

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of October on Tuesday, October 20, 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 Chief of Police Richard Weaver, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Solicitor Michael S. Greek and Assistant Borough Secretary/Treasurer Amy Macalush.

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

The reading of the minutes of the last Regular Council Meeting held on September 15, 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 Brian Keich, president of the Tamaqua Lions Club, stating that the Annual Tamaqua Halloween Parade is planned for October 27, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., with a rain date of October 28, 2015. 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 Maff Motors, 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. 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Martin Ditsky, President of Lansford Borough Council, regarding the utilization of Tamaqua's UCC Appeals Board and the associated fee. A recommendation was made to send a letter to Lansford Council President Martin Ditsky approving the use of our Board of Appeals along with the cost associated with using this service. 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.

Communication was received from employee Kevin Titus requesting an extension of the Family Medical Leave Act per the Borough's resolution no. 2011-16. 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 Cara, seconded by Mace, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Corporal Henry Woods expressing his intent to enter into the DROP (Deferred Retirement Option Plan) as of November 1, 2015 for a period of 5 years. There was some discussion regarding the DROP program. A recommendation was made to accept a letter of intent to enter into the DROP program from Corporal Henry Woods. 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.

Communication was received from Bill Harleman of 23 Oxford Street expressing an interest to serve on the Tamaqua Historical Architectural Review Commission (HARC). Mr. Harleman stated that he is currently president of the Lansford Historical Society, is on the Board of Directors of the No. 9 Mine and Museum in Lansford and is an active member of the Tamaqua Historical Society. A recommendation was made to take the motion to appoint Bill Harleman to the Historical Architectural Review Commission (HARC) off the table. 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 Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire asking council to consider a motion to open an escrow account for fire loss insurance proceeds received from Hanover Fire and Casualty Insurance Company for the property at 210 Washington Street. A recommendation was made to open a new account for the fire insurance proceeds for the property at 210 Washington 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 Mace, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from F. Patrick Davison, secretary of the Tamaqua Water Authority, recommending the reappointment of F. Patrick Davison to a five-year term on the Tamaqua Water Authority effective January 1, 2016. A recommendation was made to reappoint F. Patrick Davison to a five-year term on the Tamaqua Water Authority effective January 1, 2016. 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.

Communication was received from Paul H. Fridirici, secretary of the Tamaqua Borough Authority, recommending the reappointment of Richard Hadesty Sr. to a five-year term on the Tamaqua Borough Authority effective January 1, 2016. A recommendation was made to reappoint Richard Hadesty Sr. to a five-year term on the Tamaqua Borough Authority effective January 1, 2016. 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.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the Heating Oil Contract bid opening results from October 1, 2015. Two 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 \$1.85 per gallon and a floating price of \$0.12 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 \$1.85 per gallon. 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 Connely, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the 2015-2016 insurance policy renewal. Manager Steigerwalt noted that the new renewal premium is approximately \$1,500 less than last year, mainly due to the Workers Compensation policy. A recommendation was made to approve the borough's 2015-2016 insurance policies with The Seltzer Group. 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.

Manager Steigerwalt stated that the Tamaqua Area Water Authority (TAWA) approved two new agreements with Exelon Generation, LLC. Manager Steigerwalt stated that according to the new agreements: the Annual access and Reservoir Use Fee will increase from \$75,000 to \$80,000; the Access and Reservoir Use Fee will be billed at the rate of \$0.75 per 1,000 gallons of water or 30% of the lower usage rate in effect at the time of release; Exelon would pay the TAWA a Reservoir Use Fee at the rate of \$0.15 per 1,000 gallons of water released from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2016, with a \$.01 increase per 1,000 gallons every two years; and the agreements run until 2024. A recommendation was made to approve the agreements between the Borough of Tamaqua, the Tamaqua Area Water Authority and Exelon Generation, LLC for use of excess storage capacity in, and release of water from Still Creek Reservoir. 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.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: the UAW requested arbitration for the hiring of part-time workers with a hearing set for February 9 & 10, 2016; and he is working on next year's budget and hopes to have it finished by end of month.

Councilman Cara mentioned an article regarding the reconstruction of the bridge on East Broad Street, which won an award for historic preservation and for design. Councilman Cara suggested making copies of the article for others to read.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve an agreement with the North Central Highway Safety Network Inc. for a Buckle Up PA Project grant. 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve an agreement with the North Central Highway Safety Network Inc. for a PA Aggressive Driving Enforcement and Education Project grant. 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.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to send Lynn E. York a conditional offer of employment for a part-time police officer position. 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 Evans, and unanimously approved.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Bryce Lewis 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 Connely, seconded by Mace, and unanimously approved.

Chief Weaver introduced newly hired part-time Patrolman Bryce Lewis.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Bernard S. Kupetz as a full-time Wastewater Treatment Plant Maintenance Worker at a pay rate of \$18.77 per hour. 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 Connely, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Timothy M. Ziegler as a full-time Utility Billing Clerk at a pay rate of \$13.91 per hour. 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 Evans, and approved by a 5-1 vote with Councilman Cara opposed.

Councilman Cara announced that a meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 25, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. regarding the Service Electric Franchise Agreement renewal.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown & Historic District Committee report, President Gursky reported that out of 198 businesses within the Tamaqua CRIZ, 120 businesses filed the required tax reports with the state, setting the total 2014 baseline tax revenue attributable to the CRIZ at \$2,010,119.50. President Gursky stated that any tax revenue raised above that two million mark next year will come back to the borough. President Gursky also stated that the Department of Revenue will waive the first year penalty for those businesses that didn't file if they report in the second year.

Chairman Mace of the Recreation and Youth Committee announced that John Mirarchi, ESRC Executive Director, submitted a letter of resignation effective October 23, 2015 and that the committee is currently in the process of naming a new director.

Councilman Evans left the meeting at approximately 7:40 p.m.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

With no one 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 Mace, seconded by Connely, 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 Cara, seconded by Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Councilman Evans returned to the meeting at approximately 7:41 p.m.

Under New Business, a recommendation was made to reimburse \$25.00 to Scout Troop 777 for signage. Councilman Connely stated the signs are similar to the signs posted by political candidates. 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.

Under New Business, President Gursky stated that the Wabash Creek was re-inspected about two weeks ago and the report is currently in process. President Gursky suggested that Council consider using the same inspection process to readjust the FEMA flood mapping for Tamaqua, which is not regularly updated. President Gursky stated he would find out more information regarding updating the flood plain map.

Under New Business, Councilman Cara explained the Schuylkill United Way's 2-1-1 System, which is a referral line created to help connect people to the services they need such as food programs, clothing, healthcare, senior services, legal information, etc. Councilman Cara stated the 2-1-1 system will help alleviate calls to 911.

Under New Business, a recommendation was made to adopt a resolution authorizing the local tax collector to charge a \$5.00 fee for providing a tax certification and to charge a \$5.00 fee for providing a duplicate tax bill. The following resolution was presented for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-12
TAX COLLECTOR FEES**

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 Connely, seconded by Mace, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Under New Business, the following was discussed: two quotes received on a voicemail system; and a request received from Jacqueline Chaney to serve on the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC).

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a hidden driveway sign at 100 Orwigsburg Street. Council recognized Herb Curvey of 118 Clay Street who asked where the driveway was located. Councilman Evans stated the driveway is located at the foot of Lewistown Valley. 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

President Gursky announced that there will be a Roast for Pat Stefanek at the Tamaqua Community Arts Center on Wednesday, November 4th, and encouraged everyone to attend the event.

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 Connely, seconded by Mace, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 7:55 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:38 p.m.

President Gursky stated that an executive session was held to discuss personnel matters.

A recommendation was made to eliminate Utility Clerk 1 and Utility Clerk 2 job classifications and replace with Utility Clerk, serving as the same function. 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.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:40 p.m. on motion of Mace, seconded by Connely, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Amy Macalush, Assistant Borough Secretary/Treasurer