

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of February on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 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, Brian Connely, Mary Linkevich, Ritchie Linkhorst and David Mace. Officials present were Mayor Nathan Gerace, Chief of Police Henry Woods, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire. Solicitor Michael S. Greek arrived later in the meeting.

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

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on January 15, 2019 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Connely, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under Special Business, Mayor Gerace read a proclamation recognizing Michael J. Hobbs as a Corporal with the Borough of Tamaqua Police Department.

Under Special Business, Mayor Gerace read a proclamation recognizing Thomas C. Rodgers as a Corporal with the Borough of Tamaqua Police Department.

President Mace thanked Corporal Hobbs and Corporal Rodgers for their excellent years of service to the borough.

Communication was received from Meranda Hess, Troop Leader of Tamaqua Brownie Troop 33013, thanking council for allowing the use of the lot on Lehigh Street to create a community garden. Ms. Hess stated that the troop is requesting to install a Little Free Library in the community garden. A recommendation was made to authorize Tamaqua Brownie Troop 33013 to install a Little Free Library in the community garden. 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 gave an update on the Street Light Replacement Project.

Solicitor Greek arrived at approximately 7:09 p.m.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the following: the Schuylkill County Commissioners awarded a bid for the demolition project at 241 Lafayette Street to Bill Davis Cement Contractors of Mahanoy City, PA; the street name signs are being installed in the South Ward and a portion of the North Ward; discussed the assessment of penalties for delinquent sewer and garbage bills; recommending a ten percent per quarter penalty for sewer and garbage bills due to multi-unit buildings; and changing the billing cycle from 20 days to 30 days for sewer and garbage bills with effective dates of March 1, 2019 for sewer bills and April 1, 2019 for garbage bills. A motion was made by Cara and seconded by Bowman to change the penalty fees for garbage and sewer bills to a ten percent per quarter penalty and to change the billing cycle from 20 days to 30 days for sewer and garbage bills with effective dates of March 1, 2019 for sewer bills and April 1, 2019 for garbage bills. After some discussion, the motion and second were amended as follows: a recommendation was made to advertise an ordinance changing the penalty fees for garbage and sewer bills to a ten percent per quarter penalty and to change the billing cycle from 20 days to 30

days for sewer and garbage bills with effective dates of March 1, 2019 for sewer bills and April 1, 2019 for garbage bills. 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 Director of Community Development report, Manager Steigerwalt stated that Ms. Calabrese updated a list of rehabilitation loans as of December 31, 2018 and she prepared a Tamaqua City Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ) Frequently Asked Questions handout.

A Tamaqua Borough Council 2019 photograph was taken.

Under the Director of Community Development report, council recognized R. Daniel Evans, chairman of the CRIZ Authority who discussed the following: the CRIZ Authority will be meeting twice per month in 2019; Acquisition and Rehabilitation Agreements; Bowe and Odorizzi Law, LLC will be doing more work for the CRIZ program and the firm is requesting an increase in its retainer fee from \$2,500.00 to \$4,500.00; and the borough has been paying for the retainer fee as it is not an eligible CRIZ Authority expense.

A recommendation was made to approve an increase in the retainer fee of Bowe and Odorizzi Law, LLC from \$2,500.00 to \$4,500.00. 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 Linkevich, seconded by Connely, and unanimously approved.

Mr. Evans also discussed the following: a review of the CRIZ map; revenue enhancement opportunities either by adding or removing other properties from CRIZ; additional properties within the borough that have business opportunity potential; a Tamaqua Area Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting was held to discuss a hotel study and ways the City Revitalization and Improvement Zone are used to improve the community; and attracting the owner of the Wheel Restaurant of Pottsville, PA who is looking into purchasing the former Wenzel's Bakery building and the adjacent vacant lot with a tentative opening date of July 1, 2019.

Chief Woods reported on the following: Corporal Rodgers would be attending Death Investigation and Child Abuse courses; Officer Harig would be attending an On-Scene Collision Investigation course; and old shotguns were sold for parts and the amount received was approximately \$1,500.00.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to purchase four Remington 870, 12-gauge shotguns from Ed's Sport Shop of Tamaqua at a cost of \$1,705.64. Councilman Linkhorst commended Officer Stanell and Corporal Rodgers for thinking outside the box by selling the old shotguns for parts. 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 the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to purchase four tactical lights from Quantico Tactical of Aberdeen, NC at a cost of \$992.20. 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 the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to sell the old SCBA air compressor system to the Hometown Fire Company for \$1,000.00 with the proceeds to be deposited in the Equipment Fund. Council recognized Thomas Hartz of 322 Market Street who

asked about the sale of the old air compressor. Councilman Connely stated that it is being sold in an as-is condition. 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.

President Mace stated that a motion under the Parking and Traffic Committee report was withdrawn this evening and would be looked at in two weeks at the next council meeting.

Mayor Gerace reported that THRIVE (Tamaqua Has Residents Invested in a Vibrant Environment) would be holding their first meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Tamaqua Borough Hall.

Mayor Gerace also reported that another Tamaqua Police Department Coffee with a Cop event would be held on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at Hope and Coffee located at 137 Pine Street.

Mayor Gerace also reported that the state of the borough is in good order.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:38 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkhorst, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

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Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer