

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of November on Tuesday, November 1, 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 Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt 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 Jonathon Barr Lasky. The roll was called with seven councilmembers present.

The reading of the minutes of the last Regular Council Meeting held on October 18, 2016 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Cara, seconded by Evans, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Paul H. Fridirici, secretary of the Tamaqua Community Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ) Authority, recommending the reappointment of Brian Connely to a five-year term on the CRIZ Authority effective January 1, 2017. A recommendation was made to reappoint Brian Connely to a five-year term on the CRIZ Authority 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 Cara, seconded by Gursky, and approved by a 6-0-1 vote with Councilman Connely abstaining.

Communication was received from Vanessa Gerhard, administrative assistant of the Tamaqua Area Chamber of Commerce, requesting permission to close East Broad Street from Pine Street to Greenwood Street during the 19th Annual New Year's Eve Eagle Rise at the ABC Tamaqua Hi-Rise. The event would be held between the hours of 11 p.m. on December 31, 2016 and 1 a.m. on January 1, 2017. The communication also requested that the street should be posted no parking prior to the event that night. The communication also requested police presence for this event. 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 Bowman, seconded by Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Ken Fenstermacher, Code Enforcement Officer, recommending the reappointments of William Kennedy to a three-year term and Tammy Swinburne to a three-year term on the Historic Architectural Review Commission (HARC). A recommendation was made to reappoint William Kennedy to a three-year term and Tammy Swinburne to a three-year term on HARC 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 Gursky, seconded by Evans, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Ken Fenstermacher, Zoning Officer, recommending the reappointment of Christine Hartung to a five-year term on the Tamaqua Zoning/Hearing Board. A recommendation was made to reappoint Christine Hartung to a five-year term on the Tamaqua Zoning/Hearing Board 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 Evans, seconded by Connely, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Ken Fenstermacher, Zoning Officer, recommending the reappointments of Pamela McCullion to a four-year term and Timothy Stahl to a four-year term on

the Tamaqua Planning Commission. A recommendation was made to reappoint Pamela McCullion to a four-year term and Timothy Stahl to a four-year term on the Tamaqua Planning Commission 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 Evans, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Corporal Dwayne Hacker expressing his intent to enter into the DROP (Deferred Retirement Option Plan) as of December 1, 2016 for a period of 5 years. A recommendation was made to accept a letter of intent to enter into the DROP program from Corporal Dwayne Hacker. 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.

Borough Manager Steigerwalt reported on the following: the demolition project for 13 South Lehigh Street and 15 South Lehigh Street would commence in approximately two weeks; and the sewer rate ordinances would be advertised and ready for adoption at the next regular meeting.

A recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for the demolition of residential properties located at 13 South Lehigh Street and 15 South Lehigh 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.

Borough Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Brew Street Project. There was some discussion regarding this matter.

Borough Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: he is working on converting a preliminary budget to a normal budget format; the preliminary budget would be delivered to council with the agendas for the next regular council meeting; the Family Dollar store sidewalk issue; and a PennDOT Highway Occupancy Permit was resubmitted.

Director of Community Development Mary Linkevich stated that the county said to proceed with the demolition of 216 Penn Street and asked the borough to submit a sample of our bid specifications to them. A recommendation was made to authorize the Borough Manager to proceed with advertising for bids for the demolition of 216 Penn Street unless the county advises the borough otherwise. 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.

Director of Community Development Linkevich also reported on the following: a letter from Schuylkill County stating that the county may receive funds in the next state budget for demolition; an updated list of demolition properties; a letter stating that the borough's request for financial assistance under the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program for the pool bathhouse improvements was denied; the 2013 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds in the amount of approximately \$59,000, that were being held as a match for the grant, are now available for other possible uses since the grant was denied; a meeting with Walker Township Supervisor Christine Troxell and Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission Executive Director Sarah Connely to discuss an application for a rehabilitation project at Rabbit Run; approximately \$200,000 would be available through the CRIZ program; and there is one pending CRIZ project application.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 233 Cedar Street. 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 Lasky, seconded by Evans, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 112 North Greenwood 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 Evans, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 112 Schuylkill Avenue. 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 Evans, and unanimously approved.

Chairperson Lasky of the Parking and Traffic Committee reported that a handicapped parking space application for 221 Green Street is under review. There was some discussion about this matter. A recommendation was made to place No Parking Here To Corner signs on both sides of South Street approaching Green Street. There was some discussion about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Connely, and unanimously approved.

Chairperson Lasky of the Parking and Traffic Committee gave an update on the Center Street Project as follows: three applications were submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) for a driveway permit; due to staffing shortages, there is only one engineer available to review the applications; the applications would be reviewed by early 2017; and discussed if a request for an extension is needed. There was some discussion about the following: contacting state Senator Argall and state Representative Knowles to help expedite the review process; a June 2017 expiration date for the grant; and the Wabash renovations are scheduled to start in 2018. A recommendation was made to send a letter to state Senator David Argall and state Representative Jerry Knowles requesting their assistance to expedite the PennDOT Highway Occupancy Permit review process for the Center Street Project and to apply for an extension of a grant deadline. There was some discussion about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Cara, seconded by Gursky, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, Councilman Evans reported that ten parking meters have arrived and seven were installed on Berwick Street. There was some discussion about the following: monitoring the meter collections in the Berwick Street area; to look at replacing the parking meters in the area of Pine Street between Mauch Chunk Street and Broad Street; approximately fourteen meters would be needed as part of the next group; look into using the spare parts from the meters that are out of service; and looking into the resale value of the out of service spare parts.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to retain Mary S. Linkevich as full-time Director of Community Development. 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 Lasky, and unanimously approved.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

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

Under Unfinished Business, Councilman Connely stated that the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute and East Coast Risk Management were contacted to obtain compensation payment methods for appointed and volunteer positions receiving stipends. Councilman Connely recommended giving the Solicitor the information to review and to provide an opinion whether stipend employees should receive a W-2 or a 1099-Miscellaneous.

Under New Business, Councilman Gursky discussed a grant given to the Tamaqua Area Community Partnership (TACP) from the J.E. Morgan Foundation approximately one and one-half years ago for the installation of a borough site map and podium at Depot Square Park. A recommendation was made to approve the installation of a borough site map and podium at Depot Square Park. 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 Unfinished Business, Borough Manager Steigerwalt asked for clarification regarding the sale of used equipment. There was some discussion about the following: listing the equipment on the Municibid auction website; setting minimum bids for the equipment; and advertising an electronic auction. A recommendation was made to advertise for the sale of used equipment on the Municibid Online Government Auction website with a starting offer as determined by the Borough Manager. 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 8:12 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Lasky, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer