

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of June on Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at 7:04 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, Micah Gursky, Kerry Lasky and David Mace. Absent was Councilmember Brian Connely. 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 Director of Community Development Mary Linkevich.

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

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on May 17, 2017 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Evans, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under Special Business, President Mace presented a Certificate of Achievement to Brad Clemson in recognition of winning the Boys' 800 Meter Race at the PIAA District XI Class AA Championships.

Under Special Business, President Mace recognized the PIAA District XI Class AAA Baseball Champions Nate Boyle, Casey Rother, Brady Moyer, Michael Minchhoff, Thad Zuber, Brayden Knoblauch, Daylon Barron, John Burns, Matthew Kistler, Jake Banditelli, Isaiah Kupchinsky Nick Breiner, Michael Bonetsky, Eddie Titus, Noah Evans, Cody Hamm, Bernie Gigli and Josh Inama. He presented Thad Zuber and Daylon Barron with Certificates of Achievement. President Mace stated that those members who were not in attendance would have their Certificate of Achievement forwarded to them. Head Coach Jeff Reading and Volunteer Coach Zach Chodur were also in attendance.

Under Special Business, President Mace stated that the Years of Service Awards were created by State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) to promote interest in good borough government and to recognize faithful and effective service by elected or appointed borough officials. The awards are given to each borough official who has served 10, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, or 60 years for one or more boroughs. President Mace presented In Honor of Service awards as follows: a posthumous award to Councilman Ken Smulligan accepted by Gloria Smulligan and Pete Smulligan; a posthumous award to Councilman John Trudich accepted by Shirley French; Councilman Thomas Cara; Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire; Councilman Micah Gursky; Mayor Christian Morrison; and Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt.

Communication was received from Pamela McCullion, Tamaqua Borough Tax Collector, requesting a sign indicating 10 Minute Parking when her office is open, and to be placed in front of her office. Mrs. McCullion stated that a lot of senior citizens come into her office to pay their tax bills and would like that spot for them to use. A motion was made by Bowman to install a 10 Minute Parking sign in front of the Tax Collector's office. The motion died for lack of a second. A recommendation was made to refer the matter to the Parking and Traffic Committee to review. There was some discussion about the sign. 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 Gursky, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Tara Goho requesting permission to use the Bungalow Park Pavilion and Pool on August 19, 2017 for the Girl Scouts annual day camp. The communication also requested that the rental fee for the pavilion and the entrance fee to the pool be waived. 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 Gursky, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from John Lane of Golden Eye Properties LLC who stated that his company owns property at 225 and 227 Lafayette Street. Mr. Lane expressed his concerns about vehicles speeding on Lafayette Street and safety issues in that area. Mr. Lane is asking council to consider installing stop signs in both directions. A recommendation was made to refer the matter to the Parking and Traffic Committee for review. 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 Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Christopher Osenbach, a member of Boy Scout Troop 755, requesting permission to complete his Eagle Scout Project at the Owl Creek Reservoir this summer. Mr. Osenbach's project would involve cutting a new walking, biking and running trail in the woods behind the Lower Dam. Council recognized Christopher Osenbach who stated that he also contacted the Owl Creek Reservoir Commission for permission to complete his project. Also in attendance was Dale Osenbach, Leader of Boy Scout Troop 755 of Clamtown. A recommendation was made to grant his request. 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.

President Mace welcomed members and leaders of Boy Scout Troop 777 of Tamaqua, who were attending the meeting as part of their Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge Class. The Boy Scouts of Troop 777 in attendance were Jay Arner, Adam Bachert, Anthony Odorizzi, Eric Richardson and Alex Steigerwalt. Also in attendance were Troop Leaders Anne Girard and Jacqueline Richardson.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the bid results for the Wabash Creek Culvert Repair Project as follows: Alfred Benesch and Company, the borough's engineer, did an inspection and found 25 areas that need attention; the bids were received using the PENNBID (Pennsylvania's Electronic Document & Bid Management) Program; the borough does have the funding available to do all the repairs; the bid package contained a base bid and 16 alternates; six bids were received; and Alfred Benesch and Company is recommending the bid be awarded to Solid Wall LLC. A recommendation was made to award the bid to Solid Wall LLC in the amount of \$133,550.00. There was some discussion about the following: Alfred Benesch and Company has experience with Solid Wall LLC; the work can start as early as one month; much of the work is in the vicinity of the Tamaqua Public Library; and the work is expected to be completed before the bridge replacement project is scheduled to begin next year. 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the bid results for the sale of borough equipment as follows: the bids were received using the Municibid online government auction website; six items were listed and five items were successfully sold; the items that were sold were a vintage Coca-Cola cooler, a commercial 3-bin sink, a commercial refrigerator, a 2004 Dodge Intrepid Police car, and two Goodyear tires (Lot 3). A recommendation was made to accept the bids for the sale of borough equipment as follows: \$411.00 for a vintage Coca-Cola cooler from Nihad Hadzovic of Yardley, PA; \$136.00 for a commercial 3-bin sink from Michael Ernesto of Reinholds, PA; \$100.00 for a commercial refrigerator from Kevin Huber of New Tripoli, PA; \$725.00 for a 2004 Dodge Intrepid Police car from Kevin Huber of New Tripoli, PA; and \$52.00 for two Goodyear tires from Justo Fernandez of Paulsboro, NJ. 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 Evans, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that the unsold item was a Police light bar and was not sold because the reserve of \$50.00 was not met. Manager Steigerwalt reported that the high bid was \$20.00. A recommendation was made to accept the high bid of \$20.00 for the sale of a Police light bar from an unknown bidder. 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 Bowman, seconded by Evans, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that Steve Naylor would be completing his 30-day probationary transfer period as a Wastewater Treatment Plant Maintenance Worker on June 22, 2017, and that the Work Leader, Richard Baddick, is pleased with his work. A recommendation was made to permanently retain Steve Naylor as a Wastewater Treatment Plant Maintenance Worker provided that he successfully completes his probationary period. 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 Gursky, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that Richard Miller applied for the vacant Street Maintenance/Sweeper Operator position in the Street Department. A recommendation was made to approve the transfer of Richard Miller to the Street Maintenance/Sweeper Operator position in the Street Department. 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt gave an update on the Street Light Acquisition Project as follows: the PPL utility make-ready work would begin next month; the identification plates for the borough owned streetlights; a sample plate was prepared by Remaly Manufacturing Company Inc. of Tamaqua; and showed the sample plate. There was some discussion about the following: making the plate more visible from ten to twenty feet; choosing a different color for the plate; the language on the plate should be compliant with PPL and the Public Utility Commission (PUC); the language used on the plate was obtained from the PPL manual; and adding the borough website to the plate.

Manager Steigerwalt gave an update on the detour route for the West Broad Street Bridge Replacement Project. There was some discussion about the following: establishing a 38,000 weight limit for the bridge; limiting travel to single rear axle trucks; and PennDOT and the engineers are seeking the borough's input about restrictions. A recommendation was made to recommend to

PennDOT to establish a 38,000 weight limit for the bridge and to limit travel to single rear axle trucks for the detour route for the West Broad Street Bridge Replacement Project. 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.

Director of Community Development Linkevich discussed a Cops Hiring Grant opportunity as follows: the grant would award up to 75 percent of the entry level salary and fringe benefits for one full-time officer for three years; funds may be used to hire new officers; and a 25 percent local match is required. There was some discussion about the matter. Director of Community Development Linkevich would look into the matter further.

Director of Community Development Linkevich also reported on the following: a public hearing and request for proposals for the fiscal year 2017 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program was held at 6:30 p.m. this evening; pool steps and lift are being used; the new roof on the Bungalow Park pavilion looks good; and all the state reports have been filed for the Tamaqua Community Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ).

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to prohibit unapproved signs of all types at Depot Square Park to maintain a photo-ready environment and uncluttered experience. 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 Gursky, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to enter into a Custodial Account Agreement with Broadridge/Matrix Trust Company for the Police Pension Plan and to transfer the plan assets from the current custodian, Nationwide Trust Company, to the new accounts established with Broadridge/Matrix Trust Company, at the earliest opportunity. 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to enter into a Custodial Account Agreement with Broadridge/Matrix Trust Company for the Non-Uniformed Employees Pension Plan and to transfer the plan assets from the current custodian, Nationwide Trust Company, to the new accounts established with Broadridge/Matrix Trust Company, at the earliest opportunity. 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

Chairman Gursky of the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee stated that there are vacancies on the Police Pension Committee. Mayor Morrison stated that the vacancies include a citizen representative and one councilmember. A recommendation was made to appoint Councilman Cara to serve on the Police Pension Committee and to serve on the Non-Uniformed Pension Committee. 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 the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a sign on the front of the building facing West Broad Street at 30 West Broad Street. 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 the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to install signage on the front of the building and a border around the upper portion of the windows with descriptions of services offered at 44 West Broad Street. 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 the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace windows, provided all windows remain the same design, along Mauch Chunk Street and alley behind St. John's Lutheran Church at 200 Mauch Chunk Street. 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 the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Dawn Clouser as a pool clerk for the 2017 pool season. 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 Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Kiera Van Horn as a lifeguard for the 2017 pool season. 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 Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, there was some discussion about the North Railroad Street area, traffic patterns and lanes of travel, the Five Points intersection and PennDOT information.

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

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Kenny Mellor of 27 Rear Center Street complained about a property next door to him as follows: the property has high grass, garbage and dog poop; code enforcement was there last week; the property has had many code violations; and the problems with the property have continued for the last five to six years. Mr. Mellor also complained about an Advanced Disposal truck that picks up garbage at the Tamaqua High Rise Apartment Building and that has taken down his awing. Mr. Mellor asked if anything could be done to stop the trucks from turning in the alley. President Mace stated that the manager of the High Rise would be informed about the situation and asked that code enforcement pull up the enforcement history for the property Mr. Mellor has complained about.

John McCormick of 122 Gay Street asked if there have been any decisions by the Parking and Traffic Committee regarding his handicapped parking space application. The application is still pending review.

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, there was some discussion about the Family Dollar Store sidewalk replacement as follows: no schedule for the sidewalk replacement was given; the option to pull the occupancy permit; and asking Solicitor Greek to write a letter to the Family Dollar Store to provide a schedule of when the work would be completed or the occupancy permit will be pulled by July 5<sup>th</sup>.

Under Unfinished Business, Manager Steigerwalt stated that he had an ordinance that regulates the Board of Health to present for council's consideration:

**ORDINANCE NO. 692  
AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, PENNSYLVANIA CREATING  
AND ESTABLISHING A BOARD OF HEALTH AND DEFINING THE BOARD OF  
HEALTH'S POWERS AND DUTIES.**

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing 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 Cara, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

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 Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, Councilman Cara expressed his concerns about the following: residents using the large recycling containers; some residents are leaving their container at the front of their residence; and asked if the residents can go back to using the crate containers. The discussion included, but was not limited to, the following: recycling collection has doubled; the borough is recycling more items; smaller recycling containers are available for use; residents are not required to use the recycling containers provided; some residents leave their containers out and do not put them away even if they have access to the rear of the property; storing the container in the front of the building is necessary if there is no access to the rear of the property; code enforcement uses its discretion for those residents that do not have access to the rear of their property; code enforcement has been very busy; a program to purchase trash bags, known as a pay as you throw program; the pay as you throw program may encourage illegal dumping; and some audience members also expressed their concerns about recycling.

Under New Business, Councilman Gursky recognized Kim Steigerwalt, Manager Steigerwalt's wife, and thanked her and their sons, Nathan and Alex, for putting up with any inconveniences from his job.

Under New Business, Mayor Morrison stated that he checked the PA system and three out of four microphones did not function. He placed one microphone on the front center table but someone removed it. Mayor Morrison would look into the PA system further and discuss it with the Building and Equipment Committee.

Under New Business, Councilman Evans discussed revisions to the existing Sidewalk Repair Loan Program. His discussion included, but was not limited to, the following: a loan of up

to \$3,000.00 to repair sidewalks that qualify as defective; no income limit; an interest rate of four percent; a list of qualified contractors; a provision for tree removal; zoning application, fees and permits; sidewalk guidelines; code enforcement; a list of sidewalks with deficiencies; a frequently asked questions segment; and the 2017 budget includes \$10,000.00 in the Old Revolving Fund designated for sidewalks. Councilman Cara expressed his concerns about the following: loan payback of the promissory note by the applicant; the borough would not be placing a lien on the property; loan defaults; why is the borough loaning funds to people who are not paying it back; and expressed his opposition to the program. There was much discussion about this matter.

A recommendation was made to hold an executive session to discuss personnel and legal 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 Evans, and unanimously approved.

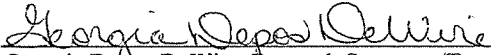
The council meeting was recessed at approximately 8:54 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 9:43 p.m.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:43 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Cara, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

  
Georgia DeWos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer