

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its Reorganization Meeting followed by a Regular Council Meeting on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at the Tamaqua Municipal Building, 320 East Broad Street, Tamaqua, PA.

Present were Councilmembers Ronald Bowman, Thomas Cara, Brian Connely, R. Daniel Evans, Ritchie Linkhorst and David Mace. Officials present were Mayor Nathan Gerace, Chief of Police Richard Weaver, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire. Absent was Solicitor Michael S. Greek.

Stephen J. Bayer, Magisterial District Judge of District Court 21-3-06, administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Nathan Gerace and to Councilmembers Ritchie Linkhorst and David Mace.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gerace. The invocation was given by Councilman Cara. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Connely. The roll was called with all councilmembers present.

Mayor Gerace called for nominations for President of Council. David Mace was nominated for President by Councilman Connely and seconded by Councilman Bowman. With no other nominations, the nominations for President were declared closed and David Mace was elected as President by a unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Gerace called for nominations for Vice President of Council. Brian Connely was nominated for Vice President by Councilman Mace and seconded by Councilman Bowman. With no other nominations, the nominations for Vice President were declared closed and Brian Connely was elected as Vice President by a unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Gerace relinquished the chair to President Mace.

President Mace called for nominations for President Pro Tem to preside at the meetings in the absence of the President and Vice President. Thomas Cara was nominated for President Pro Tem by Councilman Connely and seconded by Councilman Bowman. With no other nominations, the nominations for President Pro Tem were declared closed and Councilman Cara was elected as President Pro Tem by a unanimous roll call vote.

Communication was received from James E. Hull of 801 West Market Street, Apartment 2F, Pottsville, PA 17901 stating that he is writing the letter to resign as a four-year term Tamaqua Borough Councilmember. Mr. Hull stated that he was voted in during the November election but has recently relocated to Pottsville. A recommendation was made to accept the letter of resignation from James E. Hull. 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.

Councilman Connely made a motion to appoint Mary Linkevich to fill the unexpired term of James E. Hull. President Mace stated that the appointment must be done by resolution. The motion died for lack of a second. The following resolution to appoint Mary Linkevich as a member of the Borough Council to fill the unexpired term of James E. Hull was presented for council's consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-1
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA,
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
TO FILL A VACANCY OF A MEMBER OF COUNCIL

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

Stephen J. Bayer, Magisterial District Judge of District Court 21-3-06, administered the Oath of Office to Mary Linkevich.

A Tamaqua Borough Council 2018 photograph was taken.

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order by President Mace.

President Mace announced that an executive session was held on December 21, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss personnel issues.

President Mace called for nominations for Chairman of the Tamaqua Vacancy Board. Mark Bower was nominated for Chairman of the Tamaqua Vacancy Board by a motion made by Bowman and seconded by Cara. With no other nominations, the nominations for Chairman of the Tamaqua Vacancy Board were declared closed. A recommendation was made to appoint Mark Bower as Chairman of the Tamaqua Vacancy Board. 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 appoint the Appointed Borough Officials to their respective positions.

The Appointed Borough Officials for 2018 are as follows:

Borough Solicitor	Michael S. Greek
Chief of Police	Richard Weaver
Borough Manager	Kevin A. Steigerwalt
Public Works Director	Robert D. Jones
Borough Secretary/Treasurer	Georgia Depos DeWire
Assistant Borough Secretary/Treasurer	Amy Macalush
Borough Engineer	Alfred Benesch & Company, Pottsville, PA
Zoning/Health/Code Enforcement Officer	Barry Isett & Associates, Hazleton, PA
Sewage Enforcement Officer	Barry Isett & Associates, Hazleton, PA
Appointed Auditors	Maillie LLP, Oaks, PA
Appointed Tax Collector	Berkheimer Associates, Bangor, PA
Appointed Tax Collector	Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau, Pottsville, PA
Fire Chief	James Connely
Emergency Management Coordinator	Robert D. Jones

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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under Other Appointments for the Appointed Authorities, Boards and Commissions members, a recommendation was made to remove Andrew Leibenguth as a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee. It was noted that Mr. Leibenguth now resides in Florida. 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.

Under Other Appointments for the Appointed Authorities, Boards and Commissions members, a recommendation was made to reappoint Richard Baddick to a three-year term to serve on the Non-Uniformed Employee Pension 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Under Other Appointments for the Appointed Authorities, Boards and Commissions members, a recommendation was made to appoint Councilwoman Linkevich to serve on the Non-Uniformed Employee Pension 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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under Other Appointments for the Appointed Authorities, Boards and Commissions members, President Mace requested that the Police Pension Fund Committee come back to council with a recommendation for the Vice Chairman position and the citizen representative vacancy on the commission. The next pension committee meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2018. Councilman Connely stated that he defers his place as a member of the Police Pension Fund Committee to another member of the Public Safety Committee. A recommendation was made to appoint Councilman Bowman to serve on the Police Pension Fund Committee. 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Under Other Appointments for the Appointed Authorities, Boards and Commissions members, a recommendation was made to appoint David Mace as the first alternate to the Schuylkill Tax Collection 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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under Other Appointments for the Appointed Authorities, Boards and Commissions members, a recommendation was made to appoint Nathan Gerace as the second alternate to the Schuylkill Tax Collection Committee. 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 stated that the Alternate Sewage Enforcement Officer position is vacant and is recommending the appointment of Alfred Benesch and Company to the position. A recommendation was made to appoint Alfred Benesch and Company as the Alternate Sewage Enforcement Officer position. 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.

The Appointed Authorities, Boards and Commissions for 2018 are as follows:

Board of Health

Rosemarie Noftz, Secretary
Christine Zizelmann, President
James Frie
Hans Shinton

Board of Health (continued)

Dr. Joanne Calabrese, D.O.
Vacant, Health Officer
Barry Isett & Associates, Health Enf. Officer
Michael Greek, Borough Solicitor

Citizens Advisory Committee

John R. Handler, Chairperson
Harry Snyder, Vice Chairperson
Dale W. Freudenberger
Vacant
Benjamin Beckett
Ann Marie Calabrese, Community Dev. Officer
Michael Greek, Borough Solicitor

Civil Service Commission

Howard C. Miller
Janene M. Holter
Kathy Kunkel
Michael Greek, Borough Solicitor

Historic Architectural Review Commission

Dale Freudenberger, Chairperson
William Kennedy
Tammy Swinburne, Secretary
Bill Harleman
Rich Stianche
Mark Conville, AIA, RA
Barry Isett & Associates, Zoning Officer
Michael Greek, Borough Solicitor

Zoning Hearing Board

Richard Clemson, Chairperson
Frank Kane, Vice Chairperson
Christine Hartung
Alfred Hadesty
Karl Smulligan
Barry Isett & Associates, Zoning Officer
Robert Fryklund, Solicitor

Planning Commission

Dan Evans
 Timothy Stahl, Vice Chairperson
 Mark Conville
 Andrew Kane
 Pam McCullion, Secretary
 Barry Isett & Associates, Zoning Officer
 Michael Greek, Borough Solicitor

Tamaqua Borough Authority

Brian Connely, Chairperson
 Richard Hadesty Sr.
 Paul Fridirici, Secretary/Asst. Treas.
 Jack Kulp, Treasurer
 Philip Houm
 Jeffrey P. Bowe, Solicitor
 Gannett Fleming Inc., Authority Engineer

Employee Pension Committee

Richard Baddick (Sewer Dept.)
 Robert Jones (Office)
 John Comisac (Water Dept.)
 Tom Cara, Councilperson
 Mary Linkevich, Councilperson
 Michael Greek, Borough Solicitor

Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission

Borough of Tamaqua representatives
 John Handler
 Dave Mace

Tamaqua Community Revitalization and Improvement Zone Contracting Authority

Brian Connely, Chairperson
 Richard Hadesty Sr., Vice Chairperson
 Paul Fridirici, Secretary

Schuylkill Tax Collection Committee

Kevin Steigerwalt, Delegate
 Dave Mace, First Alternate

Eastern Schuylkill Planning Commission

Borough of Tamaqua representative
 Karl Smulligan

Owl Creek Reservoir Commission

(All Members are appointed by Borough Council)

Board of Appeals

David E. Mace, P.E. (Electrical)
 Jay Hollenbach Jr. (Plumbing & Heating)
 Frank Kane (Building Supply)
 Daniel Poncavage (Registered Architect)
 Herman Zeller (Electrical)
 Pam McCullion, Secretary
 Barry Isett & Associates, Zoning Officer

Tamaqua Area Water Authority

Brian Connely, Chairperson
 Jack Kulp, Treasurer
 Pat Davison, Secretary/Asst. Treas.
 Philip Houm
 David Christ
 Jeffrey P. Bowe, Solicitor
 Gannett Fleming Inc., Authority Engineer

Police Pension Fund Committee

Nathan Gerace, Chairperson
 Vacant, Vice Chairperson
 Larry Wittig
 Patrolman Tom Rodgers
 Patrolman Michael Hobbs
 Tom Cara, Councilperson (Finance)
 Ronald Bowman, Councilmember (Public Safety)
 Kevin Steigerwalt, Borough Manager
 Georgia DeWire, Secretary/Treasurer
 Michael Greek, Borough Solicitor

Jack Kulp, Treasurer

Phil Houm

Jeffrey P. Bowe, Solicitor

Nathan Gerace, Second Alternate

Tamaqua Public Library Board

Borough of Tamaqua representative
 Tom Cara

President Mace reported that the Regular Council Meetings for 2018 would be held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Other exceptions would be election days and holidays when the meeting would be held the following day. It was noted that Secretary/Treasurer DeWire had advertised the schedule of regular meetings of Council, Boards, Commissions, Authorities and special committees for 2018 in The Times News newspaper in December 2017.

President Mace provided councilmembers a listing of the Borough Council Committees for 2018.

The reading of the minutes of the last Regular Council Meeting held on December 19, 2017 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.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that the smoke testing was postponed due to the weather and would resume when the weather improves.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on a press release containing the following information: Christmas tree collection; snow removal procedures for residents; property owners must maintain a three-foot wide path on their sidewalk that is clear of all snow and ice; the snow and ice must be removed from sidewalks within 24 hours after the storm ends; and residents are reminded not to throw snow, ice or other materials on the streets. Councilman Connely recommended adding that frozen pipes are the owner's responsibility to the borough's website.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that he provided councilmembers with an audit report on the Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Program Agreed-Upon Procedures that was prepared by the borough's appointed auditors, Maillie LLP.

Manager Steigerwalt discussed the 2A stone issue with the PennDOT representative. Manager Steigerwalt reported that the PennDOT representative stated that if there is a problem with materials, the borough should refer this matter to Solicitor Greek. There was some discussion about this matter and awarding the bid to the next bidder even if it was not the lowest bid. Manager Steigerwalt would ask Solicitor Greek to look into this matter.

President Mace asked if there were any Committee reports.

Under the Street Light Committee report, Manager Steigerwalt reported that the Public Utility Commission is still reviewing the submission and the engineer and design consultant are reviewing the materials.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

With no one 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 Connely, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 7:42 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:42 p.m.

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

A recommendation was made to implement a list of wages and benefits for the office staff for 2018.

1. Wage increase of 2% effective January 1, 2018.
2. Health insurance plan will be Capital Blue Cross Gold PPO 500/0/25 Rx 0 (500/1,000 deductible) which is the same as the current plan except some copays will change.
3. Health insurance deductibles will be reimbursed so employees will only be responsible for \$150/person and \$350/family. Copays will not be reimbursed in 2018.
4. Health insurance payroll contribution of \$15 for single plan and \$25 for family plan per pay period.
5. All other benefits remain the same.

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 8:44 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkhorst, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer