her property, including her husband's hospital bed, from 613 North Railroad Street. Vice President Connelly stated that the Code Enforcement Officer would contact her tomorrow.

Joseph Chamoun of P.O. Box 23, Tuscarora, PA stated that he is the owner of the property where Mr. and Mrs. Schattner reside. Mr. Chamoun stated that he tries to work with everyone in town. Mr. Chamoun expressed his concerns regarding code enforcement issues with a sewer problem at his property located at 613 North Railroad Street and his neighbors property at 611 North Railroad Street. Mr. Chamoun stated that he is willing to work with the borough to fix and resolve the problems. Manger Steigerwalt stated that Mr. Chamoun was at the borough building for three hours on Monday and he spoke with Code Enforcement Officer Joshua Esposito, Public Works Director Robert Jones, and himself and was advised as to what needs to be done to resolve his issues. There was more discussion about this matter.

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

Solicitor Greek discussed an assessment appeal of 420 East Broad Street Associates and a request by the Office of the County Solicitor in sharing the cost of an appraisal for this assessment appeal. The approximate cost of an appraisal for this assessment appeal is \$2,000 and would result in an estimated cost breakdown of \$440 from the County, \$560 from the Borough of Tamaqua and \$1,000 from the Tamaqua Area School District. A recommendation was made to pay approximately \$560 for the borough's share of an appraisal for the assessment appeal. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion Cara, seconded by Mace, 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 Mace, 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 Mace, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, a recommendation was made to hire Douglas Springer as a part-time police officer. 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 Mace, 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 Mace, seconded by Startzel, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 7:45 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:12 p.m.

Vice President Connely stated that an executive session was held to discuss personnel and litigation matters.

A recommendation was made to accept the letter of resignation from Nathan Miller, effective immediately. 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 Startzel, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to hire part-time, seasonal employees Dylan Houser, Christopher Martin, Cory Schuettrumpf and Scott Zelonis at an hourly rate of \$8.00 per hour,

effective immediately. 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 Startzel, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to post an in-house job vacancy notice for the Water Department. 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to approve the permanent transfer of George D. Herring to the Water Distribution Department. 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 p.m. on motion of Mace, seconded by Startzel, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer