

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of March on Tuesday, March 18, 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, R. Daniel Evans, Micah Gursky, David Mace and Justin Startzel. Absent was Councilmember Brian Connelly. Officials present were Mayor Christian Morrison, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire and Fire Chief Thomas Hartz. Solicitor Michael S. Greek arrived later in the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by President Gursky. The invocation was given by Councilman Cara, who honored the memory of Councilman John Trudich Jr. through a prayer. The invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Boy Scout Jeremiah Behr. The roll was called with five councilmembers present and one absent.

The reading of the minutes of the last Regular Council Meeting held on March 4, 2014 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Mace, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Gina Hunsicker advising council that the family and friends of the late Angela Serfass-Steigerwalt will be holding a candlelight vigil for her at the Tamaqua Depot Square Park on Saturday, June 14, 2014 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Communication was received from John A. (Jack) Kulp of 119 Pine Street, Apartment 1 expressing an interest in serving as a member of Tamaqua Borough Council to fill the current vacancy created by the death of John Trudich Jr.

President Gursky stated that borough council has thirty days to fill the vacancy of Councilman John Trudich Jr. President Gursky stated that letters of interest should be submitted to the borough. President Gursky stated that a council meeting would be held on April 1, 2014 and the vacancy would be filled at that time. Manager Steigerwalt stated that he had another letter from someone expressing an interest in serving as a member of council. Manager Steigerwalt left the meeting to obtain a letter from his office.

President Gursky turned the meeting over to Kevin Draper and Robert Ciccone who gave an update on the Tamarack Planned Residential Development in Owl Creek.

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

There was some discussion about the Tamarack Planned Residential Development in Owl Creek as follows: six lots located on the north side of Owl Creek Road; economic issues; approval from DEP; and a revised plan.

Communication was received from Robert M. Haggerty of 222 East Broad Street, Apartment 510 expressing an interest in serving as a member of Tamaqua Borough Council to fill the current vacancy created by the death of John Trudich Jr.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that there are several department vacancies due to employees choosing the early retirement benefit option. Manager Steigerwalt stated that the Meter Reader and the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator vacancies were posted in-house. Manager Steigerwalt stated that John Comisac applied for the vacant position of Meter Reader and there were no in-house applicants interested in applying for the vacant position of Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator. A recommendation was made to transfer John Comisac from Water Distribution to Meter Reader effective immediately and contingent upon the completion of a 30-day trial period. 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.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that the Refuse and Recyclable Materials Collection Contract expires at the end of May. Manager Steigerwalt stated that he contacted Larry Wittig of Tamaqua Transfer Inc., the current provider of these services, to discuss pursuing a one-year extension of the current contract with no rate increase. A motion was made by Mace to pursue a one-year extension of the refuse contract with no cost increase. Solicitor Greek stated that he would like to review the current contract. The pending motion was withdrawn.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that Lenape Solar, LLC of Sunbury, PA performed an energy assessment of the aerial building located at 39 Mauch Chunk Street. The cost to the borough is approximately \$1,200.00. There was some discussion about this matter. A recommendation was made to proceed with the E-power Direct Discount Program and to authorize the appropriate officials to execute the E-Power Direct Discount Participation Agreement Forms between the Borough of Tamaqua and Lenape Solar LLC for the project at the aerial building located at 39 Mauch Chunk Street. 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.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that the Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau has notified the borough that bids were received for the Repository sale of a property at 27 East Elm Street and a property at 537 East Elm Street. The matter was referred to the Code Enforcement Department.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that street sweeping would start at the beginning of April, weather permitting. There was some discussion about this matter.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for Karyl Paisley of 422 West Rowe Street. 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 Mace, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for Linda L. Miller of 447 Willing Street. 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 Mace, and unanimously approved.

Chairman Evans of the Parking and Traffic Committee reported that a committee meeting was held on March 11, 2014. Chairman Evans reported on the following: reviewed handicapped parking space applications; discussed a request for a stop sign at the intersection of Nescopec Street and Hegarty Avenue; gave an update on issues on Lafayette Street and a Radar Speed Display sign from All Traffic Solutions; Swatara and Rowe Street Parking Lot signs; gave an update on a request by Daniel Reigel for a Loading/Unloading Zone near his business at 46 West Broad Street; reviewed a petition to remove parking meters or change meter rates on Broad Street and that no action will be taken on this matter; snow plowing and snow removal policy; correspondence from residents from the 400 block of Spruce Street regarding parking issues; and the meter replacement project.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a request from the Tamaqua Salvation Army to hold a Kidz Karnival at the North Railroad Street Parking lot on August 5, 2014. 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.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Ray Sell of 324 Rowe Street stated that he and Bob Bachert are new volunteers for the North and Middle Ward Playground and they are working hard trying to get the playground ready to use. Mr. Sell expressed his concerns about the following: the former playground committee members donated the equipment to the baseball association; what gave the former committee members the right to donate the equipment; asked Bill Angst of the Baseball Association to return the slush machine and he refused; asked council to contact Bill Angst; a popcorn machine was donated and cash donations were also received; received an estimate for roof repair; and asked if a \$2,000 grant is still available for the playground to use. President Gursky thanked Mr. Sell and Mr. Bachert for stepping forward to take over the North and Middle Ward Playground. President Gursky stated that supplies, inventory and equipment belong to the playground association. There was much discussion about these matters.

President Gursky welcomed members of Tamaqua Boy Scout Troop 777 who were attending the meeting as part of a Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge project. The Boy Scouts of Troop 777 in attendance were Jeremiah Behr, Owen Berezwick, Anthony DeAngelo, Bradley McAloose, Isaac Miller and Nathan Steigerwalt.

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 Mace, seconded by Startzel, and unanimously approved.

Under Unfinished Business, a recommendation was made to adopt an ordinance decreasing the membership on the Tamaqua Planning Commission from seven to five members. The following ordinance was presented for council's consideration:

**ORDINANCE NO. 673**  
**PART 4**  
**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**  
**SECTION 41, BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION ESTABLISHED**  
**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 316, AS AMENDED, ADOPTED**  
**MAY 10, 1972, (SECTION 41, BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION) OF THE**  
**BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.**

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

Under Unfinished Business, a recommendation was made to adopt a resolution establishing procedures for choosing professional services for the borough's pension plans. The following resolution was presented for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION 2014-5**  
**A RESOLUTION OF TAMAQUA BOROUGH, ADOPTING WRITTEN**  
**PROCEDURES GOVERNING HOW PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ARE CHOSEN FOR**  
**ITS PENSION PLANS IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH ACT 44 AND THE AUDITOR**  
**GENERAL'S RECOMMENDATION**

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

Under Unfinished Business, a recommendation was made to approve an Investment Advisory Agreement with TCG Investment Advisory, Inc. for the borough's pension plans. 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.

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 Mace, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, Councilman Cara discussed the Live The Green Dot, ending violence one green dot at a time, training that is being sponsored by the Sexual Assault Resource and Counseling Center (SARCC). The four-day training is being at the Lehigh Carbon Community College, Tamaqua. There was some discussion about this matter.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:03 p.m. on motion of Mace, seconded by Startzel, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

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Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer