

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its Reorganization Meeting followed by a Regular Council Meeting on Monday, January 4, 2016 at 7:07 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, Micah Gursky and David Mace. Officials present were Mayor Christian Morrison, 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 Councilmembers Ronald Bowman, Thomas Cara, Brian Connely and R. Daniel Evans.

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

Mayor Morrison called for nominations for President of Council. David Mace was nominated for President by Councilman Gursky. Councilman Gursky read a prepared statement and is being entered upon the minutes of the meeting as follows:

I am pleased and honored to nominate Dave Mace for the office of President of Tamaqua Borough Council.

I have served as Council President for 4 terms--8 years--from 2008 through 2015.

I believe in democratic self-governance and the peaceful and orderly transfer of power--at all levels of government.

This is a key step in a peaceful democracy that can sometimes be the most difficult as some leaders may clutch too long to their positions of authority. Our system of government requires the constant development and training of the next generation of leaders. Leaders don't materialize out of thin air.

I do not plan to see re-election in 2018 at which time I will have served 4 terms over an 18 year period. (Yes, I was first elected in the last century!)

I do have 2 more years remaining in my term and I look forward to helping Dave and our fellow council members, the Mayor, the Chief, and the staff through this transition.

As you might expect, I also have a few items that I would like to see Tamaqua accomplish over the next two years and I look forward to working on those as well.

Dave Mace has served on council for the past 6 years and will make a fine President. With all of that said, it is my pleasure to nominate Dave Mace for President of Council.

Micah Gursky 1/4/16

With no other nominations, the nominations for President were declared closed and David Mace was elected as President of Council by a unanimous vote.

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

Mayor Morrison 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. Micah Gursky was nominated for President Pro Tem by Councilman Connely. With no other nominations, the nominations for President Pro Tem were declared closed and Councilman Gursky was elected as President Pro Tem by a unanimous vote.

Councilman Cara stated that there were two letters of interest, one from Brad Sanders and the second from Kerry Lasky, to fill the vacancy on council. Councilman Connely had won two seats in the election, a four-year term and a two-year term, and chose the four-year term, leaving a vacancy on council. Councilman Cara nominated Kerry Lasky to fill the vacancy on council. A recommendation was made to appoint Kerry Lasky of 541 Arlington Street as a member of the Borough Council to fill the vacancy for the two-year term. Councilman Bowman asked why Mrs. Lasky did not run in the election of 2015 if she was interested in continuing to serve on council. Councilman Cara stated that Mrs. Lasky was registered as an Independent, but

then changed her party affiliation to Republican. 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 Gursky, and approved by a 5-1 vote with Councilman Bowman opposed.

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

A Tamaqua Borough Council 2016 photograph was taken.

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

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 Gursky and seconded by Bowman. With no other nominations, the nominations for Chairman of the Tamaqua Vacancy Board were declared closed. A recommendation was made to appoint Mark Bower of 213 Spruce Street 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 Gursky, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to appoint the Appointed Borough Officials to their respective positions.

The Appointed Borough Officials for 2016 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
Alternate Sewage Enforcement Officer	Carl Wolfe Jr., Lehighton, PA
Appointed Auditors	Maillie, Falconiero & Company, Oaks, PA
Appointed Tax Collector	Berkheimer Associates, Bangor, PA
Appointed Tax Collector	Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau, Pottsville, PA
Fire Chief	Thomas Hartz Jr.
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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under Other Appointments for the Appointed Authorities, Boards and Commissions members, a recommendation was made to appoint Mark Conville, AIA, RA, of 218 West Broad Street to a three-year term on the Historic Architectural Review Commission. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Gursky, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under Other Appointments for the Appointed Authorities, Boards and Commissions members, President Mace stated that there is one vacancy on HARC and the Board of Appeals. The appointments to the Pension Committees would be discussed at the next council meeting.

The Appointed Authorities, Boards and Commissions for 2016 are as follows:

Board of Health

Rosemarie Noftz
Christine Zizelmann
Shirley Becker, Secretary
Earl H. Boettger

Board of Health (continued)

Dr. Joanne Calabrese, D.O.
Judy Hadesty R.N., 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
 Andrew Leibenguth
 Benjamin Beckett
 Daniel Schroeder, Community Dev. Officer
 Michael Greek, Borough Solicitor

Historic Architectural Review Commission

Dale Freudenberger, Chairperson
 Daniel Schroeder
 Tammy Swinburne, Secretary
 Bill Harleman
 Vacant
 Mark Conville, AIA, RA
 Barry Isett & Associates, Zoning Officer
 Michael Greek, Borough 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)
 Water Dept. Representative-To Be Appointed
 Councilperson-To Be Appointed
 Councilperson-To Be Appointed
 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
 Jack Kulp, Treasurer
 Phil Houm
 Jeffrey P. Bowe, Solicitor

Schuylkill Tax Collection Committee

Kevin Steigerwalt, Delegate
 Micah Gursky, First Alternate

Civil Service Commission

Howard C. Miller
 Janene M. Holter
 Kathy Kunkel
 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

Board of Appeals

Vacant
 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

Chris Morrison, Chairperson
 E. Franklin Griffiths, Vice Chairperson
 Larry Wittig
 Patrolman Tom Rodgers
 Patrolman Michael Hobbs
 Councilmember (Finance)-To Be Appointed
 Councilmember (Public Safety)-To Be Appointed
 Kevin Steigerwalt, Borough Manager
 Georgia DeWire, Secretary/Treasurer
 Michael Greek, Borough Solicitor

Dave Mace, Second Alternate

Eastern Schuylkill Planning Commission
 Borough of Tamaqua representative
 Karl Smulligan

Tamaqua Public Library Board
 Borough of Tamaqua representative
 Tom Cara

Owl Creek Reservoir Commission

Bungalow Park Commission

(All Members are appointed by Borough Council) (All Members are appointed by Park Commission)

President Mace reported that the Regular Council Meetings for 2016 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 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 2016 in The Times News newspaper in December 2015. A recommendation was made to approve the schedule of regular meeting of Council, Boards, Commissions, Authorities and special committees for 2016. 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.

President Mace stated that he would like to review the Borough Council Committees for 2016 and present them at the next meeting.

The reading of the minutes of the last Regular Council Meeting held on December 15, 2015 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Connely, seconded by Gursky, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire asking council to consider a motion to open an escrow account for fire loss insurance proceeds received from The Farmers Fire Insurance Company for the property at 131 Orwigsburg Street. A recommendation was made to open a new account for the fire insurance proceeds for the property at 131 Orwigsburg Street. 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.

Communication was received from Christina Jensen of 128 Mahanoy Street stating that she is the Agent for her father, Francis V. Ames. In the communication, Ms. Jensen expressed their concerns about parking issues that make it difficult to access their private driveway and requested that No Parking signs be placed across the street from their private driveway. A recommendation was made to refer the matter to the Parking and Traffic Committee. Manager Steigerwalt will also look into the matter. There was no one from floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Cara, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the 2016 Street Materials bid results. Manager Steigerwalt stated that there were a total of six bidders and that he provided council with a bid results worksheet and a comparison of material hauling cost calculations for pickup of materials at the plant or quarry. The hauling costs were calculated using the PennDOT recommended method. Manager Steigerwalt stated that due to the difference in mileage and travel time to each plant or quarry, the lowest per ton bid is not always the lowest price. Manager Steigerwalt’s recommendations for contract awards are as follows:

400 tons Superpave Wearing Coarse (pickup)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 21,900.00
400 tons Superpave Wearing Coarse (delivery)	Pottsville Materials, Pottsville, PA	\$ 23,596.00
30 tons Superpave Any Wearing Coarse(pickup)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 1,575.00
100 tons Superpave Base Coarse (pickup)	Pottsville Materials, Pottsville, PA	\$ 4,200.00
100 tons Superpave Base Coarse (delivery)	Pottsville Materials, Pottsville, PA	\$ 5,099.00
100 tons PaDOT OK Cold Patch (pickup)	Hei-Way LLC, Sarver, PA	\$ 8,153.00
100 tons PaDOT OK Cold Patch (delivery)	Hei-Way LLC, Sarver, PA	\$ 11,453.00

500 tons 2A stone (pickup)	R.E. Pierson, Middleport, PA	\$ 3,500.00
100 gallons PG 64-22 (pickup)	Pennsy Supply, Pittston, PA	\$ 275.00
750 tons Anti-skid AS3 (pickup)	R.E. Pierson, Middleport, PA	\$ 7,875.00
750 tons Anti-skid AS3 (delivery)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 10,650.00
200 tons #57 stone (pickup)	R.E. Pierson, Middleport, PA	\$ 1,700.00
200 tons #57 stone (delivery)	R.E. Pierson, Middleport, PA	\$ 2,760.00
100 tons #8 stone (pickup)	R.E. Pierson, Middleport, PA	\$ 1,050.00
100 tons #8 stone (delivery)	R.E. Pierson, Middleport, PA	\$ 1,580.00

A recommendation was made to award the 2016 Street Materials based on the recommendations of the Borough Manager. President Mace read the list recommendations for contract awards. 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.

Manager Steigerwalt discussed a resolution approving a price adjustment for bituminous materials for 2016. A recommendation was made to adopt a resolution approving a price adjustment for bituminous materials for 2016. The following resolution was presented for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-1
PRICE ADJUSTMENT OF BITUMINOUS MATERIALS
FOR SMALL QUANTITIES**

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

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on a Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau Repository Sale for a property located at 153 ½ Penn Street that was discussed at the last council meeting. Manager Steigerwalt stated that the bidder, Joseph Y. Chamoun, has no outstanding code violations per Matt Meyers of Barry Isett & Associates. A recommendation was made to approve the Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau Repository Sale of 153 ½ Penn Street, tax parcel number 65-16-0049.000, to Joseph Y. Chamoun. There was some discussion about this matter. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Gursky, seconded by Evans, and approved by a 6-1 vote with Councilman Connely opposed.

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.

Under New Business, Councilman Cara stated that a tree near the Majestic House needs to be replaced. The tree is part of the Streetscape Project. Manager Steigerwalt would look into the matter.

Under New Business, Councilman Connely stated that on October 20, 2015, Borough Council authorized Chief Weaver to give a Conditional Offer of Employment to Lynn York. It was noted that once Mr. York completed all the necessary requirements to be certified as a police officer, he would be hired as a part-time Patrolman. A recommendation was made to hire Lynn York as a part-time Police Officer. Council recognized Lynn York who stated that the generational suffix of II (the second) be added to his name. The motion and seconded were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to hire Lynn York II as a part-time Police Officer. There was no one else 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.

Mayor Morrison introduced Patrolman Lynn York II.

Councilman Connely commended the Police Department and Zoning Officers for their work in enforcing the Quality of Life (QOL) Ordinance. Councilman Connely noted a blatant violation of the QOL Ordinance at a property at 125 Penn Street.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Michelle Mehallic of 313 Orwigsburg Street expressed her concerns about the following: the South Ward Playground is locked up; there is drug activity taking place in the South Ward Playground and in the South Ward; a drug person that lives on Cherry Street; another drug person's behavior at Boyer's Food Market; something needs to be done about the drugs in town; the places where drugs are being sold; when she sees drug activity, she addresses it directly to them; she has information about drug activity; and she supports the Police Department. Chief Weaver stated that the Police Department is actively working narcotics year round and manpower is limited.

Kathy Kunkel of 420 Spruce Street also stated that there are drug deals going on in the South Ward Playground. Mrs. Kunkel stated that good kids cannot use the park because the bad kids have taken over.

Mrs. Kunkel also asked about the automated telephone call that had been sent out to residents earlier today. Manager Steigerwalt stated that Public Works Director Rob Jones sent out the call to residents warning them about a white pickup truck whose driver is taking the garbage bags that a resident had placed curbside for pickup. Manager Steigerwalt stated that the garbage is being picked up by someone other than our garbage contractor, Tamaqua Transfer and Recycling. Manager Steigerwalt stated that this may be occurring in order to gain access to personal information in an attempt to commit identity theft.

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 Cara, seconded by Gursky, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 8:08 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:20 p.m.

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

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

ATTEST:

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer