

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of April on Tuesday, April 15, 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. Absent was Councilman Justin Startzel. 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 Gursky. The invocation was given by Councilman Cara followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by President Gursky. The roll was called with six councilmembers present and one absent.

The reading of the minutes of the last Regular Council Meeting held on April 1, 2014 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Mace, seconded by Connely, and unanimously approved.

President Gursky thanked fellow Councilmembers, Borough Manager Steigerwalt and Chief of Police Weaver for volunteering to wear ladies high-heeled shoes as a show of support to raise awareness of sexual violence in Schuylkill County. Prior to the start of the council meeting, Sexual Assault Resource and Counseling Center (SARCC) board members Jennifer Drake and Christine Verdier spoke about their fourth annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes® fundraising event in which men walk a mile in women's high heeled shoes to show their support. The annual fundraising event would be held on April 24, 2014, with festivities beginning at 4:30 p.m. at the Humane Fire Company in Pottsville, PA.

Communication was received from Edward Noftz, Lead Pastor of the New Life Assembly of God church, requesting the assistance of the Tamaqua Fire Police at their Feed the Need event on May 10, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The free event will provide food, clothing, haircuts and lunch to 100 families/households in Tamaqua. A recommendation was made to grant the request pending the availability of the Tamaqua Fire Police. 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 unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Margaret A. Marino stating that she regretfully is submitting her retirement letter from the Borough of Tamaqua as Housing Rehabilitation Secretary after 33 years of employment. Ms. Marino stated that she was asked to retire due to funding and that her effective date of retirement is June 1, 2014. A recommendation was made to accept the letter of retirement from Margaret A. Marino and to send a letter thanking her for her years of employment. President Gursky commended Ms. Marino for her work with helping residents obtain a low-interest loan to fix up their properties and that her collection rate on loans has been remarkable. President Gursky stated that Ms. Marino will be working with Community Development Officer Daniel Schroeder to transition her portfolio of loans to him. The Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) program is one of the longest continuously run programs at United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and began in 1974. There was some discussion about the CDBG program and funding. 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.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the 2014 CDBG Application and asked for council's input on a project list. There was some discussion about the 2014 application process and hearing dates, and the 2013 CDBG program and appropriation. President Gursky stated the first public CDBG hearing would be held before the second regular council meeting in May.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the sale of equipment. Manager Steigerwalt stated that a bid opening would be held on May 1, 2014.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: the Schuylkill Keep It Pretty (SKIP) spring community wide litter clean-up would be held on April 26, 2014 beginning at 9:00 a.m.; and the street sweeper schedule.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the in-house job vacancies as follows: there were no in-house applicants interested in applying for the vacant position in the Street Department; George Herring of the Street Department applied for a vacant position in Water Distribution; John Comisac would be completing his 30-day probationary transfer period as Meter Reader on Friday; and he is recommending the permanent transfer of John Comisac to the Meter Reader position.

A recommendation was made to permanently retain John Comisac as Meter Reader provided that no issues arise in the next few days. 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 Evans, and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mace, and seconded by Connely, to advertise for two positions at the Street Department. After there was some discussion about an in-house posting for the Street Department based on the interest of George Herring to transfer to Water Distribution, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to advertise for an open position at the Street Department. 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 unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to transfer George Herring from the Street Department to Water Distribution effective April 21, 2014, 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 Connely, seconded by Mace, and unanimously approved.

Chief Weaver reported that the Schuylkill County Communication Center is converting to digital radios and wants council to be aware that it may become mandatory for the department to convert its portable radios from analog to digital. Chief Weaver estimates that he needs five mobile and ten portable radios for the police department at cost of approximately \$65,000. Chief Weaver is continuing to pursue a grant to help cover the cost of the radios. There was some discussion about this matter.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to install No Parking signs on the north and south sides of Orwigsburg Street between Hunter and Cherry streets. There was some discussion about this matter. Council recognized Michelle Mehallic of 313 Orwigsburg Street who asked about the placement of the sign, access of the street by emergency vehicles and safety issues. There was more discussion about this matter. There was no one else 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 motion was made by Evans, and seconded by Mace, to eliminate the Loading/Unloading Zone in front of 30 West Broad Street and replace it with a metered parking space and to establish a Loading/Unloading Zone, one-half hour parking only from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., in front of 46 West Broad Street. There was much discussion about the following: a request from Daniel Reigel for a Loading/Unloading Zone near his business; moving the location of the sign from 30 West Broad Street, which is the location of the former Bittner's General Store and now vacant, to 46 West Broad Street which is the current location of Reigel Plumbing and Heating; the store hours of Mr. Reigel's business; several other businesses, including La Dolce Casa restaurant, have made similar requests; the parking that is available for Mr. Reigel's business; what happens to parking in the zone from 5 p.m. to 9 a.m.; a maximum time limit for parking in the Loading/Unloading Zone; establishing a 30-minute time limit for loading/unloading and eliminating the one-half hour parking only from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and a traffic hazard being created by trucks parking on Hunter Street. After more discussion about this matter, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to eliminate the Loading/Unloading Zone in front of 30 West Broad Street and replace it with a metered parking space and to establish a 30-minute Loading/Unloading Zone in front of 46 West Broad Street. Council recognized Michelle Mehallic who asked if Mr. Reigel could be given a parking spot and have him pay for it. President Gursky stated that it is possible but the borough must make the same availabilities to other business also. Council recognized Kathy Nunemacher of 322 Mahanoy Street who asked about the Loading/Unloading Zone and metered parking in that area. There was more discussion about this matter. There was no one else from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Evans, seconded by Mace, and approved by a 4-2 roll call vote with Councilmembers Cara and Lasky opposed.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for Eugene F. Kabilko Sr. of 300 North Elizabeth Street with the handicapped space to be located on Willing Street adjacent to his home. 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 on a meeting with the Tamaqua Area School District to address residents concerns in the 400 block of Spruce Street.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to grant the request of Nancy L. Kabana of 32 North Greenwood Street to transfer a handicapped parking space formerly approved for her husband, Lawrence Kabana, to her. Councilman Evans explained that a handicapped parking space was approved for Lawrence Kabana, but he has since passed away, and Nancy Kabana would like to take over the space. Mrs. Kabana has completed an application for a handicapped parking space permit in her name and has provided documentation. 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 Evans, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to grant a request from Tara Goho of 1012 Park Drive, Tamaqua who requested permission to use the H.D. Buehler Memorial Pool and Bungalow Pavilion for the Tamaqua/Panther Valley Area Girl Scouts annual Day Camp on July 18 and July 19. Councilman Mace stated that he spoke with Ms. Goho for clarification of her request. Councilman Mace stated that Ms. Goho would like to use the pool

and pavilion before normal hours of operation. 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 Evans, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a motion was made by Mace and seconded by Evans to approve a one-year Lease Agreement with Salute LLC, 300 East Broad Street, Tamaqua, for the Pool Concession Stand. Solicitor Greek stated that he reviewed the lease agreement and recommends that a personal guarantee be obtained for the terms and conditions of the lease. After some discussion about the personal guarantee and the lease agreement, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to approve a one-year Lease Agreement with Salute LLC, 300 East Broad Street, Tamaqua, for the Pool Concession Stand contingent upon obtaining a personal guarantee for the lease agreement. 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 Evans, and unanimously approved.

Chairman Mace of the Recreation and Youth Committee reported that the pool managers need to review the applicants for part-time lifeguards and clerks for the 2014 pool season. Chairman Mace stated that a recommendation to hire part-time lifeguards and clerks would be made at the next regular council meeting of May 6, 2014.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Michelle Mehallic of 313 Orwigsburg Street, and a member of the South Ward Playground Committee, expressed her concerns about a lack of proper dress attire at the playground. President Gursky stated that a maintenance and use agreement allows the playground association to be able to make rules at the playground, but the rules must then be enforced. There was some discussion about this matter.

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

Mayor Morrison asked the community to help clean-up sidewalks, porches and yards of rubbish and garbage. Mayor Morrison reported that code enforcement would be doing quadrant blitzes in the borough. There was some discussion about this matter.

Mayor Morrison discussed the Dear Tamaqua project. A public meeting would be held tomorrow night, April 16<sup>th</sup>, at the Tamaqua Community Arts Center for anyone who wants to learn more about the project. The Dear Tamaqua project is encouraging people to write letters to the community sharing their stories about Tamaqua and a live musical event would take place on the streets of Tamaqua in the Fall of 2015.

Mayor Morrison read a letter titled "Dirt and Pride" by Vince Suzadail Jr., CPO, USN (Retired), 105 South Chestnut Street, Summit Hill, PA. Mr. Suzadail's letter to Dear Tamaqua reads as follows:

Dirt and Pride

I watched them go to work each morning  
A kid growing up in the coal regions  
Remembering the dirt and the pride  
The self respect that came from earning  
The self reliance and the sense of community  
I never knew the need to knock on a door  
My dad's keys were in the ignition of the old Ford  
Kids playing baseball with taped up baseballs  
Carpenter's nail holding the bat together  
And eight gloves between seventeen kids

Catcher didn't need one  
 Wednesday afternoons the miners filled the bars  
 Sunday mornings they filled the churches  
 I watched them coming home each late afternoon  
 A kid growing up in the coal regions  
 Remembering the dirt and the pride  
 Blackened faces smiling  
 Another rugged hard day in, walking proud  
 Wrestle with the kids, family time  
 The important things  
 I watched them converging on a home  
 A kid growing up in the coal regions  
 Remembering the dirt and the pride  
 Mining accident, covered dishes, neighbors  
 One town, one neighborhood, one family  
 A feeling of belonging, community, our town  
 Clothes lines, party lines, coal mines  
 The dirt and the pride. TAMAQUA

Copyright Vince Suzadail Jr.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to the Tamaqua Area Community Partnership (TACP) at 20 East Mauch Chunk Street to remove two front façade dormers. 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 5-0-1 vote with Councilmember Gursky abstaining.

Solicitor Greek reported on the Reading, Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad litigation for the reimbursement for repairs to a portion of a retaining wall collapsed along Pleasant Row.

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 Mace, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to pay all properly approved bills and claims against the borough with the exception of voucher number 28233 in the amount of \$650.00 for a medical deductible reimbursement. 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 Connely, and unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:10 p.m. on motion of Mace, seconded by Evans, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

---

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer