

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its Reorganization Meeting followed by a Regular Council Meeting on Monday, January 6, 2020 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, Ritchie Linkhorst and David Mace. Absent was Councilmember Brian Connely. Officials present were Mayor Nathan Gerace, Chief of Police Henry Woods, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire and Director of Community Development Ann Marie Calabrese.

Stephen J. Bayer, Magisterial District Judge of District Court 21-3-06, administered the Oath of Office to Councilmembers Thomas Cara, Ronald Bowman, Mary Linkevich and Robert Amentler.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gerace. A moment of silence was held for Joel Essington. The invocation was given by Councilman Cara. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Bowman. The roll was called with six councilmembers present and one absent.

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

Mayor Gerace called for nominations for Vice President of Council. Brian Connely was nominated for Vice President by Councilman Mace and seconded by Councilwoman Linkevich. 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 Gerace relinquished the chair to President Mace.

President Mace stated that Councilman Connely is traveling for business and will take the Oath of Office within ten days.

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 Cara. 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 vote.

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 Bowman and seconded by Linkhorst. 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 Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Under the Appointment of Borough Officials, a recommendation was made to appoint Anthony S. Odorizzi of Bower and Odorizzi Law, LLC as the borough solicitor. 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.

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

The Appointed Borough Officials for 2020 are as follows:

Vacancy Board Chairman  
Borough Solicitor

Mark Bower  
Anthony S. Odorizzi

Chief of Police  
 Borough Manager  
 Public Works Director  
 Borough Secretary/Treasurer  
 Assistant Borough Secretary/Treasurer  
 Borough Engineer  
 Zoning/Health/Code Enforcement Officer  
 Sewage Enforcement Officer  
 Appointed Auditors  
 Appointed Tax Collector  
 Appointed Tax Collector  
 Fire Chief  
 Emergency Management Coordinator

Henry Woods  
 Kevin A. Steigerwalt  
 Robert D. Jones  
 Georgia Depos DeWire  
 Amy Macalush  
 Alfred Benesch & Company, Pottsville, PA  
 Gregory Kurtz Jr.  
 Barry Isett & Associates, Hazleton, PA  
 Maillie LLP, Oaks, PA  
 Berkheimer Associates, Bangor, PA  
 Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau, Pottsville, PA  
 James Connely  
 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 Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

The Appointed Authorities, Boards and Commissions for 2020 are as follows:

**Board of Health**

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

**Board of Health (continued)**

Dr. Joanne Calabrese, D.O.  
 Vacant, Health Officer  
 Gregory Kurtz Jr., Health Enf. Officer  
 Anthony Odorizzi, Borough Solicitor

**Citizens Advisory Committee**

John R. Handler, Chairperson  
 Benjamin Turrano  
 Dale W. Freudenberger  
 Rich Stianche  
 Steve Gintz  
 Ann Marie Calabrese, Community Dev. Officer  
 Anthony Odorizzi, Borough Solicitor

**Civil Service Commission**

Howard C. Miller, Chairperson  
 Janene M. Holter  
 Kathy Kunkel, Secretary  
 Anthony Odorizzi, Borough Solicitor

**Historic Architectural Review Commission**

Dale Freudenberger, Chairperson  
 William Kennedy  
 Tammy Swinburne  
 Bill Harleman  
 Rich Stianche  
 Mark Conville, AIA, RA  
 Gregory Kurtz Jr., Zoning Officer  
 Anthony Odorizzi, Borough Solicitor

**Zoning Hearing Board**

Richard Clemson, Chairperson  
 Frank Kane, Vice Chairperson  
 Christine Hartung  
 George Boyle III  
 Karl Smulligan  
 Gregory Kurtz Jr., Zoning Officer  
 Robert Fryklund, Solicitor

**Planning Commission**

Timothy Stahl, Chairperson  
 Dan Evans, Vice Chairperson  
 Mark Conville  
 Andrew Kane  
 Pam McCullion, Secretary  
 Gregory Kurtz Jr., Zoning Officer  
 Anthony Odorizzi, Borough Solicitor

**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  
 Gregory Kurtz Jr., Zoning Officer

**Tamaqua Borough Authority**

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

**Tamaqua Area Water Authority**

Brian Connely, Chairperson  
 Jack Kulp, Treasurer  
 Pat Davison, Asst. Treas.  
 Philip Houm  
 David Christ  
 Tim Zeigler, Secretary  
 Anthony Odorizzi, 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  
 Anthony Odorizzi, Borough Solicitor

**Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission**

Borough of Tamaqua representatives  
 John Handler  
 Mary Linkevich

**Tamaqua Community Revitalization and Improvement Zone Contracting Authority**

Dan Evans, Chairperson  
 Richard Hadesty Sr., Vice Chairperson  
 Paul Fridirici, Secretary

**Police Pension Fund Committee**

Nathan Gerace, Chairperson  
 Robert Orbin Jr.  
 Larry Wittig  
 Patrolman Karl Harig  
 Corporal Michael Hobbs  
 Tom Cara, Councilperson (Finance)  
 Ronald Bowman, Councilmember (Public Safety)  
 Kevin Steigerwalt, Borough Manager  
 Georgia DeWire, Secretary/Treasurer  
 Anthony Odorizzi, Borough Solicitor

**Schuylkill Tax Collection Committee**

Kevin Steigerwalt, Delegate  
 Dave Mace, First Alternate

Nathan Gerace, 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**

(All Members are appointed by Borough Council)

President Mace reported that the Regular Council Meetings for 2020 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 2020 in The Times News newspaper in December 2019.

President Mace provided councilmembers with a listing of the Borough Council Committees for 2020. The committees would remain the same; however the Street Light Committee can be eliminated.

The reading of the minutes of the last Regular Council Meeting held on December 17, 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 Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire asking council to consider a motion to open an escrow account for fire loss insurance proceeds received from American Modern Select Insurance Company for the property at 20 North Greenwood Street. A recommendation was made to open a new account for the fire insurance proceeds for the property at 20 North Greenwood Street. 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 meeting was opened to the floor.

George Haldeman of the South Ward Fire Company asked the Parking and Traffic Committee to review parking issues at the intersection of Hunter and Orwigsburg streets. Mr. Haldeman expressed his concerns about an individual parking a full-sized rollback in the area making it difficult for fire trucks to make the turn from Hunter Street onto Orwigsburg Street.

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

Manager Steigerwalt reported that Schuylkill County has approved the demolition of properties at 209-211 Lombard Street and 200-202 Pitt Street. A recommendation was made to advertise for bids for the demolition of the properties at 209-211 Lombard Street and 200-202 Pitt Street. 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: Christmas tree collection would take place throughout the month of January; he would provide council with the 2018 edition of the Borough Code and a list of the recent changes; and he provided Solicitor Odorizzi with a list of outstanding items from former Solicitor Greek. Solicitor Odorizzi stated that he would be picking up the outstanding files from former Solicitor Greek on Wednesday morning.

Under the Borough Manager's report, a recommendation was made to retain Gregory Kurtz Jr. as a full-time Zoning/Code/Health Officer pending the completion of his probationary period which ends January 9, 2020. 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 the Borough Manager's report, Councilman Linkhorst asked about the signage for the new turnaround. Manager Steigerwalt stated that he gave the signs to Street Department Work Leader Matthew Mateyak. Councilman Linkhorst thanked Manager Steigerwalt for the fence that was erected at Spruce Street.

Under Other Business, Councilman Cara distributed a handout of items he would like to address. Councilman Cara discussed his list of items and used the new audio visual equipment to present photos as needed. The list of items is as follows: 1. Special Events Ordinance (barn weddings); 2. (photo) Tree Ordinance (stumps on sidewalks at 619 and 625 East Broad Street, Manager Steigerwalt said our sidewalk ordinance takes care of this). Should we have a tree ordinance that governs the standards selections planting and maintenance of trees?; 3. Air B&B Ordinance (talked to Eastern Schuylkill Planning Commission representative Karl Smulligan, he said ask Zoning Officer Greg Kurtz); 4. Wind Farm Ordinance; 5. (photo) Burger King sidewalk (Public Works Director Jones has been talking to them for 1 1/2 years); 6. (photo) Boyer's sidewalk; 7. (photo) Tree in front of borough building overgrown and roots to sewer line; 8. Borough building brick needs repointing/cleaning; 9. I have an idea to rename the library if we can get a large donation from someone, does the borough get involved in this? Who owns the library?; 10. Rick Stover from APPI would like to bid as our electric provider; 11. (photo) Dilapidated structures over the Schuylkill River; 12. (photos) Revisit East End Fire Company no parking along building; 13. Shorten the yellow parking line on Cottage Avenue where DiMaggio's park; 14. (photo) East End Welcome to Tamaqua sign at NAPA; 15. Move Water Department to Street Department building and offer the property for sale; 16. Schuylkill County Conservation district does the work of the DEP 1206 AG Center Drive Pottsville 570-622-3742 extension 5?; 17. We should place a light on the borough building sign in front of the borough building. It would look nice lighted at night.; 18. Should we put a laptop at every councilmember's seat to eliminate all the paperwork we get every month?; 19. (photo) Council President should ask for a vote to rearrange the meeting agenda, like recognizing people first instead of at the public portion of the meeting; 20. It is nice to see Hope's remove vehicles off the shoulder of the road across from their business at the west end of town; 21. (photo) Structure ready to collapse in the 600 block of East End Avenue; 22. (photo) Junk vehicles at the east end of East End Avenue, there for years and years; 23. (photo) The railroad said the borough can extend the shoulder of the road on Spruce Street when it upgrades the track

crossing leading to the light on 309, how will this get remembered? There was some discussion about these matters.

A recommendation was made to advertise an ordinance for no angle parking in Tamaqua. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkhorst, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved. After some discussion, a recommendation was made to rescind a motion to advertise an ordinance for no angle parking in Tamaqua. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was made by Linkevich, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to paint two parallel parking spaces at the East End Fire Company. 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 Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Under Other Business, President Mace stated that the borough completed a successful paving project at the end of Owl Creek Road. The project was phase one of a two phase project. President Mace asked council to consider looking at Cedar Street as a priority paving project. There was some discussion about this matter.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:55 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

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Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer