

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of September on Tuesday, September 18, 2018 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, Brian Connely, R. Daniel Evans, Mary Linkevich and David Mace. Absent was Councilmember Ritchie Linkhorst. 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 Cara followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Connely. The roll was called with six councilmembers present and one absent.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on August 21, 2018 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 Christine A. Holman, Esquire, proposing that the Borough of Tamaqua enter into a lease agreement with Roberto Picone, owner of La Dolce Casa, for a parking lot lease at the location of Hunter Street where currently there are parking meters. A recommendation was made to refer the matter to the Parking and Traffic Committee to review. 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 members of Girl Scout Troop #33013, Hunter, Lilyanne, Leah, Emma, Polly and Amelia, along with Troop Leaders Ashley DeBellis and Meranda Hess, thanking council for allowing their troop to create a community garden at 13-15 South Lehigh Street. The Girl Scouts enclosed a "Shared with a Pal" (SWAP), which is a small craft scouts give to one another to symbolize friendship. The SWAP would be placed in the borough's trophy case.

Communication was received from Mark Leiby requesting to fill the open position in the Water Department. A recommendation was made to approve the transfer of Mark Leiby from the Street Department to the Water Department. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this motion. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Connely, and unanimously approved.

President Mace stated that a job vacancy notice would be posted for an in-house applicant for a Street Maintenance Worker, and if the position is not filled in-house, the position would be advertised in the newspaper.

Communication was received from Secretary/Treasurer Georgia DeWire informing borough council that the 2019 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the Police Employees Pension Plan is \$302,659, the MMO for the Non-Uniformed Employees Pension Plan is \$134,864, and the MMO for the Non-Uniformed Defined Contribution Component Plan is \$24,000.

Secretary/Treasurer DeWire stated that the borough would require state aid and/or borough contributions in the year 2019 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 2019 to meet the funding requirements for all pension plans would be approximately \$461,523.

A recommendation was made to approve the certification for the Police Employees Pension Plan calculating the 2019 MMO as \$302,659. 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 approve the certification for the Non-Uniformed Employees Pension Plan calculating the 2019 MMO as \$134,864. Councilman Evans asked about the significant increase from the 2018 certification which was \$79,830. Secretary/Treasurer DeWire stated that there are several factors that are increasing the liability and amortization requirement as follows: the implementation of a one-time early retirement defined benefit provision in 2014; the year 2015 ended with a negative investment market which has resulted in increased funding requirements; a recommendation made by Univest Municipal Pension Services was approved by the pension committee to update the Mortality Table to RP2000 projected to 2017 using Scale AA; and any changes in the plan's active membership. 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 approve the certification of the Non-Uniformed Defined Contribution Component Plan as \$24,000. 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.

Communication was received from George Taylor, outreach team of Zion Lutheran Church, requesting permission to close Mauch Chunk Street from Greenwood Street to Market Street on October 28, 2018 from noon to 5:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. for a "Trunk or Treat" event. A recommendation was made to grant the request to close Mauch Chunk Street from Greenwood Street to Market Street on October 28, 2018 from noon to 6:00 p.m. 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 David J. Meredith, parade chairperson/Post Adjutant 0173 for the Tamaqua American Legion C.H. Berry Post Number 173, requesting permission to hold the annual Tamaqua Veterans Day Parade on November 10, 2018 beginning at 10:00 a.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 Linkevich, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Francis Betz, secretary of the Citizens Fire Company #1, requesting permission to close Hegarty Avenue on October 6, 2018 for their Annual Pig Roast and Cornhole Tournament from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 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 Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on a Draft of the Code of Ordinances prepared by General Code for the borough's review.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the 2018-2019 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, 2018. A recommendation was made to refer the insurance policy renewal to the Borough Manager and the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: a 2018 Schuylkill County Fall Cleanup and Recycling Event; a borough version of Electronics Recycling should be ready next week; preliminary copies of the Flood Insurance Rate Map, Flood Insurance Study report, and updated flood hazard information for review; gave an update on the code issues at the properties located at 217 Washington Street and 219 Washington Street and discussed a letter from Seitz Brothers Pest Control concerning an inspection, estimate and treatment for fleas; gave an update on the code issues and citations issued at the properties located at 517 Washington Street and 523 Washington Street; gave an update on the West Broad Street Wabash Creek Bridge Project; and the borough voicemail phone system.

Director of Community Development Calabrese reported on the following: a second public Community Development Block Grant(CDBG) hearing scheduled on October 17, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. at the Schuylkill County Courthouse; an invitation to attend a tour of the Allentown Neighborhood Improvement Zone on October 19, 2018 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; and a draft Sidewalk Repair Loan Program. There was some discussion about the draft Sidewalk Repair Loan Program and council's review. President Mace stated that the Sidewalk Repair Loan Program should be placed on the October 2, 2018 council meeting agenda for approval.

Director of Community Development Calabrese also reported that she will be giving a welcome basket to a new business in town on behalf of the borough.

Director of Community Development Calabrese also reported that she had a resolution approving the budget for the CDBG Program for fiscal year 2018 to present for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-10  
APPROVING BUDGET FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT  
PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018.**

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution. There was some discussion about the demolition budget. 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 Linkevich, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Director of Community Development Calabrese also reported that she had a resolution modifying the CDBG Program for fiscal years 2015, 2016 and 2017 to present for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-11  
RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF  
TAMAQUA MODIFYING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT  
PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEARS 2015, 2016 AND 2017.**

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.

Chief Woods reported that the probationary period for Officer Christian DeAngelo and Officer Jeremy Sborz is nearing completion. A recommendation was made to retain Officer

Christian DeAngelo and Officer Jeremy Sborz as full-time officers upon completion of their probationary period. 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.

Chief Woods also reported on the following: the department has addressed Mr. Trudich's complaint regarding speeding that was discussed at the last council meeting; part-time patrolmen hours; a North Central Highway Safety Network agreement; a request for Officer Rodgers to attend a Glock Armorer's Training Course on October 9, 2018 and a Crime Scene and Homicide Investigation class. There was some discussion about the police budget.

Under the Chief of Police report, a recommendation was made to approve Officer Rodgers to attend a Glock Armorer's Training Course on October 9, 2018 at a cost of \$250.00. 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.

Chief Woods also reported that two taser guns hit their end of service life and two taser guns are approaching end of life. Chairman Connely of the Public Safety Committee was given information to review.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 108 Pitt 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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Councilman Cara of the Parking and Traffic Committee reported that he had an ordinance establishing a stop intersection for southbound traffic on Swatara Street at the intersection with Van Gelder Street to present for council's consideration:

**ORDINANCE NO. 697**  
**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING CHAPTER XVII, PART 1, TRAFFIC AND PARKING REGULATIONS, SECTION 17, STOP INTERSECTIONS ESTABLISHED.**

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 Evans, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Councilman Cara of the Parking and Traffic Committee reported that he had an ordinance prohibiting parking in front of the main entrance to Trinity United Church of Christ, 22 Lafayette Street to present for council's consideration:

**ORDINANCE NO. 698**  
**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING CHAPTER XVII, PART 1, TRAFFIC AND PARKING REGULATIONS, SECTION 33, PARKING PROHIBITED IN CERTAIN LOCATIONS.**

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 Evans, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to advertise an ordinance prohibiting parking between signs on the east side of the 200 block of Washington Street along the stone wall. 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 Cara, seconded by Evans, and unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District report, a recommendation was made to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness to change the existing sign in front of the Wells Fargo Building at 17 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 Cara, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District report, a recommendation was made to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for a sign change and window lettering at 202 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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District report, a recommendation was made to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace windows, a roof and garage doors and to remove a chimney that is deteriorated, and to add signage to the building at 0 West Broad Street. There was some discussion about the street address, property location and that the parcel locator was used to identify the street address. Council recognized John Handler of 246 West Broad Street who asked if the property is in the Borough of Tamaqua. President Mace stated that the property is located in the borough. 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.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District report, a recommendation was made to purchase three Welcome to Tamaqua signs from Pennsylvania Correctional Industries at a cost of approximately \$2,400.00 and six metal posts from Steel and Metal Service Center in Pottsville, PA at a cost of approximately \$600.00. Chairman Cara stated that he has two sponsors, Seitz Brothers and Daniel Reigel Plumbing and Heating, and a very good prospect for a third sponsor. Councilman Bowman stated that a sign can have multiple sponsors. There was some discussion about the signs and locations. 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.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District report, a recommendation was made to approve the placement of Anthracite 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary signs along State Route 309 near Mermon Motors and the Fire Training Area. There was some discussion about the size of the signs. 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.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District report, a recommendation was made to approve the placement of Anthracite 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cultural and Showcase Community signs near the coal car at the North Railroad Street Parking Lot. 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.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a motion was made by Linkevich to resume a review of the Nature Conservancy Working Woodlands Program at the Owl Creek

Reservoirs and to perform a Rapid Forest Assessment. The motion died for lack of a second. It was noted that an ad-hoc committee consisting of President Mace and Councilmembers Connely and Cara was established on April 19, 2016 to meet with The Nature Conservancy to discuss the Working Woodlands forest conservation program. Councilman Connely relinquished his place on the committee to Councilwoman Linkevich and she would be the Chairperson of the ad-hoc committee.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a request from RUNegades Inc. of Collegeville, PA to hold 5k and 10k runs at the Owl Creek Reservoirs on May 12, 2019. Chairwoman Linkevich stated that the Owl Creek Reservoir Commission has already approved the request. 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.

Chairman Evans of the Street Light Committee reported that a pre-construction meeting for the Street Light Replacement Project would be held tomorrow.

Mayor Gerace stated that he is proud of a police department where officers can drink lemonade with children and residents and also arrest drug dealers.

Mayor Gerace also stated that he is presenting a request from Justin Startzel who would like to close Oak Street from Penn to Race streets for a Community Pep Rally on October 18, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. President Mace stated that Mr. Startzel needs to submit a formal request to council.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Claudia Krell of 335 Owl Creek Road and Mary Ann Sakusky and John "Jack" Sakusky of 331 Owl Creek Road expressed their concerns and complaints about the terrible condition of approximately 1 ½ miles of Owl Creek Road approaching the Carbon County line as follows: Mrs. Sakusky lost three hub caps on the same section of the road; potholes; there are patches upon patches; paving the road; people are coming from out of the area to visit the reservoirs and the condition of the road is bad for tourism; there is no line painting on the road creating safety issues especially when it is foggy; consider giving the road back to PennDOT to maintain; tar and chipping the surface; something has to be done to the road; and complained about the lack of zoning and code enforcement. There was much discussion about these matters.

John Bowman of the Tamaqua Fire Police asked about the status of the Fire Police request to use a borough garage to house two vehicles and to utilize office space. Chairman Connely of the Building and Equipment Committee stated that the matter is under review and the committee is looking at different options.

John Handler asked about the removal of the No Parking School Zone signs that are no longer needed since Saint Jerome Regional School is gone from the area. The Parking and Traffic Committee is looking into the matter.

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

Solicitor Greek reported that he reviewed the North Central Highway Safety Network agreement and it is okay to approve.

Solicitor Greek stated that he also reviewed a proposed ordinance addressing chronic nuisance property complaints and a three-strike policy. He stated that he would have something to

present at the next meeting. Solicitor Greek also stated there may be enforcement issues with rental versus rental units.

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.

Under Unfinished Business, Councilman Evans stated that the parking meters were ordered. Manager Steigerwalt stated that they arrived today.

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.

Under New Business, Councilwoman Linkevich discussed issues with timecards and looking into alternate methods of monitoring time. A recommendation was made to have the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee look into alternate methods of monitoring time. 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.

Under New Business, a recommendation was made to approve an agreement with North Central Highway Safety Network, Inc. for a DUI Enforcement Project as reviewed by the Solicitor. 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.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:44 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

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Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer