

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of February on Tuesday, February 3, 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, Brian Connely, Micah Gursky, Kerry Lasky and David Mace. Absent were Councilmembers R. Daniel Evans 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 Thomas Lasky. The roll was called with five councilmembers present and two absent.

The reading of the minutes of the last Regular Council Meeting held on January 20, 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.

Communication was received from Edward Burns, Mayor of The Borough of Girardville, requesting the assistance of the Fire Police to participate as part of their traffic control for the annual St. Patrick's Day parade on March 21, 2015. A recommendation was made to grant the request. 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 Mace, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the following: the snow removal schedule; a press release for snow removal procedures for residents; and Code Officers would be out checking sidewalks.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, a motion was made to hire Michael G. Wester as a full-time Water Treatment Plant Trainee at a pay rate of \$19.22 per hour. 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.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to advertise for pool employees. 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.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Adam Sinton as a part-time police officer effective February 3, 2015. 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 Mace, and unanimously approved.

Mayor Morrison reported that Schuylkill County human services agencies took a head count of the homeless to find out how many did not have a place to stay. The Tamaqua Salvation Army participated in the counting process. Mayor Morrison stated that according to Major Sharon Whispell, five individuals came in. Mayor Morrison also stated that there are no long-term shelters in the area with the closest being in Wilkes-Barre and Allentown. Chief Weaver stated that there are currently four homeless individuals in Tamaqua.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Michelle Mehallic of 313 Orwigsburg Street stated that her mother is terminally ill and she expressed her concerns about drug activity in her mother's neighborhood. Ms. Mehallic expressed

her concerns about the following: police issuing parking tickets; police response time; drug activity in the neighborhood; and she needs someone to help and do something soon about these matters.

Shelly Bonser of 419 North Elizabeth Street also expressed her concerns about the drug activity in her mother's neighborhood. Ms. Bonser stated that during the night of the snowstorm, the plows were going around the vehicles that were lined up to get drugs. Chief Weaver would look into the matter.

Ms. Bonser told Mayor Morrison that they would like to help the homeless and they would be willing to help a committee do so.

President Gursky asked residents to report suspicious activities to the police department.

Dian Fudge of 500 Anderson Street commented about notifying the police. Ms. Fudge asked Mayor Morrison if the churches can get involved with helping the homeless.

Ms. Mehallic commended the police department for doing their job when it comes to drug activity.

Fire Chief Tom Hartz reported that the fire department has received more smoke detectors that are available to residents for free. Fire Chief Hartz also stated that interested residents should contact the fire department in order to obtain a smoke detector. The smoke detectors must be installed by the fire department.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:20 p.m. on motion of Mace, seconded by Lasky, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer