

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of June on Tuesday, June 16, 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 and David Mace. Absent were Councilmembers Kerry Lasky and Justin Startzel. 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 Angelo Greek. 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 19, 2015 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Mace, seconded by Connely, and unanimously approved.

Under Special Business, President Gursky turned the meeting over to Chairman Dave Mace of the Recreation and Youth Committee. Chairman Mace recognized 2015 PIAA District XI Class AA Track and Field Champions Victoria LaBar, Janette Kabana, Chelsea Frantz, Monika Shimko and Morgan Boyle. He presented Ms. Labar, Ms. Frantz, Ms. Shimko and Ms. Boyle with Certificates of Achievements. Councilman Mace stated that Ms. Kabana was not in attendance and a Certificate of Achievement would be forwarded to her. Coach Tom Kanger was also in attendance.

Communication was received from Thomas Wood, secretary of American Hose Company No. 1, requesting permission to close Pine Street from Broad to Mauch Chunk streets for the annual fireman's festival from August 7th at 8:00 a.m. until August 9th at 11:30 p.m. 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 Linda Yulanavage, corresponding secretary of the Tamaqua Historical Society, stating that the Annual Tamaqua Summerfest would be held on June 21, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is requesting permission to close several streets and also asked for parking restrictions the day of the event. 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 Thomas J. Banditelli Sr., chairman of the Owl Creek Reservoir Commission (OCRC), requesting permission to place a 16 foot by 16 foot cabin with porch on the level ground, dam side, to the west of the lower dam access road. 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 Connely, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the following: the demolition projects on Pitt Street and Gay Street are finished; the demolition project on Spruce Street is underway; and hydrant flushing.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on revised traffic signal drawings for the Five Points Intersection. There was some discussion about the following: the improvements to be made to the Five Points Intersection; larger “Do Not Enter” signs on North Railroad Street; painting Route 309 North on the street; adding additional “Do Not Enter” signs; placing L.E.D. lights on the “Do Not Enter” signs; forwarding the borough requests to PennDOT; approval for PennDOT’s suggested revisions; and the borough would be responsible for the cost associated with the changes. A motion was made by Mace, and seconded by Cara, to approve PennDOT’s recommended changes. After some discussion about L.E.D. lights, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to approve PennDOT’s recommended changes and to include a request to add L.E.D. lights to the “Do Not Enter” signs. Council recognized Andy Leibenguth of 439 Rear Mauch Chunk Street who asked who would be paying for the improvements. Manager Steigerwalt stated that the borough would be responsible for the costs associated with the improvements. 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 also reported on an Automated Red Light Enforcement Program (ARLE) grant in the amount of \$350,000 from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to be used for safety and accessibility improvements at the intersection of East Broad (State Route 209) and Columbia streets. A motion was made by Cara, and seconded by Evans, to approve an Automated Red Light Enforcement Program (ARLE) grant application. After some discussion about this matter and the adoption of a resolution authorizing the appropriate officials to execute all documents and agreements, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to adopt a resolution authorizing the Borough Council President and the Borough Secretary/Treasurer as the officials to execute all documents and agreements between the Borough of Tamaqua and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested Automated Red Light Enforcement Program grant in the amount of \$350,000. The following resolution was presented for council’s consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-7
AN AUTOMATED RED LIGHT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (ARLE) GRANT IN
THE AMOUNT OF \$350,000 FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

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 Evans, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that borough officials met with representatives of the Reading, Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad to discuss the condition of the railroad crossing located on Spruce Street between Center and South Railroad streets. Manager Steigerwalt stated that an agreement was reached with the railroad for a 60/40 cost sharing of the project costs, with the cost share for the borough being at 60 percent. Manager Steigerwalt also stated that the work may begin sometime in July and done at night; however no firm dates were set.

Under the Borough Manager’s report, Councilman Connely asked if the liability insurance for Rabbit Run Fish and Game covers non-members fishing there. Manager Steigerwalt stated that the borough’s liability insurance covers this and that the Rabbit Run Fish and Game liability

insurance covers only for activities of the club and active club members. There was some discussion about this matter.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to retain Michael G. Wester Jr. as a full-time water treatment plant operator upon completion of his probation period. 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 retain Jordan D. Fegley as a full-time water distribution worker upon completion of his probation period. 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 part-time employees for general maintenance work. Councilman Cara read the list of general maintenance applicants as follows: Bernie Gigli, Tyler Hollenbach, Dylan Houser, Ernest Shilko, Dylan Woods and Scott Zelonis. 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 set the starting wage for part-time maintenance workers at \$8.00 per hour with a \$0.25 per hour increase for each year of service and to adjust returning employees' wages accordingly. 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 Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire part-time lifeguards for the 2015 pool season pending completion of their lifeguard certification. Councilman Mace read the list of 2015 pool lifeguard applicants as follows: Gabrielle Markiewicz, Christopher Miller, Hannah Perla, Kaitlyn Shlanta, Kaitlyn Stauffenberg, Sierra Szabo and Michael Witczak. 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.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve an Authorized Provider Agreement with the American Red Cross for lifeguard training at the pool. 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.

Chairman Mace of the Recreation and Youth Committee reported that he had a resolution authorizing the submission of an application for funding for a Greenway, Trails and Recreation Program Grant to present for council's consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-8
A GREENWAY, TRAILS AND RECREATION PROGRAM (GTRP) GRANT IN
THE AMOUNT OF \$250,000 FROM THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING
AUTHORITY TO BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HANDICAPPED
ACCESSIBLE RESTROOM AND BATHHOUSE FACILITIES AT THE COMMUNITY
SWIMMING POOL IN TAMAQUA.

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

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for Hunter Bailey of 139 Penn Street. 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for Kelly A. Frederickson of 643 East Broad Street. 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a motion was made by Evans and seconded by Cara to approve a handicapped parking space application for Sylvanus Schmick of 31 Hunter Street. After some discussion about the limit of one handicapped space per block, there is a handicapped space in that block, and a provision for a second space in a block if the block is more than 600 feet long, the motion and second was rescinded. The matter was referred back to the Parking and Traffic Committee for further review.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, Councilman Evans reported that a handicapped parking space application for Joseph T. Macalush of 400 West Broad Street was declined by the committee. Councilman Evans also reported that the following items are still under review: a request for a Hidden Driveway sign near 100 Orwigsburg Street; a request for a No Parking sign in the 300 block of North Railroad Street; East End Avenue; Dutch Hill baseball field parking; a LCCC request; and the parking meter project. There was some discussion about the parking meter project.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, Councilman Cara stated that assistance would be needed from the police and fire police for the Tamaqua In A New Light Performance event to be held in conjunction with National Night Out and the Tamaqua Salvation Army Kidz Karnival on August 4, 2015. A recommendation was made to authorize the Tamaqua Fire Police to assist with the Tamaqua in A New Light Performance. 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 Parking and Traffic Committee report, Councilman Cara reported that he attended a PennDOT long-range transportation meeting. There was some discussion about this matter.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Rachael Lenar 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 Connely, seconded by Mace, and unanimously approved.

Chief Weaver introduced Officer Rachael Lenar.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, President Gursky reported on the City Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ) program as follows: the CRIZ program is fully underway; all business enterprises doing business in the Tamaqua CRIZ were reported to the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue; businesses located in the CRIZ needed

to file its annual state and local tax reports electronically with the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue by June 15, 2015 in order to certify the amount of taxes to be transferred to the CRIZ fund; he commended Manager Steigerwalt and Christine Zamudio for their work with the CRIZ program; and this is year one of a thirty year program.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Joseph Salla Jr. of 204 Owl Creek Road expressed his concerns about the following: an article in The Times News newspaper regarding the Quality of Life Ordinance; enforcement of the Quality of Life Ordinance; Owl Creek Road is the worst maintained street in the borough; speeding and illegal passing of vehicles along Owl Creek Road; some trucks using Owl Creek Road exceed a five-ton weight limit; and the weekly running of a generator, on an adjacent property, which is creating noise and exhaust fumes that he feels is hazardous to his and his mother's health and wants something to be done.

Fire Chief Hartz recommended that the trucks usually have a "how is my driving" phone number and that Mr. Salla should call that phone number to report his concerns.

Angelo Greek of Lansford asked when the meeting will be over.

Debra Althouse of 406 Pitt Street complained about residents living at a property located in the 300 block of Washington Street. Councilman Connely stated that the Police and Code Enforcement Departments are aware of this property.

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 Mace, seconded by Connely, and unanimously approved.

Under Unfinished Business, Fire Chief Hartz expressed his concerns about a dispatching problem that occurred on Memorial Day with the 911 Communication Center. The fire company should have been dispatched to the Majestic House but the 911 Center turned in the wrong box alarm number. Fire Chief Hartz requested that council reconsider asking the 911 Communication Center to stop setting off the box alarms and to have the fire departments dispatched by pagers only. Fire Chief Hartz stated that the first time this was requested was in 2012.

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 Evans, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, President Gursky reported that based on the borough's *Lets's Move!* Cities, Towns and Counties Initiative survey responses, the National League of Cities awarded Tamaqua four gold medals and one bronze medal.

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 Evans and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 8:10 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:28 p.m.

President Gursky announced that an executive session was held to discuss personnel and legal matters.

A recommendation was made to send a letter to the Police Civil Service Commission asking the commission to review and update the civil service policies and procedures on promotions. 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.

It was noted that a vacancy exists on the Police Civil Service Commission due to the recent death of member Raymond Bonetsky and anyone interested in serving on the commission should send a letter of interest to the borough.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m. on motion of Mace, seconded by Connely, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer