

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of September on Tuesday, September 17, 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, Brian Connely, Mary Linkevich, Ritchie Linkhorst and David Mace. Absent was Councilmember Thomas Cara. Officials present were Mayor Nathan Gerace, Chief of Police Henry Woods, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Solicitor Michael S. Greek, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire and Director of Community Development Ann Marie Calabrese

The meeting was called to order by President Mace. The invocation was given by Councilman Connely 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 September 3, 2019 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Rich Stianche of 109 Gay Street, Tamaqua, PA expressing an interest in serving as a member of the Citizen's Advisory Committee. A recommendation was made to appoint Rich Stianche to serve on the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC). 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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Steven Gintz of 123 Pine Street, Tamaqua, PA expressing an interest in serving as a member of the Citizen's Advisory Committee. A recommendation was made to appoint Steven Gintz to serve on the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC). 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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Stephanie McCarroll, secretary of the East End Fire Company, requesting permission to designate the parking area on Columbia Street against the East End Fire Company for "Fire Fighters Parking Only". 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Ryan Poeldnrk stating that he is resigning from his position as a part-time police officer with the Tamaqua Police Department. A recommendation was made to accept the resignation of Ryan Poeldnrk. 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Secretary/Treasurer Georgia DeWire informing borough council that the 2020 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the Police Employees Pension Plan is \$304,044, the MMO for the Non-Uniformed Employees Pension Plan is \$128,925, and the MMO for the Non-Uniformed Defined Contribution Component Plan is \$28,000. Secretary/Treasurer DeWire stated that the borough would require state aid and/or borough

contributions in the year 2020 to meet the funding requirements for any or all pension plan(s). Secretary/Treasurer DeWire stated that if General Municipal Pension System State Aid monies were not available, the borough contributions in the year 2020 to meet the funding requirements for all pension plans would be approximately \$460,969.

A recommendation was made to approve the certification for the Police Employees Pension Plan calculating the 2020 MMO as \$304,044, the certification for the Non-Uniformed Employees Pension Plan calculating the 2020 MMO as \$128,925 and the certification of the Non-Uniformed Defined Contribution Component Plan as \$28,000. Councilman Connely stated that the borough funds its obligations. 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 unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Justin D. Startzel requesting permission for the following: to light the fountain blue and white at Depot Square Park; to tie removable blue and white ribbon to the light fixtures and poles along downtown Broad Street, Center Street, Stadium Hill and sections of Mauch Chunk and Railroad streets; and to place blue and white flags throughout the downtown area. Mr. Startzel stated that he would contact Mayor Gerace for this year's second annual white out and Blue Raider Day which would be held on Friday, October 18, 2019. A recommendation was made to grant the request contingent upon Mr. Startzel obtaining permission from the C.H. Berry Post No. 173 of The American Legion to use the flag holders. There was some discussion about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Eunice Regis, president and owner of 14 West Broad Street, expressing her concerns about the following: the placement of large garbage containers on Cottage Avenue by DiMaggio's La Dolce Casa Restaurant which is located at 16 West Broad Street; a photo of the placement of the garbage container was provided; yellow markings by the borough for the placement of these containers; traffic issues in that area of Cottage Avenue; the quality of life in area; and a photo of the place. There was some discussion about this matter. Council recognized John Sakusky of 331 Owl Creek Road who stated that since the yellow line was painted and when an SUV is parked there, you can barely get through the area and it is worse now than it ever was.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the 2019-2020 insurance policy renewal with The Seltzer Group. Manager Steigerwalt stated that he does not have the pricing yet and the policy renews on October 1, 2019. A recommendation was made to refer the insurance policy renewal to the Borough Manager to review and execute. 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.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the Owl Creek Road Paving Project as follows: Public Works Director Jones and Councilman Bowman put a lot of effort into this project; the 2019 paving equipment rental contract bid results; two options and related costs for the paving project; using the borough workforce for the project; renting a tack coat vehicle and paver through the COSTARS program; and using a borough person to operate the paver. The Owl Creek Paving Project 2019 Option 2 is as follows:

3,000 Ton (estimate) Superpave Asphalt Mix, Lehigh Asphalt Material Bid	\$ 169,500.00
Paver Rental, Stephenson Equipment, COSTARS, 1 month	\$ 9,000.00
Roller Rental, Stephenson Equipment, COSTARS, 1 week	\$ 1,400.00
Tack Coat Distributer, Lehigh Asphalt, Sealed Bid	\$ 1,980.00
Tack Coat, Asphalt Maintenance, COSTARS, at .07 gal/sq yd	\$ 2,330.00
40 Ton, 2A (shoulder repair) Lehigh Asphalt, COSTARS	<u>\$ 420.00</u>
Total	\$ 184,630.00

A recommendation was made to proceed with Option 2 for the Owl Creek Paving Project as presented by the Borough Manager. Councilman Bowman stated that the project is scheduled to begin the second week of October. Manager Steigerwalt stated that project would be paid with Liquid Fuels funds. Council recognized Mary Ann Sakusky of 331 Owl Creek Road who expressed her concerns about the project start and completion, that the road is done right and if anyone was going to fix the craters that currently exist. Councilman Bowman responded to her concerns as follows: trying to rebuild a road with the least cost to the taxpayers; the borough has been working on this project for at least a year; explained pre-work before the project; and the borough is doing the best it can do. 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 Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to approve the additional paving only of Pleasant Row at a cost of \$6,200.00 with funds designated from the General Fund. Council recognized John Sakusky who stated that he thought the borough raised the tax rate to cover the paving. President Mace stated that the tax rate is for General purposes, Building and Equipment Fund purposes and Wabash Improvement Fund purposes. 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 Connely, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to accept a bid from Lehigh Asphalt and Construction Company of Tamaqua for the rental of a Tack Coat Vehicle, self-contained with operator, at a cost of \$165.00 per hour or approximately \$1,980.00 for 12 hours. 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 Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: a proposed ordinance for a stop sign at Market Street would be presented at an October council meeting; and the bid opening for the heating oil contract will take place on October 10, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Manager Steigerwalt requested an executive session prior to adjournment to discuss personnel matters.

Director of Community Development Calabrese reported that she had a resolution implementing and promoting a Fair Housing Program to present for council’s consideration:

**RESOLUTION 2019-10
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 Linkevich, seconded by Bowman, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Director of Community Development Calabrese also reported that she had a resolution approving the budget for the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) for fiscal year 2019 to present for council’s consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-11
APPROVING BUDGET FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019.

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution. President Mace detailed the budget as follows: demolition \$29,900; administration \$21,877; and street improvements \$69,767; and the total amount of the grant is \$121,544. 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 Bowman, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Director of Community Development Calabrese also reported on the following: a Community Development Plan for the years 2019-2021; the Tamaqua Community Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ) Contracting Authority would be holding a public hearing on September 23, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of taking seven parcels out of the CRIZ zone, six that are owned by the borough and one that is owned by BET; introduced intern Megan Heckman, who attends Kutztown University, and is assisting with CRIZ projects; the deadline to submit completed pool surveys is September 30th; and pool surveys are also available online via the survey monkey link.

Chief Woods reported that an officer just returned from checking the area at the rear of 14-16 West Broad Street and it looks like all drivers are legally parked.

Chief Woods reported that a Police Department NARCAN Policy is ready to be adopted. A recommendation was made to adopt a Tamaqua Police Department Use of NARCAN (Naloxone HCI) Policy and the policy is to be made part of the Tamaqua Police Department Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). Chief Woods explained the NARCAN policy. Chief Woods stated that officers had training approximately two years ago with their updates. 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to purchase five WatchGuard VISTA body cameras for the police department in the amount of approximately \$5,480.00. There was some discussion about grant funding, COSTARS pricing and that former Chief Weaver had put a body camera policy in place and the policy is also in the SOP. 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 unanimously approved.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Andrew Seip as a part-time police officer, effective immediately. 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 unanimously approved.

Officer Andrew Seip was sworn in by Mayor Gerace.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for signage at 254 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 Bowman, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for signage at 39 Center Street. 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 Connely, and unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for signage at 249 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 Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for signage at 113 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 Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Under the Building and Equipment Committee report, a recommendation was made to purchase a Robinair Air Conditioning Refrigerant R134a Recovery and Recycling Unit at a cost of approximately \$4,749.00 with funds designated from the Equipment 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 Bowman, seconded by Connely, and unanimously approved.

Under the Solar Ad-Hoc Committee report, Councilman Connely, who is also the Chairman of Tamaqua Area Water Authority (TAWA), reported on the following: the authority discussed the Solar Array Opportunity; the TAWA Solicitor would like to further review the agreement and information with other communities and with the authority engineers, Gannett Fleming Inc.; due diligence; and the authority approved having the agreement reviewed. There was some discussion about this matter.

Mayor Gerace asked if Director of Community Development Calabrese writes grant applications to various agencies and suggested she attend a grant writing class. There was some discussion about this matter.

Mayor Gerace announced that Trick or Treat night would be held on October 31, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Mayor Gerace also announced that the Halloween Parade would be held on October 22nd and the Annual Tamaqua Heritage Festival would be held on October 13th.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Mary Ann Sakusky stated that there are many grants available for municipalities and she used the Borough of Lehighton as an example. There was some discussion about this matter.

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 Connely, 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 Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 8:09 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:40 p.m.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:40 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