

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of December on Tuesday, December 20, 2016 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, Micah Gursky, Kerry Lasky and David Mace. 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 Connely.

Mayor Morrison introduced Nathan Litsch, a student from Marian Catholic High School, attending the meeting as part of his Government class.

The roll was called with all councilmembers present.

The reading of the minutes of the last Regular Council Meeting held on December 6, 2016 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Cara, seconded by Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Ken Fenstermacher, Code Enforcement Officer, stating that the Board of Health is recommending the reappointment of Judith A. Hadesty R.N. as Health Officer to a one-year term effective January 1, 2017 on the Board of Health. A recommendation was made to appoint Judith A. Hadesty R.N. as Health Officer to a one-year term effective January 1, 2017. 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 Kathy Kunkel, secretary of the Tamaqua Civil Service Commission, recommending the reappointment of Janene M. Holter to a six-year term effective January 1, 2017 on the Tamaqua Civil Service Commission. A recommendation was made to appoint Janene M. Holter to a six-year term effective January 1, 2017 on the Civil Service Commission. 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 Anthony J. Prudenti, supervisor of the West Penn Township Board of Supervisors, thanking Jay Stidham, Water Distribution Supervisor and Water Department employees for their prompt response on December 9th to a water main break that affected several households and residents located in West Penn Township, South Tamaqua.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the 2017 Street Materials bid results. Manager Steigerwalt stated that there were a total of six bidders and that he provided council with a bid results worksheet and a comparison of material hauling cost calculations for pickup of materials at the plant or quarry. The hauling costs were calculated using the PennDOT recommended method. Manager Steigerwalt stated that due to the difference in mileage and travel time to each plant or quarry, the lowest per ton bid is not always the lowest price. Manager Steigerwalt’s recommendations for contract awards are as follows:

400 tons Superpave Hot Mix Wearing Coarse (pickup)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 19,720.00
400 tons Superpave Hot Mix Wearing Coarse (delivery)	Pottsville Materials, Pottsville, PA	\$ 21,588.00
30 tons Superpave Hot Mix Any Wearing Coarse (pickup)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 1,425.00

100 tons Superpave Hot Mix Base Coarse (pickup)	Pottsville Materials, Pottsville, PA	\$ 3,815.00
100 tons Superpave Hot Mix Base Coarse (delivery)	Pottsville Materials, Pottsville, PA	\$ 4,732.00
400 tons Superpave Warm Mix Wearing Coarse (pickup)	Pottsville Materials, Pottsville, PA	\$ 17,920.00
400 tons Superpave Warm Mix Wearing Coarse (delivery)	Pottsville Materials, Pottsville, PA	\$ 21,588.00
30 tons Superpave Warm Mix Any Wearing Coarse(pickup)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 1,465.00
100 tons Superpave Warm Mix Base Coarse (pickup)	Pottsville Materials, Pottsville, PA	\$ 3,815.00
100 tons Superpave Warm Mix Base Coarse (delivery)	Pottsville Materials, Pottsville, PA	\$ 4,732.00
100 tons PaDOT OK Cold Patch (pickup)	Pottsville Materials, Pottsville, PA	\$ 12,500.00
100 tons PaDOT OK Cold Patch (delivery)	Hei-Way LLC, Sarver, PA	\$ 11,300.00
500 tons 2A stone (pickup)	R.E. Pierson, Middleport, PA	\$ 3,500.00
500 tons 2A stone (delivery)	Pennsy Supply, Pittston, PA	\$ 6,180.00
100 gallons PG 64-22 (pickup)	Pottsville Materials, Pottsville, PA	\$ 450.00
750 tons Anti-skid AS3 (pickup)	R.E. Pierson, Middleport, PA	\$ 8,250.00
750 tons Anti-skid AS3 (delivery)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 11,025.00
200 tons #57 stone (pickup)	R.E. Pierson, Middleport, PA	\$ 1,800.00
200 tons #57 stone (delivery)	R.E. Pierson, Middleport, PA	\$ 2,800.00
100 tons #8 stone (pickup)	R.E. Pierson, Middleport, PA	\$ 1,100.00
100 tons #8 stone (delivery)	R.E. Pierson, Middleport, PA	\$ 1,600.00

A motion was made by Connely and seconded by Gursky to award the 2017 Street Materials based on the recommendations of the Borough Manager. Councilman Bowman expressed his concerns about the following: he and borough workers have concerns regarding the use of 2A stone from R.E. Pierson; the 2A stone may not be a true limestone; and compaction issues. After some discussion about this matter, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to award the 2017 Street Materials based on the recommendations of the Borough Manager with the exception of the 500 tons 2A Stone from R.E. Pierson Materials until this item is reviewed further. Councilman Bowman also expressed his concerns about blacktop material as follows: if it is usable by the time it gets to the worksite; checking the temperature of the material; and the material can be rejected if it is not the appropriate temperature. 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 Gursky, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that the auction was held for the sale of 240 Center Street. Child Development Inc. of Minersville, PA was the only bidder. The minimum bid was \$25,000 and Child Development made the required down payment. A motion was made by Gursky and seconded by Bowman to accept the bid of \$25,000 from Child Development Inc. of Minersville and to prepare an agreement of sale for the property at 240 Center Street. After some discussion, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to accept the bid of \$25,000 from Child Development Inc. of Minersville, to prepare an agreement of sale for the property at 240 Center Street and to authorize the Borough Manager to execute all documents related to the sale. 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 presented an outdoor light service order from PPL to install a streetlight at Broad and Swatara streets for council’s approval. The staff of St. John XXIII Parish had requested that a streetlight be placed on Swatara Street at the bottom of the Iron Steps. A recommendation was made to approve an outdoor light service work order from PPL to install a streetlight at Broad and Swatara streets. 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 that there would be no changes to the garbage schedule during the upcoming holidays.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on a list of various committees, a vacancy on the Board of Health and a vacancy on the Board of Appeals. President Mace stated that he submits his candidacy for the Board of Appeals position. A recommendation was made to appoint Dave Mace to serve on the Board of Appeals. It was noted that this is not a paid 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 Gursky, and approved by a 6-0-1 vote with President Mace abstaining.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the expiring terms for members of the Non-Uniformed and Police Pension Committees and those current members are willing to serve again. Councilman Connely stated that his work schedule makes it difficult to attend the pension meetings and asked if there are any other interested parties willing to serve in his place. Mayor Morrison recommended discussing the membership at the next pension meeting.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 221 Green Street to be placed north of the adjacent garage toward Penn Street. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Lasky, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, Manager Steigerwalt requested an executive session prior to adjournment to discuss real estate issues related to the Center Street Streetscape Improvement Project.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, there was much discussion about the placement of No Parking signs on South Street as follows: if the signs were placed in the wrong location; the signs that were placed on the 200 block of South Street between Green and Oak streets are fine; the problem lies on Green Street; the parking situation in the area of the 100 and 200 blocks of South Street; the parking situation at the four corners of Green Street; and the original intention of the signs were for the 100 Block of South Street. A motion was made by Lasky and seconded by Bowman to place No Parking signs for the whole 100 block of South Street on both sides. After some discussion, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to place No Parking signs from the corner of the property at 221 Green Street to the rear of the property where the house ends on South Street. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Lasky, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, President Mace stated that he and Mary Linkevich, Director of Community Development, are looking into ice skating opportunities and obtaining a liner for the basketball court at Elm Street or the North and Middle Ward Playground. The matter is now in the investigation phase. Manager Steigerwalt stated that two basketball courts, one located at Willing Park and the other at the Bungalow Park, were designed for ice skating.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Craig Barket 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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

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; there was a water line break at 113 Coal Street on Sunday and he called 911; the Water Department employees shut off the water at the main; the curb stop valve was broken; water in the basement; winter is here and what if the water line breaks again from the house to the main; and the homeowner responsibility. Manager Steigerwalt would look into the matter and advise Mr. Hartranft.

Jim Hall of 525 Schuylkill Avenue expressed his concerns about the construction project on Schuylkill Avenue as follows: the closing of Schuylkill Avenue due to the Brew Street construction project; if the borough taxpayers are paying for the project; and the project has not been worked on for weeks. There was much discussion about this matter. A recommendation was made to send a letter to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regarding the lack of progress on the Brew Street Project and to send a copy of the letter to both state Senator David Argall and state Representative Jerry Knowles. 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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

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 Evans, 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 Lasky, seconded by Gursky, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, a schedule of regular meetings of Council, Boards, Commissions, Authorities and special committees for 2017 has been prepared for advertisement by Secretary/Treasurer DeWire. A recommendation was made to advertise the schedule of regular meetings of Council, Boards, Commissions, Authorities and special committees for 2017. 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 New Business, Councilman Gursky discussed the proposed 2017-2020 Police Department Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) as follows: the CBA is not officially approved by the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP); there is one person who has not reviewed the CBA; the major differences include an increase in the percentages for the pay raises and the creation of a new rank for a starting patrolman; the percentage for the pay raises for years one and three of the CBA would be four percent and the percentage for the pay raises for years two and four of the CBA would be three percent; the current salary proposal is in line with neighboring communities; it is a dangerous time to be a police officer; the borough has a good police department; the new rank for starting patrolman saves the borough a considerable amount of money; and the cost savings allows the borough to hire two new full-time officers. A recommendation was made to approve the Police

Department Collective Bargaining Agreement for the period of January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2020. Councilman Gursky stated that the new starting patrolman position is an innovative position and the police department is being creative in helping to bring new police officers onboard. Councilman Gursky stated that the borough would see a cost savings of approximately \$60,000 per new hire. 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 Connely, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, a recommendation was made to grant a 90-day extension of a temporary handicapped parking space for 305 Spruce Street. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Lasky, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to hold an executive session to discuss real estate and legal 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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 8:02 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:27 p.m.

President Mace announced that an executive session was held to discuss real estate and legal matters.

A recommendation was made to send a letter to PennDOT stating that the borough intends to adopt an ordinance prohibiting parking in areas necessary to meet the formula sight distance requirements for the Highway Occupancy Permits for the driveways in the 200 block of Center Street. 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 6-1 vote with Councilman Evans opposed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m. on motion of Connely, seconded by Bowman, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer