

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of May on Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Tamaqua Municipal Building, 320 East Broad Street, Tamaqua, PA.

Present were Councilmembers Robert Amentler, Ronald Bowman, Thomas Cara, Mary Linkevich and David Mace. Absent were Councilmembers Brian Connely and Ritchie Linkhorst. Officials present were Mayor Nathan Gerace, Chief of Police Henry Woods, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Assistant Borough Secretary/Treasurer Amy Macalush and Director of Community Development Ann Marie Calabrese. Solicitor Michael S. Greek arrived later in the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by President Mace. The invocation was given by Councilman Cara followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilwoman Linkevich. The roll was called with five councilmembers present and two absent.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on April 16, 2019 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Cara, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Tony Prudenti and Matt Hope requesting to withdraw their bid for the Spruce and Hunter Street parking lot. The communication also requested a refund of their bid deposit. A recommendation was made to grant the request from Tony Prudenti and Matt Hope to withdraw their bid for the Spruce and Hunter Street parking lot and to refund their bid deposit. President Mace stated that there was one other bid for the sale of the Spruce and Hunter Street parking lot that met the minimum requirement. 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to accept the bid from Tony Pieracini in the amount of \$12,000.00 for the sale of the Spruce and Hunter Street parking lot. 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Ray Swartz, Secretary of the American Hose Co. No.1, stating that the existing No Parking lines in front and across the street from 37 Mauch Chunk Street have become weathered and are not easily visible, and the signage is limited as to where the No Parking areas start and end. The communication is requesting that new road painting/markings to prohibit parking be complete outside the engine room down to past the aerial garage, 35-37 Mauch Chunk Street, and across the street from the pole in front of 46 Mauch Chunk Street down past Stoker's Brewery. The communication is also requesting that No Parking signage is reviewed and updated appropriately, and for the police to frequently patrol the area to issue tickets for those parking in the No Parking zone. President Mace recommended that the road painting/markings be put on high priority and that the No Parking signage be referred to the Parking and Traffic Committee for review. Councilman Bowman responded that the requests are already in action.

Communication was received from Thomas J. Banditelli Jr., Owl Creek Reservoir Commission President, listing a basic plan of improvements for the Owl Creek Reservoir that was submitted to the John E. Morgan Foundation for funding. The proposed improvements included: purchase of ten benches from Highwood, construction of deck on rental cabin, kitchen upgrades, a

second pavilion for rentals, replacements and upgrades to playground area, six fire rings for camping sites, a gazebo for picture taking and a gazebo for outside concerts.

Communication was received from Paula A. Holoviak, Ph.D., Professor, Public Administration Internship Coordinator, Kutztown University, requesting the borough to host Megan Heckman as an unpaid intern for the fall semester beginning in late August, 2019 and concluding in the second week of December, 2019. The communication stated that Megan would need to complete 400 hours, which works out to approximately 30 hours per week, and she would receive 12 academic credits for her time. A recommendation was made to host Megan Heckman as an unpaid intern for the fall semester beginning in late August, 2019 and concluding in the second week of December, 2019. 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.

Communication was received from Kathy Kunkel, South Ward Neighborhood Committee Manager, requesting permission to offer the South Ward Community Center as an administrative office for Ms. Courtney Tamagini, administrator of a new addiction prevention program, PROMISE (Preventing Raiders Opioid Misuse In a Safe Environment), created by Raiders STEP-Up and Clinical Outcomes Group Inc. of Schuylkill County to provide much needed life skills training to middle school age children (10 to 14) and their families. The communication stated that Council's approval is needed as it is a borough owned property. The communication also stated that the electric bill for the office would increase due to more frequent use, and that it would be used for administration purposes only and no treatment services would be provided there. A recommendation was made to grant the request. 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that the Garbage and Recyclable Materials Collection Contract expires on June 30, 2019. Manager Steigerwalt stated that an ad was placed for new bids for the collection and disposal of garbage, bulky items, ashes and recyclable materials for one, two and three year periods and that bids will be received until Monday, May 20, 2019.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance and the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) of the Eastern Schuylkill Regional Planning Commission, scheduling a public hearing and adoption meeting on the proposed amendments and special advertising requirements. A recommendation was made to advertise appropriately for notices of a public hearing and adoption meeting to be held on June 18, 2019 at 6:00 p.m., on the proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) of the Eastern Schuylkill Regional Planning Commission. 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that the demolition of 241 Lafayette Street is complete and was inspected and approved by Code Enforcement. Manager Steigerwalt suggested that the borough consider selling the property as there is no current use for it. A recommendation was made to authorize Solicitor Greek to seek a fair market value of the property at 241 Lafayette Street and to authorize an advertisement for the sale of the property at a minimum of fair market value. 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that inspection and certification of the borough parking meters was completed by David Christ, Certified Parking Meter Inspector. Manager Steigerwalt stated that in continuing with the parking meter replacement project, another 40 parking meters would be needed. Manager Steigerwalt provided council with a quote for 40 Eagle 2100 Mechanism Coin Only Single-Space Meters from Duncan Parking Technologies, Inc. in the amount of \$8,120.00. A recommendation was made to purchase 40 Eagle 2100 Mechanism Coin Only Single-Space Meters from Duncan Parking Technologies, Inc. of Milwaukee, WI in the amount of \$8,120.00 from funds designated from the Equipment Fund. 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that the Streetlight Project is complete, and that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has been canvassing the town looking for signs of the spotted lanternfly.

Under the Borough Manager's report, Mayor Gerace reported on a drainage issue at the bottom of the iron steps near the Citizen's Fire Company.

Solicitor Greek arrived at approximately 7:25 p.m.

Director of Community Development Calabrese reported that the CRIZ project of the Wheel restaurant has been approved by the state.

Chief of Police Woods reported that Corporal Rodgers is almost finished with training and that the department is qualifying this week so there will be increased activity at the range in Owl Creek.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 327 Washington Street. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Amentler, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Christopher Miller, John Pacey, Hannah Wollweber, Kaitlyn Stauffenberg and Barron Stauffenberg as part-time lifeguards at a base rate of \$8.50 per hour with a \$0.25 per hour increase based on years of service, for the 2019 pool season. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Olivia Lattanzi and Xavier Yasko as part-time pool clerks at a base rate of \$8.25 per hour with a \$0.25 per hour increase based on years of service, for the 2019 pool season. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Chairwoman Linkevich of the Recreation and Youth Committee reported that she had a resolution accepting a \$50,000.00 grant from the John E. Morgan Foundation Inc. for improvements to Owl Creek Reservoir to present for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2019-6**  
**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL, TAMAQUA, PENNSYLVANIA**  
**REGARDING GRANTS FROM THE JOHN E MORGAN FOUNDATION, INC.**

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 Linkevich, seconded by Bowman, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Chairwoman Linkevich of the Recreation and Youth Committee also stated that a 5k and 10k run hosted by ESRC and the RUNegades will be held on Sunday, May 12, at the Owl Creek Reservoir.

Mayor Gerace reported that he, Chief Woods, Officer Weaver and Officer Herring attended a SHINE program event last week and students at the Tamaqua Elementary School donated wishing wells and new stuffed animals to first responders so that they can offer them to injured or frightened children when on a call.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Mark Bower, South Ward Fire Chief, thanked council for the fire hydrant they requested for training purposes.

President Mace welcomed members of Tamaqua Boy Scout Troop 777 who were attending the meeting as part of a communications merit badge project. The Boy Scouts of Troop 777 in attendance were Jacob Evans, Anthony Odorizzi, Colby Richardson, Eric Richardson, Alex Steigerwalt, and Troop Leader Anne Girard.

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

A recommendation was made to hold an executive session to discuss personnel matters. 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 7:35 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:15 p.m.

President Mace announced that an executive session was held to discuss personnel matters.

A recommendation was made to post an in-house job vacancy notice for the position of head mechanic due to the upcoming retirement of Earl Edmondson. 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

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Amy Macalush, Assistant Borough Secretary/Treasurer