

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of August on Tuesday, August 15, 2017 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, 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 and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire.

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 Gursky. The roll was called with six councilmembers present and one absent.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on July 18, 2017 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Gursky, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Mayor Morrison requested an executive session to discuss personnel matters.

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 Bowman, seconded by Evans, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 7:05 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 7:45 p.m.

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

Communication was received from Kathy J. Killian, borough secretary of the Borough of Schuylkill Haven, requesting the assistance of the fire police with the 63rd Annual Schuylkill County Firefighters Convention Parade on September 16, 2017. A recommendation was made to allow the fire police to assist for the event. 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 Lasky, 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 24, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., with a rain date of October 25, 2017. 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 Lech Transportation, 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 Evans, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Francis Betz, secretary of the Citizens Fire Co. #1, requesting permission to close Hegarty Avenue on September 23, 2017 for their Annual Pig Roast and Cornhole Tournament from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 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 Evans, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Patrolman Jeremy Sborz requesting Heart and Lung Act benefits for work-related injuries. A recommendation was made to approve a request from Police Patrolman Jeremy Sborz for Heart and Lung Act benefits for work-related injuries. 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 Gursky, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Roseann M. Weinrich, Tamaqua Area High School Educator and Supurban 5K Race Director, requesting permission to hold the Third Annual Supurban 5K Race in the Tamaqua Borough on October 14, 2017. The race would begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at approximately 10:00 a.m. Ms. Weinrich is asking for assistance from the Police Department and the Fire Police to help the Race Committee. The route would be the same as last year. A recommendation was made to grant the request and to authorize the use of the 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.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that he had a resolution authorizing the appropriate officials to sign a five-year Winter Traffic Services Agreement between the Borough of Tamaqua and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the Department of Transportation (PennDOT) to present for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION 2017-14
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
WINTER TRAFFIC SERVICES 5-YEAR AGREEMENT**

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution. Councilman Bowman discussed contacting PennDOT for assistance when there are substantial snowstorms. 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 approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Borough Manager Steigerwalt also reported that he had a resolution revising the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program to return \$2,985.50 in funds left over from the fiscal year 2014 handicap pool lift and stairs project to the street improvement line item to present for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION 2017-15
RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA
REVISING 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 Gursky, seconded by Evans, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that he had a resolution implementing and promoting a Fair Housing Program to present for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION 2017-16
FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION**

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

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the 2017 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application and a public hearing held on August 14, 2017.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the bid results for the Bridge Lighting and Streetscape Project as follows: \$198,000.00 is available for construction; gave a detailed overview for each of the five bid options; he is recommending Option #4 but is questioning whether to include or not include street trees from the bid option cost; the Option #4 bid option cost is \$205,600 and removing street trees from Option #4 would deduct \$7,760.00 from the cost; hoping to have the project done this year; there is a 90-day timeframe to complete the project; and rejecting the bids and rebidding the project next spring could interfere with PennDOT's West Broad Street Bridge Replacement Project that is scheduled to start next spring.

Councilwoman Lasky left the meeting at approximately 8:15 p.m.

There was some discussion about the bid options for the Bridge Lighting and Streetscape Project. A recommendation was made to approve bid Option #4, which includes bridge lighting, streetscape from the bridge to just past the Access Services Thrift Store driveway on the east sidewalk along State Route 309, concrete only (no pavers) and to remove the street trees and deduct \$7,760.00 from the cost. 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.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that he had a resolution authorizing the appropriate officials to sign a Sidewalk Maintenance Agreement between the Borough of Tamaqua and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the Department of Transportation (PennDOT) to present for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION 2017-17
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT**

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

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the Wabash Creek Culvert Repair Project as follows: Alfred Benesch and Company, the borough's engineer, reported that there may possibly be an additional half dozen wildcat sewers; a change order would be forthcoming; and work on the project by Solid Wall LLC.

Councilwoman Lasky returned to the meeting at approximately 8:20 p.m.

A recommendation was made to authorize Manager Steigerwalt and the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee to approve the change orders as recommended by Alfred Benesch and Company for the Wabash Creek Culvert Repair 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.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) project on Brew Street has been completed and a final inspection was held last week. There are a few punch list items.

Chairwoman Lasky of the Parking and Traffic Committee reported that she had a resolution approving a Traffic Signal Application to upgrade the traffic signal at Spruce and Hunter streets to present for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION 2017-18
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
APPLICATION FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL APPROVAL**

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution. Councilman Lasky described the project. 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 Cara, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a PPL Outdoor Light Service Order to move streetlights at the Spruce and South Railroad streets intersection and the Greenwood and Hazle streets intersection. 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, Councilman Evans discussed a PennDOT proposal extending a single white line north on Railroad Street approximately to the entrance of the parking lot at Tommy's Italian Specialty Shop and to install signage for two lanes and lane markings as needed. A recommendation was made to send a request to PennDOT to extend the white lane line just beyond the entrance of the parking lot at Tommy's Italian Specialty Shop and to install the signs and lane markings as needed. 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 Evans, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage & Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a proposal from Alfred Benesch and Company in the amount of \$4,200.00 for the annual inspection of the Upper and Lower Owl Creek Dams. 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 Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a Cooperation Agreement with Schuylkill County for the demolition of 252 West Cottage Avenue. 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, Councilman Evans reported on the following: he invited On the Grind, an organization from the Lehigh Valley, to the second meeting in September; he received calls and complaints about the North and Middle Ward Playground lights still being on; a letter from a pool patron that the committee is reviewing; and using the Dutch Hill basketball court as a community skating rink for the winter will also be discussed in September.

Under the Mayor's report, a recommendation was made to hire Linaldy Rodriguez 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 Gursky, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Joan Dietrich of East Broad Street stated that she is a representative from the Tamaqua senior citizens group. Ms. Dietrich read a prepared statement. She stated that Mary Linkevich, the former Director of Community Development, was working on her request. Ms. Dietrich is again requesting help setting up and taking down tables and chairs when they meet on Thursdays at the YMCA. There was much discussion about the following: establishing a senior citizen center in Tamaqua; the seniors meet at the Tamaqua YMCA; they share the YMCA facility with other groups; the seniors group consists of about 60 active members; it is difficult for them to set up and take down the tables and chairs each time they have a meeting; if the borough can find another property for a senior center; other facilities in town that could possibly accommodate the seniors; there are other senior centers in the county in which the rent is paid by the Schuylkill County Commissioners; the Tamaqua Community Art Center funding sources; possibly volunteers from the community could come forward to assist the seniors with the setting up and taking down of tables and chairs at the YMCA; and once a new Director of Community Development is hired, that person could continue looking into the matter.

Michelle Mehallic of 411 North Lehigh Street expressed her concerns about a property on Penn Street that is falling down and is dangerous. Mayor Morrison would give the address to Manager Steigerwalt.

John and Tammy Sienkiewicz of 215 Bowe Street expressed their concerns about safety issues with various properties, including a property at 122 Orwigsburg Street where roof jacks have been there forever and posted violation notices were removed.

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 Gursky, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under Unfinished Business, Manager Steigerwalt stated that three of the borough equipment items sold using the Municibid online government auction website are still outstanding and have not been picked up. The items are a vintage Coca-Cola cooler, a commercial refrigerator and a 2004 Dodge Intrepid Police car. A recommendation was made to award the bids for the vintage Coca-Cola cooler, a commercial refrigerator and a 2004 Dodge Intrepid Police car to the next highest bidder. 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 Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Under Unfinished Business, Councilman Evans asked Manager Steigerwalt for an update on PPL and the Street Light Acquisition Project. Manager Steigerwalt gave an update on the Street Light Acquisition Project as follows: the engineer for the project received military mobilization orders unexpectedly; a replacement engineer; PPL was paid for the utility and customer make-ready work in May; and the PPL make-ready work would begin next month. A recommendation was

made to send a letter to PPL requesting that PPL accelerate the utility and customer make-ready work. 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 Unfinished Business, Councilman Evans asked Manager Steigerwalt if the final paperwork was received for the actual purchase of the streetlights. Manager Steigerwalt stated that the paperwork has not been received but will contact PPL Key Account Manager Harry Devine II.

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 Gursky, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, Councilman Gursky stated that the Pennsylvania Cable Network (PCN), along with The Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs, selected four boroughs, of which Tamaqua was one, and were filming in Tamaqua today. The program would air on PCN in October.

Under New Business, Councilman Gursky stated that Schuylkill County is establishing a new core group for emergency management.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:20 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Cara, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer