

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of July on Tuesday, July 21, 2015 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, Kerry Lasky, Micah Gursky and David Mace. Absent were Councilmembers Brian Connely and Justin Startzel. Officials present were Mayor Christian Morrison, Chief of Police Richard Weaver, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Solicitor Michael S. Greek, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire and Fire Chief Thomas Hartz.

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

The reading of the minutes of the last Regular Council Meeting held on June 16, 2015 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.

President Gursky announced that the council meeting scheduled for August 4, 2015 is cancelled. President Gursky also announced that the next council meeting would be held on August 18, 2015 at the pavilion at the Lower Reservoir of the Owl Creek Dam instead of the Council Chambers at the Tamaqua Municipal Building.

President Gursky turned the meeting over to Leona Rega, Tamaqua Community Arts Center and Safety Initiative Coordinator. Ms. Rega distributed a handout and provided an update and changes to the planned route for the Dear Tamaqua: "Tamaqua in a New Light" community event that would be held on August 4, 2015 in conjunction with National Night Out and the Tamaqua Salvation Army's Kidz Karnival. A recommendation was made to approve the changes to the traffic plan, no parking areas and street closures. 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Roseann Weinrich, on behalf of the Tamaqua Area School District and Tamaqua Teachers Run This Town, requesting permission to hold a 5K race through the Borough of Tamaqua on October 17, 2015. The 5K run is being held in memory of Thelma Urban, a Tamaqua Area High School Language Arts teacher, who passed away this past June. The race would begin at the Tamaqua Area Sports Complex, proceed down Stadium Hill, along Broad Street to Laurel Lane to Arlington Street to Elizabeth Street and back up Broad Street to Stadium Hill and ending at the Sports Complex. Council recognized Ms. Weinrich who discussed the event and street closings. There was some discussion about this matter. A recommendation was made to grant the request contingent upon coordination of the event with the Police Department and the Fire Police. Manager Steigerwalt stated that the group needs a special event permit from PennDOT. 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.

Communications were received from Janene Holter of 707 Arlington Street, Charles T. Rodgers of 209 Orwigsburg Street and Howard C. Miller of Tamaqua expressing an interest in serving on the Tamaqua Civil Service Commission. A recommendation was made to refer the

letters of interest to the Public Safety Committee. 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.

Communication was received from Jacqueline Chaney of 631 Hazle Street expressing an interest in serving on the Citizens Advisory Committee. A recommendation was made to refer the matter to the Public Safety 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 Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Pastoral Intern Steven Gintz of the Hazleton Community Church of 400 East 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Hazleton, PA requesting a waiver of the fees to use the Bungalow Park in order to hold summer activities for the children of the town. The free outreach event would be held on August 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> with a free cookout on August 6<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. A recommendation was made to grant the request contingent upon the dates being available. 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 Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from 8-year old Keenan Cook of 10 Ridge Street, Hometown who comes to Tamaqua every day with his Mom. Mr. Cook expressed his concerns about hazards for ducks that cross Schuylkill Avenue and that it could cause accidents. Mr. Cook requested that council consider erecting Duck Crossing signs. Council recognized Keenan Cook who stated that the ducks were crossing in the area near the Jeep dealership. A recommendation was made to erect two Duck Crossing signs, one in each direction, in the area of Schuylkill Avenue and Route 309. Councilmembers asked Mr. Cook to talk to Manager Steigerwalt in order to place the signs at the right location. 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 Evans, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Jon Bonner, race director of the Charity Challenge 5K "Run at the Reservoir", stating that the enclosed check in the amount of \$250.00 from the run is being presented on behalf of Jacob Krell. Mr. Krell was the overall male winner at the run and he chose to donate his proceeds towards the purchase of an AED Defibrillator for the Tamaqua Bungalow. There was some discussion about the cost of an AED Defibrillator. A recommendation was made to accept the donation of \$250.00 and to discuss any concerns with the donor. 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.

Communication was received from Mark Bower, Pennsylvania Forest Fire Warden, stating that the Weiser Forest Fire Wardens Association would be hosting a 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pennsylvania Forest Fire Wardens at the Owl Creek Reservoir Lower Dam on August 22, 2015 from 9:00 am. to 3:00 p.m., with a rain date of August 23, 2015 at the same time. All are welcome to attend the event.

Communication was received from Douglas S. Kaufman of 914 North Penn Drive, #15, Wernersville, PA expressing his concerns about a three-mile section of Owl Creek Road that is loaded with potholes and filled-in potholes that caused damage to his tires.

Communication was received from Michelle Barron stating that she is submitting her letter of resignation and intends to end her employment at the Tamaqua Borough effective November 20, 2015. Mrs. Barron stated that this would give the borough time to hire someone else and for her to train Shannon Boyer for a few more months. A recommendation was made to accept her letter of resignation. 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 4-1 vote with Councilman Evans opposed. Councilwoman Lasky requested an executive session to discuss personnel matters prior to adjournment.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that one bid was received for the sale of a property at 319 Washington Street in the amount of \$100.00 from Linda L. Hosler of 317 Washington Street. A recommendation was made to accept a bid in the amount of \$100.00 from Linda L. Hosler for 319 Washington 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 Evans, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on a closing for the sale of a property at 234 Columbia Street with Steve Matalavage of 423 East Union Street.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on an Equipment Financing Agreement Resolution with Community Leasing Partners, a division of Community First National Bank, and a letter from Solicitor Greek. The equipment financing is for a Sewer Vacuum Truck on freightliner chassis, a new Caterpillar 420F ST Backhoe Loader, a Ford F550 Dump Truck with plow, a new Caterpillar 924K Small Wheel Loader and a Ford F550 Dump Truck with plow. The following resolution was presented for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-9  
LESSEE RESOLUTION  
SCHEDULE OF EQUIPMENT NO. 01, DATED 7/1/2015, SCHEDULE OF  
EQUIPMENT NO. 02, DATED 7/1/2015, AND SCHEDULE OF EQUIPMENT NO. 03,  
DATED 7/1/2015, TO MASTER EQUIPMENT LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT,  
DATED AS OF 7/1/2015, BETWEEN COMMUNITY FIRST NATIONAL BANK, AS  
LESSOR, AND THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, AS LESSEE.**

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution. There was some discussion about the following: the amount borrowed; the term of the financing; the annual payment; and the equipment purchased is for the Borough of Tamaqua, the Tamaqua Area Water Authority and the Tamaqua Borough Authority. 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 approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on a proposal in the amount of approximately \$27,150 from Alfred Benesch and Company for the inspection of the Wabash Creek. There was some discussion about this matter.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Aleida Van Buren as a part-time lifeguard for the 2015 pool season. 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 on the pool storm cleanup as follows: commended Public Works Director Rob Jones, the borough employees, the lifeguards and other summer employees for their hard work in the pool cleanup; a lot of work was done in a short amount of time and the pool was reopened in five days; and he thanked the Lansford Borough Council and Pool for allowing our patrons to use their pool passes at the Lansford pool during the cleanup period.

Chairman Mace of the Recreation and Youth Committee also reported on the Greenways, Trains and Recreation Program Grant for the pool bathhouses as follows: a grant application in the amount of \$238,000 was submitted; the disposition of the application should be in late September; and the project cost is approximately \$250,000.

Chairman Evans of the Building and Equipment Committee reported that the two 1991 Dodge pickup trucks in the fleet have reached the end of their useful life and his committee is putting together information for the replacement of these vehicles.

Mayor Morrison stated that the staff did a phenomenal job during the storm and cleanup. Mayor Morrison also thanked volunteers and the fire department for their storm cleanup efforts.

Mayor Morrison asked if the borough would consider looking into a program to purchase more recycling bins for residents.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Andy Leibenguth of 429 Rear Mauch Chunk Street stated that the Free Tamaqua Community Giveaway event would be held on July 25, 2015 starting at 9:15 a.m.

Fire Chief Tom Hartz requested the purchase of a new mobile radio for the Fire Chief's vehicle from Green's Communication at a cost of approximately \$5,000. A recommendation was made to refer the request to the Building and Equipment Committee. 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 Lasky, and unanimously approved.

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

Mayor Morrison discussed code enforcement matters and putting together a blitz in the borough as was done last year.

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 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 Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, President Gursky gave an update on the City Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ) program.

Under New Business, President Gursky stated that a request was made to place bike racks at various locations in the community. Chairman Mace of the Recreation and Youth stated that his committee would revisit this matter.

Under New Business, President Gursky discussed the replacement of the carpeting in the Municipal Building. There was some discussion about this matter.

Under New Business, President Gursky discussed the condition of a property located at 13 South Lehigh Street. Solicitor Greek is working with the Police Department and Code Enforcement Department regarding this property.

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 Mace, seconded by Lasky, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 8:10 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 9:10 p.m.

A recommendation was made to advertise for the position of Utility Billing Clerk 1. 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 approved by a 4-1 vote with Councilman Evans opposed.

A recommendation was made to authorize the Borough Manager to utilize a temporary agency for office clerical support. Council recognized Kathy Kunkel of the Times News newspaper who asked why the borough would need temporary workers. President Gursky stated that Manager Steigerwalt had been asking council for temporary workers for quite some time. There was no one else from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Cara, seconded by Mace, and approved by a 4-1 vote with Councilwoman Lasky opposed.

Councilman Cara asked for an update on handicapped parking space applications. There was some discussion about the following: pending handicapped parking space applications; the handicapped parking space application guidelines and process; handicapped parking spaces are not owned by the applicant; and anyone with a handicapped license plate or placard is also allowed to use the handicapped parking space.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15 p.m. on motion of Mace, seconded by Lasky, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

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Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer