

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of October on Tuesday, October 17, 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 and David Mace. Absent were Councilmembers Brian Connely and Kerry Lasky. 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 five councilmembers present and two absent.

President Mace announced that an executive session was held at 6:30 p.m. prior to the council meeting to discuss personnel issues.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on October 3, 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.

Under Special Business, President Mace stated that Major Sharon Whispell of the Tamaqua Salvation Army recognized Manager Steigerwalt and Chief Weaver at their recent annual dinner and he is presenting them with their Certificates of Appreciation. Councilman Gursky stated that Major Whispell thanked the borough work crew and the police department for their assistance throughout the year and is appreciative of all their hard work.

Communication was received from F. Patrick Davison, secretary of the Tamaqua Water Authority, recommending the reappointment of John "Jack" Kulp to a five-year term on the Tamaqua Water Authority effective January 1, 2018. A recommendation was made to reappoint John "Jack" Kulp to a five-year term on the Tamaqua Water Authority effective January 1, 2018. 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 Brian Connely, chairperson of the Tamaqua Borough Authority, recommending the reappointment of Paul Fridirici to a five-year term on the Tamaqua Borough Authority effective January 1, 2018. A recommendation was made to reappoint Paul Fridirici to a five-year term on the Tamaqua Borough Authority effective January 1, 2018. 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 Brian Connely, chairperson of the Tamaqua Community Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ) Authority, recommending the reappointment of Paul Fridirici to a five-year term on the CRIZ Authority effective January 1, 2018. A recommendation was made to reappoint Paul Fridirici to a five-year term on the CRIZ Authority effective January 1, 2018. 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 Justin Startzel stating that a Tamaqua Community Pep Rally is scheduled for October 25, 2017 beginning at 5:00 p.m., with a rain date of October 26, 2017, to be held at the South Ward Playground. Mr. Startzel is requesting permission to close and

prohibit parking on Oak Street from Race to Penn streets and on Race Street from Oak to Green streets for the Pep Rally. 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 Gursky, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the Heating Oil Contract bid opening results from October 12, 2017. Four bids were received for the No. 2 Heating Oil to be delivered to various borough facilities, and the lowest bidder was Fegley Oil Company with a fixed price of \$1.899 per gallon and a floating price of \$0.123 per gallon. A recommendation was made to award the contract for No. 2 Heating Oil to the lowest bidder, Fegley Oil Company of 551 West Penn Pike, Tamaqua, PA at the fixed price of \$1.899 per gallon. 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 on a Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau Repository Sale for a property located at 202 Penn Street, tax parcel number 65-11-0145.000. Manager Steigerwalt stated that the borough submitted a bid in the amount of \$1.00 for the repository sale of 202 Pitt Street for the purpose of demolition. A recommendation was made to approve the Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau Repository Sale of 202 Penn Street, tax parcel number 65-11-0145.000, to the Borough of Tamaqua. 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.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on a Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau Repository Sale for a property located at 250 Brown Street, tax parcel number 65-11-0142.001. The bidder, Frances Devizia has no ownership of properties in Tamaqua; he does own property in Mahanoy City and has no outstanding code violations there; and he does own property in Shenandoah and does have outstanding code violations there. A recommendation was made to disapprove the Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau Repository Sale of 250 Brown Street, tax parcel number 65-11-0042.001, to Francis Devizia of P.O. Box 361, White Mills, PA. Councilman Gursky stated that the Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau is likely to sell it to Mr. Devizia anyway. President Mace noted that the address was a post office box. 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 reported that he had a resolution approving the budget for the Community Development Block Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2017 in the amount of \$107,048.00 that replaces a prior resolution approving the budget for the CDBG program fiscal year 2017. Manager Steigerwalt explained the changes as follows: Barry Isett and Associates prepared sketches for the Municipal Building ADA improvements; the improvements to the restrooms were found to be more costly than anticipated; the Swatara Street curb ramps are to be incorporated with the paving project; and the curb ramp project. Manager Steigerwalt had the following resolution to present for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION 2017-23
APPROVING BUDGET FOR CDBG PROGRAM FOR FY 2017**

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution. 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 Gursky, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the Wabash Bridge Project as follows: the project would begin next summer; detours; paving; curb ramps; signals; PennDOT's plan for traffic signal improvements at the intersection of Spruce and Hunter; No Turn on Red signs; and permanent improvements. There was some discussion about this matter. A recommendation was made to adopt PennDOT's plan for traffic signal improvements at the intersection of Spruce and Hunter. 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. President Mace stated that there has been a change in leadership at PennDOT and Ronald Young may be more inclined to go curb to curb. President Mace encouraged Manager Steigerwalt to call Mr. Young to find out plans for curb cuts along Routes 209 and 309.

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

Under the Building and Equipment Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a five-year lease agreement with Schuylkill County for the District Magistrate office located at the Rear 320 East Broad Street. The lease shall be for a period of five years commencing January 1, 2018 and ending December 31, 2022. 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 Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 34 Market 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 Committee report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a sign on the front of the building facing East Broad Street at 115 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 Gursky, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to change original approved plans for fire escape stairs and decking at 301 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 Gursky, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a new fire escape and ramp to the rear of the building at 44 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 Gursky, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under the Street Light Committee report, President Mace stated that PPL started the make-ready work and it should be completed by the end of November.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Lenore Rutman of 100 Orwigsburg Street expressed her concerns about a flatbed truck, owned by George Geissinger, that is left running in front of her house and the fumes from the truck go into her home. Ms. Rutman's brother, David, also expressed his concerns about this matter. Chief Weaver asked Ms. Rutman to call him directly to make him aware of her situations with Mr. Geissinger.

Barbara Stankovic stated that she was on the fire truck ride during the Tamaqua Heritage Festival that was held on October 8th and the fire truck had difficulty making a turn in the area where Mr. Geissinger's truck was parked.

Councilman Cara suggested placing No Parking Here to Corner signs in this area.

Earl Hartranft of 111 Coal Street expressed his concerns about water service at 113 Coal Street as follows: the property at 113 Coal Street is adjacent to his property; last winter there was a water line break at 113 Coal Street; the water was shut off inside the house; the curb stop is broken; the curb stop is the property owner's responsibility; winter is coming and what if the water line breaks again from the house to the main; if the water line breaks again he will get water in his basement; and he attempted contacting the property owner to resolve this matter. Councilman Bowman stated that the borough should find a way to shut off the water at the curb stop as that should fix the problem.

Ilona Kerr of 225 Washington Street expressed her concerns about the bus route running from the High School and Middle School. She expressed her concerns about speeding, safety issues and damage to vehicles on Washington Street. There was some discussion about this matter and that the school district should discuss this matter with the bus company.

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

Solicitor Greek has made the changes to the Use and Maintenance Agreement for the On The Grind Association who is interested in managing the Willing Skate Park. Solicitor Greek discussed changing the term of the agreement to a five-year term and changing the language relating to installed equipment and putting the park back to its original condition. A copy of the revised agreement would be given to Manager Steigerwalt.

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 Bills and Claims, Councilman Cara expressed his concerns about the high electric use at the North and Middle Ward Playground. Manager Steigerwalt stated that he had a discussion with Ray Sell from the playground association. Manager Steigerwalt stated that a possible reason for the rise in electric use could be that there were non-functional lights in the playground last year that are now fixed. The stadium lights are on from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and then the dusk to dawn lights go on. There was some discussion about scaling back the timeframe for the lights, making the request to all playgrounds, the amount of electric usage by the playground association and waiting to see what happens with the electricity usage at the end of October.

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, a recommendation was made to reimburse any dinner ticket cost for any Borough Council Member, Mayor, Borough Employee or Board, Commission or Authority Member for attending the Annual Dinner Meeting of the Schuylkill County Borough's Association. 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 Bowman, and approved by a 3-2 roll call vote with Councilmembers Cara and Evans opposed.

Under New Business, President Mace discussed a request to rename South Nescopec Street between Broad Street and Cottage Avenue from the Tamaqua Remembers Committee. The committee, spearheaded by Eric Zizelmann, will be commemorating the 150th Anniversary of Memorial Day. The committee is also planning on creating a mural on the retaining wall near the American Legion. Solicitor Greek stated that an ordinance would be needed to formally recognize the name change of that section of the street. Councilman Evans asked Manager Steigerwalt to look at the condition of the retaining wall at the rear of the American Legion and expressed his concerns about a potential safety issue.

Under New Business, Councilman Cara discussed the following: Barry Isett and Associates and staffing; repair work on manhole covers and sewer issues; and his daughter commented about the condition of the welcome sign coming into Tamaqua. Manager Steigerwalt stated that a new welcome sign is presently on order. Councilman Cara asked that the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District to look into having the area landscaped in order to beautify the area. There was some discussion about these matters.

A recommendation was made to hold an executive session to discuss litigation and personnel matters. 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.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 8:24 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:48 p.m.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:48 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