

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of September on Tuesday, September 1, 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, Kerry Lasky and David Mace. Absent was Councilmember Justin Startzel. 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. Also in attendance were Barry Isset and Associates, Inc. representatives Joshua Esposito and Matthew Meyers.

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

The reading of the minutes of the last Regular Council Meeting held on August 18, 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.

Communication was received from Bob Schlorf, captain of the Tamaqua Fire Police Association, requesting permission to hold a Rubber Duck Race on Father's Day, June 19, 2016. 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.

Communication was received from The Tamaqua Salvation Army thanking council and borough employees for their support with the Kidz Karnival event. Dina Depos, the Salvation Army's Kidz Karnival Koordinator, also thanked Manager Steigerwalt and Public Works Director Jones for all their hard work in keeping our town running and their assistance in the event.

Communication was received from Leona Rega, Tamaqua Community Arts Center and Safety Initiative Coordinator, inviting councilmembers to an after-party celebrating the Dear Tamaqua in a New Light community event on September 27, 2015 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

President Gursky turned the meeting over to Councilman Cara who presented Leona Rega, Tamaqua Community Arts Center and Safety Initiative Coordinator, with a framed front-page Times News newspaper article featuring the Dear Tamaqua project.

Under Special Business, President Gursky stated that General Code has prepared an Editorial and Legal Analysis for the Ordinance Codification Project. The Editorial and Legal Analysis contains specific questions on the Borough's legislation in a workbook format. President Gursky stated that council will be reviewing, discussing and answering the questions in the Editorial and Legal Analysis at tonight's meeting. The items that would need further review or revision would be referred to the appropriate individual(s) or a committee. President Gursky stated that a copy of the draft response would be made available for public inspection at the Municipal Building.

Councilmembers began the review of the Editorial and Legal Analysis for the Ordinance Codification Project.

During the discussion of Chapter 305, Taxation, Article II, Per Capita Tax, a recommendation was made to change the age that a per capita tax is levied on individuals to 18 years of age from 21 years of age. 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 approved by a 5-1 roll call vote with Councilman Cara opposed.

The review of the Editorial and Legal Analysis for the Ordinance Codification Project continued and finished at approximately 8:45 p.m.

President Gursky stated that a copy of the Editorial and Legal Analysis draft response would be made available for public inspection at the Municipal Building.

Code Enforcement and Zoning Officer Joshua Esposito of Barry Isset and Associates, Inc. gave an update of the Family Dollar sidewalk.

Under the Building and Equipment report, a recommendation was made to lease/purchase two 2016 Ford F-250 pickup trucks for the Street Department from Kovatch Ford Inc. of Nesquehoning, PA through the COSTARS program at a cost of \$59,007.52. 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 Connely, and unanimously approved.

Under the Building and Equipment report, a recommendation was made to purchase a used four-wheel drive vehicle at a cost not to exceed \$15,000. 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 Connely, and unanimously approved.

Under the Building and Equipment report, a recommendation was made award the contract to purchase carpeting for the Municipal Building to McNulty's Building Supply, Inc. of Pottsville, PA at a cost of \$11,441.40. There was some discussion about this matter. Council recognized Herbert Curvey of 118 Clay Street who stated that council moved to this building in the 1970's from the Citizen's Fire Company building. There was no one else from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Evans, seconded by Connely, and unanimously approved.

Under the Building and Equipment report, there was some discussion about upgrading to a phone voicemail system.

Under the Building and Equipment report, there was some discussion about the sale of old equipment. A recommendation was made to authorize the Borough Manager to sell three old pickup trucks. 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 Connely, and unanimously approved.

Under the Building and Equipment report, there was some discussion about a request to purchase a new mobile radio for the Fire Chief's vehicle.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for Joan Haldeman of 337 Penn Street with the handicapped parking space to be placed at the side of her property on Coal and Penn streets. 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 Evans, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a request from Kerry Lasky to attend the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs Fall Leadership Conference at Seven Springs Mountain Resort on October 16-17, 2015. 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 Mace, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to purchase five blue bike racks for the Streetscape Project area from Kirby Built at a cost of \$200 each with the locations of the bike racks to be determined later. 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 Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Chairman Mace of the Recreation and Youth Committee announced that the pool would be closing on Sunday, September 6, 2015 and thanked the staff for their flexibility and availability.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Pete Sandor as a part-time police officer. There was no one from floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Connely, seconded by Mace, and unanimously approved.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to authorize the appropriate officials to execute the North Central Highway Network, Inc., North Central Regional DUI Enforcement Conditions of Agreement. 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.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Karri Garber of 200 Pine Street expressed her concerns about handicapped accessibility as follows: clearance areas at the Summerfest and Heritage Day Festivals; the pavement by the Borough Hall before the bridge; Lazur's garage on Biddle Street behind Domino's; a bush at 451 East Broad Street leaves little room to walk; the pavement at 306 Broad Street is uneven and some parts are just dirt and stones; a pavement on the Greenwood Street side of the Hang Loose Bar is very uneven and choppy; 250 and 252 Cedar Street has a large chunk of uneven sidewalk; no cut outs on either corner at Greenwood and Cedar streets at the corner of Mundy's Pub and the opposing corner; on Greenwood Street across from the Hang Loose Bar there is an uneven pavement where you would have to go onto the street to get around; and between Dr. Krause's office and the Tamaqua Public Library there are no cut outs so a person in a wheelchair has to go out in the street. President Gursky asked Ms. Garber to provide her list to the Code Enforcement Officials and he recommended that she contact the organizers of the festivals to express her concerns about accessibility.

Ms. Garber thanked the American Hose Fire Company for the handicapped accessibility during their block party.

Billy Garber and Carol Ann Garber of 200 Pine Street expressed their concerns about dogs not being leashed and enforcement of a dog leash law.

Mayor Morrison asked the Garber family to contact him or Chief Weaver regarding their concerns.

Herbert Curvey of 118 Clay Street asked about the status of Councilman Startzel. Councilman Startzel has joined the military. President Gursky stated that he is still a councilman.

Mr. Curvey expressed his concerns about a Times News newspaper reporter not reporting information on the Civil Service Commission from the last council meeting.

Mr. Curvey also expressed his concerns about a wall that was torn down on West Street between Clay and Union streets and where the person dumped the remnants of the wall is blocking the street.

Mr. and Mrs. Curvey announced that they will be celebrating their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Wednesday, September 2, 2015.

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

A recommendation was made to hold an executive session to discuss legal matters. 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.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 9:21 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 9:25 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:25 p.m. on motion of Connely, seconded by Mace, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

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Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer