

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of February on Tuesday, February 19, 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, 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.

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 Amentler. The roll was called with six councilmembers present and one absent.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on February 5, 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 Zach Rubin, branch executive of the Tamaqua YMCA, requesting permission to use the H.D. Buehler Memorial Pool every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. from June 11, 2019 through August 29, 2019 for their summer camp and swim program. 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 Cara, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the following: the Streetscape and Bridge Lighting Project on Center Street is finished and the grant documents must be submitted by the end of June; the street name signs were installed in the North Ward and almost all of the South Ward is done; Liquid Fuels funds are being used for the street name signs project; gave an update on the Street Light Replacement Project and noted that the project is on hold; and gave an update on the demolition project at 241 Lafayette Street.

Manager Steigerwalt asked council to consider a request to hire part-time summer General Maintenance workers at a starting rate of \$10.00 per hour. A recommendation was made to advertise for part-time summer maintenance workers at a starting rate of \$10.00 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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Director of Community Development Calabrese announced that the American Hose Company No. 1 and the East End Fire Company would be hosting a Chili/Boilo cook off event on February 23, 2019 to benefit the Carbon/Tamaqua American Cancer Society.

Director of Community Development Calabrese reported on the following: an audit of the Tamaqua City Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ) would take place on Thursday; bathroom upgrades at the Municipal Building; and is requesting a meeting with the Recreation and Youth Committee to discuss the H.D. Buehler Memorial Pool Feasibility Study.

Chief Woods reported that all full-time officers received CPR training.

Chief Woods reported that he received a letter from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund informing him that the name of Patrolman Benjamin Franklin Yost has been approved for inclusion to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The name would be formally dedicated on May 13, 2019 at the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Candlelight Vigil during National Police Week. President Mace recommended holding something similar locally. There was some discussion about this matter.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a motion was made by Linkhorst and seconded by Cara to adopt an ordinance establishing West Cottage Avenue as a westbound one-way street between South Railroad Street and Memorial Avenue. Council recognized Joe Bennett, owner of 24 West Broad Street, who expressed his concerns about this matter. Mr. Bennett's concerns included, but was not limited to, the following: keeping Cottage Avenue a two-way street; he owns many properties and he looks for properties with the availability of two-way streets in order to attract tenants; the devaluation of his property; restricting access to his business and a parking lot located on the south side of Cottage Avenue; the problem is created by one person/property owner, DiMaggio's La Dolce Casa Italian Restaurant and why penalize other businesses in the area; presented photos of the area to council; the roadway is blocked while a tractor trailer parks in the area for over two hours while unloading; he spoke with the Miller family who owns M&S Hardware about their willingness to assist with unloading deliveries for DiMaggio's; suggested that DiMaggio's reduce the size of the dumpster and have more pickups; beverage crates, pallets and delivery driver vehicles are also creating problems; DiMaggio's lack of courtesy concerning this matter; he has tried working with the Picone family; consider voting against this ordinance and finding a solution to this problem; leasing a parking lot he owns to DiMaggio's; liability concerns if he leases his parking lot to DiMaggio's; what if he obtains a tenant in the future that would need the whole parking lot and the situation goes back to the same problems; enforcement issues; first responder issues; and an important dialogue was started here. Councilman Cara discussed the following: he spoke with a real estate agent and the agent felt that it would not devalue the property; the borough is looking to take congestion off of Cottage Avenue; negotiations to lease a portion of Mr. Bennett's parking lot to DiMaggio's failed; DiMaggio's is meeting with its employees to advise them to recycle materials; he would personally take the photos Mr. Bennett presented to the Picone family; and asked if Mr. Bennett would like a few more weeks to negotiate. President Mace stated that it is a multi-faceted problem which includes traffic congestion, first responder issues, and a lot of concerns need to be addressed in order to find a solution. Council recognized Eric Orach of 162 Penn Street, and owner of The Station Fitness Center located at 109 West Cottage Avenue, who addressed his concerns as follows: a letter he received from the borough stating that a one-way street option would improve traffic flow and ease congestion but nothing about DiMaggio's was mentioned in the letter; did the borough ask the business owners; the one-way direction should be eastbound instead of westbound; it is not a traffic problem it is a parking problem; why is his block being changed if it is all about DiMaggio's; and illegally parked vehicles. Council recognized Paul Keich of 22 Hunter Street who expressed his concerns as follows: he has lived in the area for 78 years and that at one time every store in that block was occupied and there were no issues with deliveries; most traffic travels west to east on the street; there was never a problem until this restaurant arrived; the borough should correct the problem with the Picone family; and he will have a problem using his garage to park one of his vehicles. Council recognized Todd Miller, owner of M&S Hardware, who stated that he talked with many on council and thanked them for getting his opinion on this matter. Mr. Miller discussed the

following: he would need to make changes to his internal workings; a one-way street would not require any changes with deliveries to his business; people do come into his business complaining about trucks blocking access to Cottage Avenue; the issue comes down to enforcement; he has made some gestures to DiMaggio's but it fell through; none of his day-to-day operations has delivery trucks unload on Cottage Avenue; there may be a pick-up truck unloading equipment but it only takes approximately five to ten minutes; there is a particular truck that parks on Cottage Avenue an hour at a time; M&S made an offer to DiMaggio's to unload the truck and take the pallets up to their back door for a fee of \$20.00, however the process stopped after a few occasions; the trucks are again parking on Cottage Avenue for extended periods of time; and Mr. Miller is willing to cooperate to help with this matter. Chief Woods stated that during the West Broad Street Bridge Replacement Project over the Wabash Creek a question came up regarding deliveries. Chief Woods stated that he did watch a tractor-trailer parked on Cottage Avenue take approximately two to two and one-half hours for the driver to unload the truck. Chief Woods stated that this situation is not acceptable and the Police Department should be called. Council recognized Dan Reigel, owner of Reigel Plumbing and Heating located at 46 West Broad Street, who asked what is the DiMaggio's business doing to help themselves. Mr. Orach asked if the borough contacted Matthew Jones who owns buildings in the area. President Mace stated that other people were talked to as well and this is not the only avenue that the borough has explored. Council recognized Thomas Schlorf of 223 Orwigsburg Street who expressed his concerns as follows: if negotiations are still happening, why pass this law tonight; why is the dumpster on the street; the dumpster should not be on the street; and parking issues. There was no one else from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. President Mace stated that since there has been much discussion and ideas presented tonight, it is ill advised to take action on this motion. After much discussion, a motion was made by Linkhorst, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved to table the pending motion until further investigation.

Chairman Cara of the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee reported that he had an ordinance changing the penalty and due date for sewer bills effective March 1, 2019 to present for council's consideration:

**ORDINANCE NO. 702**  
**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 304, CHAPTER XX, SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL, PART 2, SECTION 74, TIME AND METHOD OF PAYMENT, AS AMENDED.**

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing ordinance. 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 approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Chairman Cara of the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee reported that he had an ordinance changing the penalty and due date for sanitation bills effective April 1, 2019 to present for council's consideration:

**ORDINANCE NO. 703**  
**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 604 AS AMENDED, FIXING A SANITATION FEE, ESTABLISHING AND IMPOSING UPON PROPERTY OWNERS FOR EACH DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL CONSUMER SERVED OR TO BE SERVED IN THE COLLECTION OF GARBAGE AND REFUSE, FOR SERVICES RENDERED BY THE BOROUGH IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, AND REPEALING PRIOR INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES.**

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing ordinance. 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 approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to retain Joshua Esposito as a full-time Zoning/Code/Health Officer effective February 25, 2019. 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 Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve the season and daily pass fees for the H.D. Buehler Memorial Pool for the 2019 season. It was noted that the fees are the same as last year. 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 Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

The pool rates for 2019 are as follows:

	<u>SEASON PASS</u>
TAMAQUA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT RESIDENTS	\$ 10.00 per person
OUTSIDE OF TAMAQUA SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$ 100.00 per person
TEMPORARY GUEST PASS (Visitors staying with season pass holders)	\$ 20.00 per person per week (2 weeks maximum)
	<u>DAILY PASS</u>
TAMAQUA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT RESIDENTS	
Monday thru Friday (6 years and older)	\$ 5.00 per person
Saturday and Sunday (6 years and older)	\$ 6.00 per person
Pre-school (under 6 years old)	\$ 1.00 per person
OUTSIDE OF TAMAQUA SCHOOL DISTRICT	
Monday thru Friday (6 years and older)	\$ 15.00 per person
Saturday and Sunday (6 years and older)	\$ 20.00 per person
Pre-school (under 6 years old)	\$ 1.00 per person

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to open the pool on Saturday, June 1, 2019 and to close the pool on Sunday, August 25, 2019. 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 Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to advertise for part-time lifeguards and pool clerks for the 2019 season. 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 Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Adrian Bumbulsky as pool manager for the 2019 season at a pay rate of \$15.00 per hour. 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 Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Nathan Steigerwalt and Beth Fritzinger-Jones as assistant pool managers for the 2019 season at a pay rate of \$12.50 per hour. 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 Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to advertise for a vendor for the pool concession stand. 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 Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Mayor Gerace asked council if anyone heard from the On The Grind Association. Councilwoman Linkevich stated that she has reached out to the group. There was some discussion about the group and playground associations.

Mayor Gerace stated that he saw Street Department workers out early patching potholes.

Mayor Gerace reported that a 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.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Thomas Schlorf of 223 Orwigsburg Street stated that the South Ward Fire Company is still waiting for an old fire hydrant that was requested approximately two years ago to use for training purposes. Mr. Schlorf asked why it is taking so long. Manager Steigerwalt stated that he would check with the Water Department. Mr. Schlorf expressed his concerns about the following: there are hydrants in yards on Lombard Street and Nescopeck Street; the hydrant does not have to be fully functional as the fire company only needs the top part of the hydrant; a fire hydrant has been taken out but not repaired; who authorizes who gets these unused fire hydrants; and people who work at the borough are getting these hydrants.

Councilman Cara left at approximately 8:28 p.m.

President Mace asked Mr. Schlorf to give the borough a list of where the hydrants are in personal yards and when they appeared there. There was some discussion about the availability of a fire hydrant for the fire company.

Councilman Cara returned at approximately 8:32 p.m.

Mr. Schlorf stated that on Monday morning, County Waste dumped ashes in the middle of the street but did not spread them out. Manager Steigerwalt stated that he already notified County Waste about the matter.

Eric Orach, owner of The Station Fitness Center located at 109 West Cottage Avenue, stated that he observed and took video of a drug deal taking place in his business parking lot. He contacted the Police Department but did not get a response. Chief Woods stated that he does not want to talk about the matter in an open session but that the person has been arrested and is going to jail. Mayor Gerace also responded to the matter and thanked Mr. Orach for being proactive.

Robert Frasca of 24 Hunter Street thanked council for putting up the LED street lights and the borough should be seeing a significant savings. Manager Steigerwalt stated that the street light bills were over \$7,000.00 and has dropped to approximately \$2,500.00.

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 Cara, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under Unfinished Business, Councilman Cara discussed the placement of a Welcome to Tamaqua sign at the west end of town. He had distributed two photographs showing two proposed placements of the sign. A recommendation was made to place a Welcome to Tamaqua sign at the

west end of town at the end of a guiderail along Route 209 which is approximately 900 feet from Hope's Collision garages as you enter town. There was much discussion about the following: the location of the sign; access to power; vandalism; and landscaping. Council recognized Thomas Schlorf who asked why is the sign being placed in Schuylkill Township. 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 Linkevich, and approved by a 4-3 roll call vote with Councilmembers Bowman, Linkhorst and Mace opposed and Mayor Gerace casting the tie-breaking vote in favor of the motion.

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 Bowman, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:55 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