

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of July on Tuesday, July 16, 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 Ritchie Linkhorst. Absent were Councilmembers Brian Connely and David Mace. Officials present were Mayor Nathan Gerace, Chief of Police Henry Woods, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Solicitor Michael S. Greek, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire and Director of Community Development Ann Marie Calabrese.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pro Tem Cara. The invocation was given by Chairman Pro Tem Cara followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Gerace. The roll was called with five councilmembers present and two absent.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on July 2, 2019 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Ray Swartz, secretary of American Hose Company No. 1, requesting permission to close Pine Street from Broad to Mauch Chunk streets for their annual Fireman's Festival from August 1st at 5:00 p.m. until August 4th at 11:30 p.m. 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 Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that a public auction sale for a property at 241 Lafayette Street was held on July 11, 2019 but no bids were received. There was some discussion about advertising it again. A recommendation was made to re-advertise a public auction sale for a property at 241 Lafayette Street and the bidding would begin at \$4,000.00. There was some discussion about the appraised value, advertising, the selling of real estate and a tax sale. 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 on the following: the settlement date is July 24th for the vacant lot on South Railroad Street; and the bathroom renovation project in the borough building is close to finishing.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on a proposal from Code Enforcement Officer Josh Esposito for the purchase of new Uniform Construction Code books. The Commonwealth has adopted the 2015 International Codes as the statewide building code. Mr. Esposito is recommending that the borough purchase the three-year ICC membership and the 2015 complete code package. A recommendation was made to purchase the three-year ICC membership and the 2015 complete code package at a cost of approximately \$1,635.20. 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.

Under the Borough Manager's report, there was some discussion about the following: the fire hydrants are being painted; Savas G. Logothetides, Wheel Restaurant, asked council to delay the proposed transfer of an intermunicipal liquor license owned by JCPB LLC, Crimson House of 118 North Centre Street, Pottsville PA to Sava Restaurants Limited Liability Company, Wheel

Restaurant; PennDOT would be milling the driving lanes of Route 209 throughout the town at possibly the same time as the Spruce Street and Lehigh Street project is to be completed; the PennDOT project would start the first two weeks of August; and the Burger King sidewalk.

Director of Community Development Calabrese reported on the following: ribbon cuttings for businesses are done through the Tamaqua Chamber of Commerce; she is preparing welcome baskets for new businesses in town; Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Pool Feasibility Study are due by Friday; and she requested that business news, in addition to fundraiser news, be forwarded to her to post on the borough's Facebook page.

Chief Woods reported that an officer is out on illness and could possibly return August 8th. Chief Woods also gave an update on the Fireworks Ordinance as follows: three people were sited during the July 4th holiday; and the fireworks activity was not as active as it had been in the past.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary report, a recommendation was made to hire Jeffrey Hartz of 427 West Broad Street as an Assistant Mechanic/Street Maintenance Worker in the Street Department with the stipulation that he obtain a Commercial Drivers License (CDL) through his probation period. Councilman Bowman stated that the hiring decision was very difficult. 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 Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Mayor Gerace reported on the following: a request to purchase a 2019 Ford F-150 pickup truck; police officers are out in the community; Hope and Coffee would be holding a one-year anniversary celebration on July 19th at 3:00 p.m.; and the Tamaqua Salvation Army would be holding a Kidz Block Party event from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on August 24th before the Fireman's Parade as a salute to local first responders.

Mayor Gerace also reported that Congressman Meuser hosted Scott Turner, who serves as the Executive Director of the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council, along with many other government officials and local investors to a tour of downtown Tamaqua. In addition, a round-table discussion was held to discuss the growth and evolution of Tamaqua.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Joseph Salla of 204 Owl Creek Road expressed his concerns about the following: someone used a two inch roofing nail to post a sign on a telephone pole; if an elected official could use their office for commercial gain and the response was no; the Safer Streets for Tamaqua's Little Feet event; he reported that there was a syringe by the flagpole in Owl Creek two years ago and it is still there; there is still pornography on a fire zone three sign; a pump that was pulled out of sewer pump station number two; tractor trailers are coming through Owl Creek; a five ton weight limit sign for trucks and a speed limit sign were moved from the Schuylkill County line to the Carbon County line; ATVs on Owl Creek Road; speeding along Owl Creek Road; and he commented on an opinion about the condition of Owl Creek Road found in the Thunder/Enlightening section of the Pottsville Republican newspaper. There was some discussion about these matters.

Earl Hartranft of 111 Coal Street thanked councilmembers for shutting off the water service at 113 Coal Street that is adjacent to his property. There was some discussion about the following: contacting the property owner; the deteriorating condition of the property; water pipes; ownership of the property; the property is not listed on the demolition list at the present time. Manager Steigerwalt would have Code Enforcement Officer Esposito look into the matter.

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

Under the Borough Solicitor report, the new Codification Ordinance with contents was introduced to borough council today. Manager Steigerwalt stated that a final draft of our new Code of Ordinances had been sent to council electronically.

Under the Borough Solicitor report, Councilman Cara asked for an appraisal of the water garage and to refer the matter to the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee.

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 Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Under Unfinished Business, there was some discussion about the following: the large dumpster at the rear of DiMaggio's La Dolce Casa Italian Restaurant on West Cottage Avenue was replaced with two smaller dumpsters; the issues on West Cottage Avenue are still there; placing one more Welcome to Tamaqua sign in the east end area of town; and concerns regarding students crossing the railroad tracks on Spruce Street.

Under Unfinished Business, a recommendation was made to widen Spruce Street to build a shoulder subject to approval by the railroad. There was much discussion about this matter. Council recognized George Haldeman of 247 Van Gelder Street who asked if the borough can use the millings from the PennDOT project to widen Spruce Street. There was no one else 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 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 Bowman, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, a recommendation was made to send Councilman Cara to the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) Fall Leadership Conference, October 11-13, 2019, at The Nittany Lion Inn, State College, PA. 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.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer