

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of July on Tuesday, July 2, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Tamaqua Municipal Building, 320 East Broad Street, Tamaqua, PA.

Present were Councilmembers Robert Amentler, Ronald Bowman, Thomas Cara, Brian Connely, Mary Linkevich, Ritchie Linkhorst and David Mace. Officials present were Chief of Police Henry Woods, Public Works Director Robert Jones, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire and Director of Community Development Ann Marie Calabrese. Mayor Nathan Gerace participated in the meeting via a video call. Solicitor Michael S. Greek 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 Councilman Bowman. The roll was called with all councilmembers present.

President Mace announced that an executive session was held at 6:30 p.m. prior to the meeting to discuss personnel matters.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on June 18, 2019 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Connely, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Borough Manager's report, Public Works Director Jones reported on the following: PennDOT would be milling the driving lanes of Route 209 throughout the town at the same time as the Spruce Street and Lehigh Street project is to be completed; the PennDOT project would start the first two weeks of August; a closing was held for the sale of the Spruce and Hunter Street Parking Lot; a public auction sale for a property at 241 Lafayette Street would be held on July 11, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.; and Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Pool Feasibility Study.

Under the Borough Manager's report, Councilwoman Linkevich asked about the process for the removal of junk cars. Chief Woods discussed the process for an abandoned vehicle. Public Works Director Jones stated that code enforcement handles the matter if it is on private property. There was some discussion about this matter.

Under the Borough Manager's report, President Mace stated that a resident of Clark Street has expressed concerns about residents painting no parking boxes on Glenwood Avenue. There was some discussion about this matter. Public Works Director Jones would look into the matter.

Director of Community Development Calabrese thanked the East End Market for donating the plants for the Bungalow Park. She also thanked Councilwoman Linkevich who took on the job of weeding and planting along with the two volunteers that she had recruited to help her.

Director of Community Development Calabrese reported that seven Aquatic Design Firms were sent the RFP for the Pool Feasibility Study and the RFP was also posted on the PlanningPA.org website.

Solicitor Greek arrived at approximately 7:08 p.m.

Chief Woods reported that an officer with health issues returned to work.

Chief Woods thanked members of the Tamaqua American Legion Post 173 for donating five lightweight, quick-deploy armor shields to the police department.

Under the Building and Equipment report, a recommendation was made to approve a proposal from Larry McCullion and Son Electrical Construction Services to replace the HVAC system for the police department at a cost of \$9,300.00. 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. There was some discussion about replacing the units for the rest of the building.

Chairman Connely of the Public Safety Committee reported that he had an ordinance establishing rules for fireworks displays to present for council's consideration:

ORDINANCE NO. 707
AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, COUNTY OF SCHUYLKILL,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ESTABLISHING RULES AND
REGULATIONS FOR PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF FIREWORKS AND PROVIDING FOR
THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS FOR SUCH DISPLAYS.

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing ordinance. 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 Connely, seconded by Bowman, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to place two "Slow Children at Play" signs in the 300 block of North Elizabeth Street. 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 Linkhorst, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, President Mace stated that a request was received from Debra Heft and the committee would be contacting her.

Chairwoman Linkevich of the Recreation and Youth Committee reported that she had a resolution approving a revised agreement with the Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission to present for council's consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-7
EASTERN SCHUYLKILL RECREATION COMMISSION
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution. 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 Linkevich, seconded by Connely, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a proposal from Lykens Valley Contractors to replace the roof at the pool concession stand with a metal roof at a cost of \$10,091.83 to be paid with funds designated from the 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 Linkevich, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a proposal from Lykens Valley Contractors to reconstruct the roof on the small picnic pavilion at cost of \$2,800.00 to be paid with funds designated from the 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 Linkevich, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Mayor Gerace extended greetings from Valparaiso, Indiana.

Mayor Gerace stated that he received complaints about potholes on Washington Street, Route 209 and behind the Tamaqua High Rise building. Public Works Director Jones stated that the list of potholes is long and increasing.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

South Ward Fire Chief Mark Bower stated that there is an issue with the traffic signal preemption at Spruce and Center streets for emergency vehicles. There was some discussion about this matter. The borough would look into the issue.

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

Under Unfinished Business, President Mace gave an update on the Solar Array Opportunity as follows: the special ad-hoc committee consisting of President Mace and Councilmembers Linkhorst and Linkevich met with the vendor; it was learned that the Tamaqua Area School District (TASD) has more than enough property to construct an array for their needs; the borough could possibly lease some TASD property to construct an array of our own to help us offset approximately 95 percent of our usage; the math supports a project of this type; the Federal Tax Credits available this year; this is a very favorable project for us to do here and at the Water Treatment Plant which is the second biggest user of electricity in the borough; the next meeting with the TASD is next Tuesday; President Mace would be looking at the technical aspects of the project; and Larry Wittig, CPA would be looking at the financial aspects of the project.

Under New Business, President Mace reported that he had a resolution authorizing an application to the Pennsylvania Municipal Assistance Program for the Tamaqua Choose Happiness Planning Initiative for the Tamaqua community to present for council's consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-8
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION TO THE PENNSYLVANIA
MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE TAMAQUA CHOOSE HAPPINESS
PLANNING INITIATIVE FOR THE TAMAQUA COMMUNITY

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution. President Mace stated that the Tamaqua Area Community Partnership would commit the \$25,000.00 match for the project on behalf of the borough. 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 approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Under New Business, Chairman Cara of the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee stated that the committee would be meeting with borough staff members regarding the ADP biometric time clocks on Wednesday. The committee also has a meeting scheduled with Chief Woods.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:35 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