

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of January on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 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, Micah Gursky, Kerry Lasky and David Mace. Officials present were Mayor Christian Morrison, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Solicitor Michael S. Greek and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire.

The meeting was called to order by President Mace. The invocation was given by Councilman Cara followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Boy Scout Nelson Bensinger. The roll was called with all councilmembers present.

The reading of the minutes of the last Regular Council Meeting held on January 4, 2016 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Connely, seconded by Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Thomas Wood, secretary of the American Hose Company No. 1, thanking councilmembers and residents of Tamaqua for their generous donation of \$15,000 to be used for the purchase of radios for their firefighters.

Communication was received from Shanna Cook, program manager of Allied Services, stating that the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) designated the 2016 National Street and Shelter Point-in-Time Count to be compiled from January 28, 2016 to January 29, 2016. Allied Services will be assisting the Tamaqua Salvation Army on January 29, 2016 as a Base Site Location for the count. Beginning at 4:00 p.m., the Tamaqua Salvation Army will have food, clothing and personal care supplies available for those who are homeless along with information for services available to them.

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 129 Orwigsburg Street. A recommendation was made to open a new account for the fire insurance proceeds for the property at 129 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.

President Mace welcomed members of Tamaqua Boy Scout Troop 777 who were attending the meeting as part of their Citizenship Pin project. The Boy Scouts of Troop 777 in attendance were Nelson Bensinger, Shane O'Neill and Zander Bauer. Also in attendance from the Scout Troop was Troop Advisor Larry Bensinger Jr.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that Schuylkill County will hold a public hearing on January 20, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Board Room at the Courthouse. The purpose of the hearing is to review the County's proposed 2015 Community Development Block Grant Program. The County will be administering the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program on behalf of communities in Schuylkill County.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the Emergency Communications Network LLC (ECN) CodeRED system software upgrade as follows: the upgrade includes unlimited emergency call minutes, text, email addresses, phone numbers and social media messaging; the ability to launch automated phone calls from computers or smartphones; customers can access their contact

information through the website and keep their information updated; the borough can add a link on the borough website to access the CodeRED website; the upgrade was approved by the water and sewer authorities last night; and the cost would be less than \$4,900 and would be split between the general, water and sewer funds. A recommendation was made authorize the appropriate officials to enter into an agreement with ECN for the CodeRED system software upgrade. 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 Connely, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that Barry Isett and Associates, Inc. (BIA) performed a site visit and structural assessment summary of the recently acquired property at 13 South Lehigh Street. Manager Steigerwalt discussed BIA's findings and recommendation to demolish the structure. There was some discussion about advertising for Requests for Proposals (RFP's) for demolition and stabilization. A motion was made by Connely to advertise for Requests for Proposals for the demolition and stabilization of 13 South Lehigh Street. There was some discussion about this matter. President Mace stated that an executive session may be needed to discuss real estate matters. A second to the motion was made by Bowman. There was some discussion to have the RFP give a cost to bid the work. There was more 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 Connely, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt also discussed a Street Light Services Agreement and Resolution between PPL Electric Utilities and the Borough of Tamaqua for the conversion of all street lights in the borough to Light Emitting Diode (LED) streetlights. A discussion about the matter included, but was not limited to, the following: PUC approved a tariff; the cost savings to the borough; advise PPL of the borough's interest in street light services; PPL would own the street lights; adoption of a resolution; a one-time fee of approximately \$714; the new street light fixtures supply the same amount of light as the old ones, it is a white light not orange, and would appear brighter; the borough has 483 street lights and it would take approximately two to three months to change out the street lights; approximately a \$100 per month or \$1,200 per year savings to the borough; PPL incurs the cost to change out the street lights; PPL repairs any damage to the street light; having the borough own the street lights; how the resolution binds the borough; upgrading the street lights now and the possibility of buying them later; rates, generation and transmission charge; and the paperwork is missing Exhibit B as stated in the agreement.

A motion was made by Cara, and seconded by Gursky, to have the appropriate officials execute the Street Light Agreement between PPL Electric Utilities Corporation and the Borough of Tamaqua for the conversion of all street lights in the borough to Light Emitting Diode (LED) streetlights. Councilman Evans expressed his concerns about the following: buying the street lights; there is bigger money in this than what has been presented; a cost savings of only \$100 per month when the amount of electricity estimated to be used would decrease by almost half; how much the borough pays to PPL on an annual basis; and he is unwilling to support this agreement without looking at something else such as another manufacturer to do the conversion and/or acquisition. There was more discussion about this matter. Council recognized Edith Trevorah of 316 North Columbia Street who stated that she had called PPL to replace a burned-out street light in front of

her house and it was replaced two days later. Mrs. Trevorah asked if the cost included maintenance by PPL. Council said that PPL does the maintenance. Mrs. Trevorah stated that in her opinion the borough should go with PPL. Councilman Connely said to look into Exhibit B. Manager Steigerwalt stated that a resolution goes with this agreement. The motion and second was amended as follows: A recommendation was made to adopt a resolution providing for the furnishing of electric street lighting service to the Borough of Tamaqua and to have the appropriate officials execute the Street Light Agreement between PPL Electric Utilities Corporation and the Borough of Tamaqua for the conversion of all street lights in the borough to Light Emitting Diode (LED) streetlights. The following resolution and agreement were presented for council’s consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-2
ELECTRIC STREET LIGHTING SERVICE WITH
PPL ELECTRIC UTILITIES CORPORATION
AND AN AGREEMENT FOR CONVERSION OF ALL STREET LIGHTS IN THE
BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA TO LIGHT EMITTING DIODE (LED) STREET LIGHTS.**

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution and agreement. 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 Gursky and approved by a 5-2 roll call vote with Councilmembers Connely and Evans opposed.

President Mace announced the 2016 Committee Assignments as follows:

Building & Equipment

Dan Evans, Chairperson
Brian Connely
Ron Bowman

Downtown, Neighborhoods & Historic District

Tom Cara, Chairperson
Micah Gursky
Ron Bowman

Public Safety

Brian Connely, Chairperson
Dan Evans
Ron Bowman

Recreation & Youth

Dave Mace, Chairperson
Dan Evans
Kerry Lasky

Parking & Traffic

Kerry Lasky, Chairperson
Tom Cara
Dan Evans

Website Committee

Dave Mace, Chairperson
Brian Connely
Micah Gursky

Finance, Wage & Salary

Micah Gursky, Chairperson
Tom Cara
Kerry Lasky

Chairman Connely of the Public Safety Committee reported that the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy (PSFA) is holding Fire and Life Safety Education Certification courses from February 16th to February 19th in Lewistown, PA. Chairman Connely stated that Chris Hadesty would be attending the training on his own time. Chairman Connely also stated that training costs for the fire department is a budgeted item. A motion was made by Connely and seconded by Evans to cover the cost for food and lodging, with the submission of receipts to the borough, for Chris Hadesty to attend the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy training courses in Lewistown, PA. Councilman Gursky stated that another person from the fire department may be interested in attending the courses and asked councilmembers to consider amending the motion to include another person.. The motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to cover the cost for food and lodging, with the submission of receipts to the borough, for two fire department personnel, Chris Hadesty and another person to be determined, to attend the Pennsylvania State Fire

Academy training course in Lewistown, PA. Council recognized Larry Bensinger Jr. who asked about the name of the town where the courses were being held. The course is being held in Lewistown. 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 Evans, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a temporary handicapped parking space for 305 Spruce Street effective February 5, 2016. There was some discussion about temporary signage. 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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 106 Clay Street. 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.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve the installation of a second handicapped parking sign for St. John XXIII Parish on West Broad Street stating Handicapped Parking Only-Saturday 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., and the sign would be placed west of the Handicapped Loading/Unloading sign. There was much 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 Lasky, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve the placement of a No Parking Sign on a utility pole, going west, at 131 Mahanoy Street. 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 Gursky, and unanimously approved.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Herbert Curvey of 118 Clay Street asked for a copy of the 2016 Council Committee Assignments.

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

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 Connely, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under Unfinished Business, Manager Steigerwalt gave an update on the Borough Website. Manager Steigerwalt reported that the website and layout is under construction. Manager Steigerwalt sent basic information to Mr. O’Gurek. Manager Steigerwalt stated that Mr. O’Gurek would also like scenic photographs for the website. Manager Steigerwalt asked council to send him any ideas for the website. There was some discussion about the following: providing a sign in with password for council to be able to preview the website; providing access to code enforcement rental inspection forms and instructions; and providing access to other forms and information on the website.

Under Unfinished Business, there was some discussion about the Wabash Culvert repairs. A motion was made by Gursky and seconded by Lasky to advertise for bids for Wabash Culvert repairs as per the scope of work presented by Alfred Benesch and Company. After some discussion

about removing the Wildcat Sewer Elimination portion, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to advertise for bids for Wabash Culvert repairs as per the scope of work presented by Alfred Benesch and Company with the exception of removing the Wildcat Sewer elimination portion from the work. 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 Lasky, 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, Councilman Evans asked about the 2015 State Community Development Block Grant Program hearing and the proposed use of funds for demolition available for Tamaqua in the amount of \$26,138. Manager Steigerwalt stated that the borough has expended all demolition funds. There was some discussion about this matter. Councilman Evans asked for an updated list of properties for demolition.

Under New Business, Councilman Gursky stated that he is working with the property owner to address the large orange pool of mine discharge at the end of town on Route 309. The property is located in the Tamaqua Community Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ).

Under New Business, Councilman Cara suggested holding a council meeting at the new Historical Building Museum.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:25 p.m. on motion of Connely, seconded by Cara, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer