

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of July on Tuesday, July 19, 2016 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 and David Mace. Absent were Councilmembers Brian Connely, Micah Gursky and Kerry Lasky. Officials present were Mayor Christian Morrison, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Solicitor Michael S. Greek and Assistant Borough Secretary/Treasurer Amy Macalush.

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 Evans. The roll was called with four councilmembers present and three absent.

The reading of the minutes of the last Regular Council Meeting held on June 21, 2016 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Cara, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Mark Bower, Chief of South Ward Fire Company, requesting a meeting with the Parking and Traffic Committee in order to solve a vehicle parking matter in the vicinity of the South Ward Fire Company. A recommendation was made for the Parking and Traffic Committee to meet with Mark Bower to address a vehicle parking matter in the vicinity of the South Ward Fire Company. 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.

Communication was received from Brian Keich, president of the Tamaqua Lions Club, stating that the Annual Tamaqua Halloween Parade is planned for October 25, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., with a rain date of Wednesday, October 26, 2016. The communication requested permission to prohibit parking along the parade route and assistance from the Tamaqua Police Department and the Fire Police. The parade will assemble on East Broad Street, in the vicinity of Maff Motors, and proceed west on Broad Street and continue to St. Jerome's Church. The communication also requested that East End Avenue be made a one-way going west from Laurel to Columbia streets so that traffic is going in one direction for drop off of the Tamaqua Band and Soccer teams at the M&M Storage Lot. A recommendation was made to grant the requests, and to authorize the use of the Tamaqua Fire Police. 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.

Communication was received from William C. Kennedy of 35 Holland Street expressing an interest in serving on the Historical Architectural Review Commission (HARC). Mayor Morrison stated that Mr. Kennedy is a retired pharmacist and lives in Hometown. A recommendation was made to appoint William C. Kennedy to the Historical Architectural Review Commission. 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.

Communication was received from Joseph and Dolores Orlik of 227 Penn Street stating that they have two garages to the rear of Penn Street on Race Street and because of the narrow street and increased traffic to the Southward Playground; people are parking across from their cement block garage making it difficult to get in and out of their garage. Mr. and Mrs. Orlik are requesting a one

car length of "NO PARKING" yellow line opposite their cement block garage. There was some discussion about this matter. A recommendation was made to refer the matter to the Parking and Traffic Committee. 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 a Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau Repository Sale of 421 West Broad Street, tax parcel #65-11-0391.000. There was some discussion regarding code violations on the property and its condition; and that it would be the responsibility of the property owners to make the necessary repairs. A recommendation was made to approve the Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau Repository Sale of 421 West Broad Street, tax parcel #65-11-0391.000, to Danielle C. McCulley and Gabriel V. Kries of 343 Bloody Spring Road, Bernville, PA 19506. Council recognized Mark Bower who stated that there were multiple fire related calls to that property and that he is concerned about the future of the property due to its condition. Mr. Bower advised Council to make sure the new property owners are complying. 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.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on a letter received from the Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau regarding a bid received for the private sale of a property at 312 Penn Street and a property at 301 Biddle Street. Manager Steigerwalt stated that neither of the properties is on the demolition list and no code violations were reported from Code Enforcement. A recommendation was made to approve the Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau Private Sale of 312 Penn Street, tax parcel #65-19-0009.000, and 301 Biddle Street, tax parcel #65-08-0271.000, to Angela Haas. 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 a request for settlement with Harold Mosely for the sale of 15 South Lehigh Street scheduled for July 22, 2016, as per the Agreement of Sale dated June 3, 2016, to be extended to August 3, 2016. A recommendation was made to approve the extension of the settlement date for the sale of 15 South Lehigh Street from July 22, 2016 to August 3, 2016. Council recognized John Handler of 248 West Broad Street who asked if Mr. Mosely has a timeline for vacating the property. Manager Steigerwalt stated that Mr. Mosely will have one month to move to a new residence after settlement. There was no one else 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 an upcoming Judicial Sale to be held by the Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau. There are two borough properties on the list; 162 West Spruce Street and 213 Hunter Street.

Manager Steigerwalt gave an update on the new refuse and recyclables collection. Manager Steigerwalt reported on the following: new recyclable containers have been delivered to some of the homes; the borough is receiving calls about the containers; staff members from County Waste have been checking in with the borough office daily for any issues and are very responsive; a wider variety of recyclables is collected, and a sheet is provided with the container; the containers are provided as a courtesy, residents are encouraged but not required to use them; and containers will be

replaced if missing. There was some discussion regarding the size of the containers, residents not having a place to put the containers, garbage in the containers, and containers placed in front of empty homes.

Manager Steigerwalt presented a proposal from Alfred Benesch & Company for consultation and engineering services associated with the storm water pipe improvement project at the Bungalow Park for council's consideration. There was some discussion about this matter. A recommendation was made to accept the proposal from Alfred Benesch & Company for engineering services associated with the storm water pipe improvement project at the Bungalow Park at a cost of \$3,000. 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 Chief of Police report, Mayor Morrison stated that on May 17, 2016, Borough Council approved a Conditional Offer of Employment to Christian DeAngelo. The offer was conditional upon completion of all the necessary requirements to be certified as a police officer. Mayor Morrison stated that Mr. DeAngelo satisfied all necessary requirements and requested that council hire him as a part-time officer. A recommendation was made to hire Christian DeAngelo 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 Bowman, seconded by Evans, and unanimously approved.

Chairman Evans of the Building and Equipment Committee reported on the Tamaqua Fire Department chief's vehicle as follows: the vehicle is currently sitting at the borough garage in need of mechanical and auto body repairs; the vehicle is a 1997 Jeep with 154,049 miles; an estimate was received from the borough garage and from Tom's Auto Body and the cost for repairs is \$1,078.77; Public Works Director Robert Jones estimated the Jeep to have a book value of \$1,600 - \$2,000; and all repairs must be made in order for the Jeep to pass inspection. Chairman Evans asked for Council's decision as to whether or not to invest in the vehicle. Councilman Bowman suggested not to proceed with repairs, but stated that something needs to be done; perhaps they could look into purchasing a decent newer used vehicle. Council recognized Mark Bower, who stated that the radio in the chief's vehicle is new and of value and will need to be removed. A motion was made by Bowman not to proceed with repairs to the chief's vehicle. The motion died for lack of a second. A motion was made by Cara to proceed with repairs to the chief's vehicle. The motion died for lack of a second.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, Councilman Evans provided an update on the Parking Meter Replacement project. Councilman Evans stated that he and President Mace are looking at funding for replacing 150 parking meters; 100 parking meters had been replaced previously through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, however the borough can no longer use that money for replacing meters. President Mace stated that the remaining 150 meters are mechanical, delicate and prone to break, no longer are manufactured, spare parts are limited, and there are many issues with the meters. Councilman Evans discussed the following: meters range from nickel and dime or nickel, dime and quarter; Chief Weaver tracked six meters over a period of three months and provided an analysis of the monthly revenue generated from the meters; and increased monthly revenue to the borough with upgraded meters. Councilman Evans

thanked Chief Weaver for providing the information to work with. There was some discussion about the following: meter rates; higher revenue generated from some meters; if there is any merit to having all meters with the same rate and time limit; purchasing the meters at once or in phases with reasonable payback; and the plan in 2012 was to purchase 50 meters a year over five years, however the funding opportunity is no longer available. President Mace thanked Councilman Evans and Chief Weaver for their efforts in pulling a plan together.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, Councilman Cara reported that he had an ordinance approving a franchise agreement with Service Electric Cablevision Inc. to present for council's consideration:

ORDINANCE NO. 685

ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH AND SERVICE ELECTRIC CABLEVISION, INC.

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 Cara, seconded by Bowman, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Councilman Cara asked that council review the revenue plan that he had previously distributed to them and to advise which plan they prefer, if any, and to let Manager Steigerwalt know, as he will be starting to work on the budget for next year. Councilman Cara also asked council to consider reducing the annual appropriation designated for the Chamber of Commerce and allocating funds to Senior Citizens. Councilman Cara stated that, according to Borough Code, funds can be appropriated for programs which benefit Senior Citizens, and there is a Senior Citizen's organization that meets at the Tamaqua YMCA.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to install an above ground pool at 645 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 Cara, seconded by Evans, and unanimously approved.

Under Recreation and Youth Committee report, Chairman Mace announced that a public hearing for the 2014 CDBG modifications was held prior to the council meeting. A recommendation was made to adopt a resolution to use \$14,000 from 2014 Community Development Block Grant Funds designated for street reconstruction for a handicapped pool lift and stairs. The following resolution was presented for council's consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-9

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA MODIFYING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

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 Bowman, seconded by Cara, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to adopt a resolution authorizing the submission of an application for a Greenway, Trails and Recreation Program Grant to be used for construction of new pool bathhouses. The following resolution was presented for council's consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-10
RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA COUNCIL OF THE
BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION
FOR A GREENWAY, TRAILS AND RECREATION GRANT TO BE USED FOR
CONSTRUCTION OF NEW POOL BATHHOUSES

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 Bowman, seconded by Cara, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Morrison announced that Halloween Trick or Treat Night will be held on Monday, October 31, 2016. Mayor Morrison also reported on the following: he along with Senator Argall and Senator Argall's Political Science class went on a tour of the Still Creek Water Treatment Plant, and that the borough employee who conducted the tour did an outstanding job providing knowledge on the water treatment process and the facility; requested that borough staff clean up the weeds at 162 Spruce Street as the property is going up for judicial sale; the Overdose Awareness Candle Light Walk is scheduled for Saturday, July 30th; and that he and Chief Weaver would like to meet with the Public Safety Committee.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Tom Schlorf of 223 Orwigsburg Street asked for an update on the patching of Stadium Hill. The discussion included the following: skimming off high patches; milling; in two years it will be resurfaced, and there is no need to invest too much time or money; and milling before the end of August when school is back in session. Mr. Schlorf also expressed his concerns about the following: fire trucks traveling up and down Stadium Hill; reported problem with Stadium Hill several times and nothing is being done; caving problems at the 200 block of South Street; and fixing the transmission on the Ford Explorer and getting rid of the fire chief's jeep. Mr. Schlorf also asked about the steel plate on Stadium Hill.

John Sienkiewicz of 215 Bowe Street provided an update on the Overdose Awareness Candle Light Walk being held on July 30th. Mr. Sienkiewicz stated that there are over 400 participants and wanted to know who to speak to regarding parking at the Bungalow and upper ball field. President Mace stated that he should contact pool manager Adrian Bumbulsky regarding closing the pool early to allow for parking and suggested he contact the Tamaqua Baseball Association regarding parking at the upper ball field. Mr. Sienkiewicz stated that they have received a lot of support from businesses, including use of porta potties, buses and vans for transportation, and radio and news reporters for publicity. Mr. Sienkiewicz asked if they could get four large bins for recyclables. Manager Steigerwalt stated he would ask County Waste to provide four recyclable containers for the event. President Mace commended the Sienkiewicz family for their hard work and commitment to the cause.

John Handler of 246 West Broad Street expressed his concerns regarding traffic problems and suggested placing a sign "To Route 81" at the Five Points. Mr. Handler stated that statistics show a high percentage of trucks and tractor trailers going north on Route 309 are heading to Route 81, mainly to avoid turnpike tolls. After some discussion about this matter, Councilman Evans suggested the borough contact Penn Dot for guidance on signage for the Five Points.

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.

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 with President Mace abstaining from voucher #V32798.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:40 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Evans, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Amy Macalush, Assistant Borough Secretary/Treasurer