

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of February on Tuesday, February 16, 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, R. Daniel Evans, Micah Gursky, Kerry Lasky and David Mace. Absent was Councilmember Brian Connely. 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 Nathan Steigerwalt. The roll was called with six councilmembers present and one absent.

The reading of the minutes of the last Regular Council Meeting held on January 19, 2016 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Cara, seconded by Gursky, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from George Taylor of the Tamaqua Area Faith Fellowship Network (TAFFN) requesting permission to have a "Tamaqua Walk for Hunger" at 2:00 p.m. on May 15, 2016 with a rain-date of May 22, 2016. The purpose of the walk is to help the needy of Tamaqua Area by donating any canned goods/monies collected to the Tamaqua Salvation Army, Trinity Church and Primitive Methodist Church food banks. The route would begin at the St. Luke's parking lot on South Railroad Street, walk north to Broad Street, turn right and walk east on the south side of the street to the Tamaqua Insurance Center, cross Broad Street and return on the north side of Broad Street to the intersection of Broad Street and South Railroad Street, cross Broad Street and walk on South Railroad Street back to the parking lot. The communication also requested the assistance of the Fire Police 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 Cara, seconded by Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Mark Valentine, property committee chair of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, requesting permission to attach signs to existing borough sign poles to direct people to their handicapped accessible entrance on Greenwood Street. The communication also included the following: the church would like to install one sign on the first sign post on Greenwood Street nearest their corner entrance directing people up the hill toward their handicapped ramp; the other two signs would be attached back-to-back to the No Parking sign post nearest the handicapped entrance on Greenwood Street; their signs are made of aluminum; and the church is willing to handle the installation. There was some discussion about this matter.

Communication was received from Edward Burns, Mayor of The Borough of Girardville, requesting the assistance of the Fire Police to participate as part of their traffic control for the annual St. Patrick's Day parade on March 19, 2016. A recommendation was made to authorize the Fire Police to assist the Borough of Girardville for the annual St. Patrick's Day parade. 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.

Communication was received from Kevin Startzel, secretary of the South Ward Station 4, thanking Borough Council for their support in helping their fire station purchase the P25 compatible radios mandated by Schuylkill County.

Communication was received from Nathan Steigerwalt of Boy Scout Troop 777 requesting permission to replace the footbridge at the Lower Owl Creek Dam on the Tenderfoot Walking Trail. The bridge crosses a 12-foot stone channel that carries water from the Upper Dam to the Lower Dam. Mr. Steigerwalt stated that replacing this bridge would complete the requirements he has to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. Mr. Steigerwalt also stated that the project has already been approved by the Owl Creek Reservoir Commission, and that they also agreed to fund part of the project. The cost to complete the project would be approximately \$450.00. Mr. Steigerwalt is also requesting that zoning and building permit fees be waived. Council recognized Nathan Steigerwalt who stated that he would complete the project by his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday which is in August. A recommendation was made to allow Nathan Steigerwalt to replace the footbridge at the Lower Owl Creek Dam on the Tenderfoot Walking Trail and to waive all zoning and building permit fees for the project. Councilman Cara asked if the Department of Environmental Protection needs to be notified about the project. Manager Steigerwalt would look into the matter. 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 Evans, seconded by Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the following: gave an update on Brew Street Project; frozen water meters and that the individual homeowner is responsible for their own water meter; a letter from Eastern Schuylkill Regional Planning and the revision to the planning and zoning subdivision ordinance; and two councilmember appointments to the Non-Uniformed Pension Committee are needed.

Mayor Morrison recommended having the same two councilmembers who serve on the Police Pension Committee, Councilman Gursky of the Wage and Salary Committee and Councilman Connely of the Public Safety Committee, also serve on the Non-Uniformed Pension Committee. A recommendation was made to appoint Councilman Gursky and Councilman Connely to serve on the Non-Uniformed Pension Committee. 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.

Councilman Gursky discussed the following: there are three pension plans-Police, Non-Uniformed Defined Contribution and Non-Uniformed Defined Benefit; the plans did not perform well over 2015; a shortfall in the projected return for the plans; and the plans are underfunded. There was some discussion about this matter.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: an ordinance for the Defined Contribution component of the Non-Uniformed Pension Plan which is an amendment to the Non-Uniformed Pension Ordinance benefit structure; and a Sewer Tapping Fee Ordinance. There was some discussion about the Sewer Tapping Fee Ordinance which decreases the tapping fee. A recommendation was made to advertise an ordinance amending an ordinance providing for a Sewer Tapping Fee. 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.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on a proposal from PenTeleData and Service Electric Telephone for internet and telephone services. Manager Steigerwalt discussed the following: three locations are missing from the list, the Tide water pump station, the sewer pump station and a water

tank; if necessary, a worst case scenario would be that these three locations may stay with the current service provider; a cost savings of approximately \$730.00 per month; the cost would be split between the General, Water and Sewer funds; a three-year and a five-year proposal; a three-year proposal includes a set-up charge; a five-year proposal has the same monthly cost of \$962.67 but the set-up charge drops off. There was some discussion about this matter. A recommendation was made to approve a five-year proposal for internet and telephone services between the Borough of Tamaqua and PenTeleData and Service Electric Telephone. There was some discussion about the services for the Police Department. 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.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that the probationary period for Sewer Plant employee Bernard Kupetz ends February 29, 2016. A recommendation was made to retain the employment of Bernard Kupetz, pending the completion of his probationary period ending February 29, 2016. 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.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that Timothy Ziegler is also approaching the end of his probationary period; however he does not have all of Mr. Ziegler's material.

Manager Steigerwalt commended Street and Water Department employees for their snow plowing efforts during the recent snowstorm and snow removal process. Manager Steigerwalt stated that there were no equipment breakdowns. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) also assisted the borough with snow removal. There was some discussion about this matter.

Chief Weaver discussed jammed parking meters and an in-house policy of refunding parking tickets for confirmed jammed parking meters. Chief Weaver requested a change to the in-house policy and to start enforcing the ticket violations. Chief Weaver stated that a person should not park in a space where a parking meter is broken or they would be ticketed. There was some discussion about this matter.

Chief Weaver recommended re-hiring Matthew Houser and Douglas Springer as part-time police officers. A recommendation was made to hire Matthew Houser and Douglas Springer as part-time police officers. 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.

Chief Weaver also reported on part-time police staffing.

Chief Weaver reported on expiring warranties with SW24 and Selex ES for the license plate reader. The one-year extended warranty with SW24 costs \$1,600.00 and the one-year software warranty with Selex ES costs \$995.00.

Chief Weaver also reported on moving cameras to different locations.

A recommendation was made to approve a one-year extended warranty with SW24 at a cost of \$1,600.00 and a one-year software warranty with Selex ES at a cost of \$995.00 with funds designated from the camera funds in the Capital Reserve account. 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.

Chief Weaver asked council to consider a quote to purchase a new 2016 Ford SUV from KME/ Kovatch Ford Inc. The quote is good to March 9, 2016 and does not include a digital radio which costs between \$7,000.00 and \$8,000.00. This vehicle would replace the Ford Crown Victoria vehicle number 177.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Adrian Bumbulsky as pool manager for the 2016 pool season at the pay rate of \$15.00 per hour. 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.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Matthew Stanek as assistant pool manager for the 2016 pool season at the pay rate of \$12.50 per hour. 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 Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to advertise for part-time lifeguards and clerks for the 2016 pool season. 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 Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve two Fire Chiefs to attend the conference and obtain hands-on training at the Fire Department Instructor Conference (FDIC) in Indianapolis, Indiana from April 18-23, 2016 at a cost of \$2,500.00 each. This is a budgeted item. Councilman Bowman asked whose responsibility it is to notify the Fire Chiefs of the availability of this training. Councilman Evans stated that Fire Chief James Connely has gone to this conference and did turn in receipts for \$2,500.00. There was some discussion about notifying the Fire Chief about the availability of this training and why no other Fire Chiefs have gone to the training. 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 Public Safety Committee report, a motion was made by Cara, and seconded by Bowman, to have the Borough Manager send letters to the Fire Chiefs notifying them of the training. After some discussion about this matter, the motion and second were rescinded.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 202 Orwigsburg 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.

Mayor Morrison asked for an update on the Family Dollar sidewalk project. Manager Steigerwalt stated that the project was supposed to have been done before winter and that Code Enforcement Officer Josh Esposito has been talking with the people at Family Dollar.

Mayor Morrison asked about the demolition for the fire loss properties on Orwigsburg Street. Manager Steigerwalt stated that the plan is to demolish the properties.

Mayor Morrison discussed Chief Weaver's enforcement of the parking meters in the downtown area. Mayor Morrison asked if the Parking and Traffic Committee would consider looking into parking permits for businesses. There was much discussion about this matter. A recommendation was made to have the Parking and Traffic Committee review parking permits for

businesses. There was more discussion about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Evans, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Mayor Morris stated that he and Chief Weaver would like to meet with the Public Safety Committee.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

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

Solicitor Greek stated that he had an ordinance approving an Intergovernmental Agreement which allows the Borough of Lansford to use Tamaqua’s Uniform Construction Code Board of Appeals to present for council’s consideration:

**ORDINANCE NO. 681**

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE ADOPTION OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF LANSFORD AND THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA FOR THE UTILIZATION OF THE TAMAQUA BOROUGH UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE BOARD OF APPEALS TO HEAR APPEALS ARISING UNDER THE LANSFORD BOROUGH UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE IN COOPERATION WITH THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA AND AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATE OFFICERS OF THE MUNICIPALITIES TO EXECUTE ANY DOCUMENTATION TO EFFECTUATE THE AGREEMENT.**

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing ordinance. 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 approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

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 Unfinished Business, Councilman Gursky asked about the 13 South Lehigh Street property. Manager Steigerwalt stated that the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) consultant and Schuylkill County expressed their concerns about using CDBG funds for demolition.

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 Gursky, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, Councilman Gursky asked Nathan Steigerwalt if there are any other Boy Scouts looking for community service projects in order to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. There was some discussion about other areas in the community that might benefit from a similar project.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:25 p.m. on motion of Cara, seconded by Bowman, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

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Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer