

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of December on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 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. Councilman Justin Startzel arrived later in the meeting. Officials present were Patrolman Michael Hobbs, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire. Solicitor Michael S. Greek arrived later in the meeting. Absent was Mayor Christian Morrison.

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

The reading of the minutes of the last Regular Council Meeting held on November 18, 2014 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the revised minutes were approved as written on motion of Mace, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Councilman Startzel arrived at approximately 7:02 p.m.

Communication was received from Shirley L. Becker, secretary of the Board of Health, recommending the appointment of Judith A. Hadesty R.N. as Health Officer to a one-year term effective January 1, 2015. A recommendation was made to appoint Judith A. Hadesty R.N. as Health Officer to a one-year term effective January 1, 2015. 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 Startzel, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Thomas S. Starry of 202 Center Street stating that he is resigning from the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that the advertised 2015 Budget and 2015 Tax Ordinance are ready to adopt. Manager Steigerwalt stated that the revised budget summary takes into account the tax increase.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that he had a resolution authorizing the filing of an application for the Community Development Block Grant Program for fiscal year 2014 to present for council's consideration:

RESOLUTION 2014-19

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA
APPROVING BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014.**

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

Solicitor Greek arrived at approximately 7:05 p.m.

Manager Steigerwalt presented the schedule of regular meetings of Council, Boards, Commission, Authorities and special committees for 2015.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on a list of Elected and Appointed Borough Officials, reappointments and vacancies on the list. President Gursky stated that letters of interest should be submitted to the borough.

Manager Steigerwalt stated that the 120-day probationary period for Richard E. Miller Jr. expires today. A recommendation was made to retain Richard Miller as a full-time Street Maintenance Worker. 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 Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to approve sign placement and lighting at 123 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 Startzel, seconded by Mace, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to reappoint John Handler as the Borough of Tamaqua’s non-elected representative to the Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission (ESRC) for a three-year term effective January 1, 2015. 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 Startzel, and unanimously approved.

Chairman Mace of the Recreation and Youth Committee reported that John Mirarchi of Mount Carmel, PA was hired as the new Executive Director for the Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission. Mr. Mirarchi's first event will be Breakfast with Santa scheduled for Saturday.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

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

Solicitor Greek reported that House Bill 1590 of 2013 amended the local tax collection law which provides that a Tax Collector, with the approval of a taxing district, appoint a Deputy Tax Collector who shall collect and settle taxes during any incapacitation of the Tax Collector. Solicitor Greek reported that he had a resolution that the borough approves the Tamaqua Borough Tax Collector deputizing Lawrence M. McCullion as the Tamaqua Borough Deputy Tax Collector to present for council’s consideration:

RESOLUTION 2014-20
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
TAMAQUA BOROUGH DEPUTY TAX COLLECTOR

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

Under Unfinished Business, a recommendation was made to adopt the 2015 Budget. The summary of the proposed budget is as follows:

Proposed 2015 Budget Summary	
Estimated balance January 1, 2015	\$ 2,631,200
Estimated revenues	\$ 8,796,940
Estimated expenditures	<u>\$(9,086,916)</u>
Estimated balance December 31, 2015	\$ 2,341,224

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 Connely, seconded by Mace, and approved by a 4-3 vote with Councilmembers Cara, Lasky and Startzel opposed.

Under Unfinished Business, the 2015 Tax Ordinance fixing the real estate tax rate at 18.25 mills for General Purposes, 1.00 mill for the Building and Equipment Fund, and 0.50 mill for the Wabash Improvement Fund was presented for council’s consideration:

ORDINANCE NO. 677
 AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA,
 COUNTY OF SCHUYLKILL, COMMONWEALTH OF
 PENNSYLVANIA, FIXING THE TAX RATE
 FOR THE YEAR 2015.

	Mills on Each Dollar of Assessed Valuation
Tax rate for General Purposes	18.25 Mills
Tax Rate for Building and Equipment Purposes	1.00 Mill
Tax Rate for the Wabash Improvement Fund	0.50 Mill
Total	19.75 Mills

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing 2015 tax ordinance. 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 approved by a 4-3 roll call vote with Councilmembers Cara, Lasky and Startzel opposed.

Under Unfinished Business, President Gursky asked councilmembers to consider authorizing the Borough Manager to pay the December bills and claims upon review and approval of the Finance Committee. President Gursky stated that the bills are usually approved at the second council meeting of the month, but this would give council the ability to cancel the December 16th meeting if there is no other business to conduct. A recommendation was made to authorize the Borough Manager to pay the December bills and claims upon review and approval of the Finance Committee. 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 Mace, seconded by Startzel, and unanimously approved.

Under Unfinished Business, Manager Steigerwalt, a recommendation was made to approve the repository sale Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau’s judicial sale for 63 ½ Bowe Street, tax parcel #65-16-0186.000, to Eric Anthony Knadler. President Gursky asked that information on the low-interest loan program be sent to Mr. Knadler. 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 Startzel, and unanimously approved.

Under Unfinished Business, Councilman Connely stated that the health plan summary renewal information was received and there are questions with contract items in the UAW Collective Bargaining Agreement. President Gursky stated that a new UAW Collective Bargaining Agreement was approved last year and there is a question regarding steel-toed shoes Article 20:2.

President Gursky read Article 20.2: Employees in the Street Department and Water Distribution Department are required to wear steel-toed shoes, which the Employees are responsible for purchasing. Water Distribution Department employees assigned to reading water meters will not be required to wear safety shoes when performing these duties. The Borough shall reimburse these Employees up to \$150 per calendar year in all departments for the purchase of these safety shoes. President Gursky stated that some employees are misreading this section.

President Gursky stated that under the UAW Collective Bargaining Agreement, the health plan was changed. The UAW chose the insurance broker and the health plan was changed to a

Capital Blue Cross PPO 500 plan. President Gursky stated that the new renewal period shows changes to the plan, a 1% increase in the premium and changes to the co-payments.

President Gursky stated that no action is necessary.

Under Unfinished Business, Councilman Connely stated that the Tamaqua City Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ) Authority held its first meeting. The CRIZ Authority established terms of officers, which follows the Authority terms. The CRIZ Authority meeting would be held on the third Monday of January through October, and the second Monday of November and December at 6:30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:32 p.m. on motion of Mace, seconded by Connely, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer