

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of February on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 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, Chief of Police Richard Weaver, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Solicitor Michael S. Greek, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire and Director of Community Development Mary Linkevich.

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 Gursky. The roll was called with all councilmembers present.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on January 17, 2017 and the Special Council Meeting held on January 30, 2017 were ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Cara, seconded by Gursky, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Bob Schlorf, captain of the Tamaqua Fire Police, stating they would be holding a Rubber Duck Race on the Little Schuylkill River on Father's Day, June 18, 2017. The communication is requesting permission to close Elm Street from Pine Street to Schuylkill Avenue on June 18, 2017 between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Council recognized Herbert Curvey of 118 Clay Street who stated that tickets are available for \$5.00. There was no one else from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Joseph Catizone Jr., 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 25, 2017. A recommendation was made to authorize the Fire Police, if available, to assist the Borough of Girardville for the annual St. Patrick's Day parade. 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.

Communication was received from James C. Frie of 1413 Valley Road expressing an interest in serving on the Board of Health. Councilman Connely asked that we contact Mr. Frie to ask him for a brief resume or a summary telling us about himself.

Communication was received from Tammy Sienkiewicz of 215 Bowe Street requesting permission to hold their 2nd Annual Overdose Awareness candlelight walk on July 22, 2017, with a rain date of July 23, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. meet up, and the actual walk to begin at 8:00 p.m. The purpose of the walk is to honor those who have succumbed to the disease of drug addiction and hope to those who are still fighting it, and to educate family and friends on ways to get them help. The walk would begin at the Bungalow Park onto Catawissa Street, turning left onto Broad Street and end at the old CVS building. The communication also requested the assistance of the Tamaqua Fire Police and a roving Police patrol for this event. A motion was made by Bowman and seconded by Lasky to grant the request and to authorize the use of the fire police. Council recognized Herbert Curvey who recommended sending a letter to the Fire Police and their next meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2017. Council recognized John Sienkiewicz of 215 Bowe Street who discussed the event

and requested that the meet up time be changed to 6:30 p.m. After some discussion about the event, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to grant the request and to authorize the use of the fire police and to change the meet up time to 6:30 p.m. There was no one else from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from C. Dina Depos stating that the Tamaqua Salvation Army would like to hold their 4th Kidz Karnival Fundraiser event on Tuesday, August 1, 2017 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. with set-up beginning at 10:00 a.m. The communication is requesting permission to close and use the North Railroad Street Parking lot, to have access to electricity and a generator, for signs to be posted to clear the parking lot the night before the event and for barricades to be available to block the entrances to the parking lot. Ms. Depos stated that the event's success is largely due to the cooperative nature of the community and she commended the Tamaqua Borough staff members for their support and always doing a fantastic job in making sure the site was ready for the event. The event would be held in conjunction with National Night Out. A recommendation was made to grant the requests. Council recognized Major Sharon Whispell of the Tamaqua Salvation Army who thanked councilmembers and borough employees for their support. Major Whispell also stated that the Kidz Karnival event supports the families in the community and provides them with a safe environment and family fun. There was no one else from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Connely, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Kelly Waber requesting permission to hold a 5K event in the borough on either November 11th or November 18th, with a route to be determined, and a start time of 8:00 a.m. The event is being held in honor of her mother, Debra Greenwood, who passed away this past September after a brave battle with pancreatic cancer. Ms. Waber stated that the intent for the event is to bring awareness to the community about the terribly aggressive disease that is pancreatic cancer, along with giving a scholarship to a deserving student who is planning a future in nursing. Ms. Waber stated that she is open to suggestions for the race route. Councilwoman Lasky stated that November 11th is Veteran's Day and a parade would be held on that day, and suggested that Ms. Waber hold the event on November 18th. Councilwoman Lasky stated that Ms. Waber should come up with a plan for the event. There was some discussion about a route for the event. A recommendation was made to grant a preliminary approval contingent upon Ms. Waber coming back with details of the 5K event. Council recognized Michelle Mehallic of 411 North Lehigh Street and John Sienkiewicz who discussed the benefits of holding the event at the Owl Creek Reservoir. There was no one else 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.

Communication was received from Todd Zimmerman of 107 Mantzville Road, Andreas, PA who stated that STEP-Up (Support, Treatment, Enforcement and Prevention) Carbon has several events planned over the next few months to show how the opioid epidemic affects everyone indirectly. The events are as follows: a Crime Watch Town Hall meeting would be held on March 1st from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Panther Valley High School Auditorium; A Town Hall meeting to discuss combating blight would be held on March 30th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Panther Valley High School Auditorium; a "One Year Later, Lessons Learned" Town Hall meeting

featuring Dr. Rachel Levine, Pennsylvania's Physician General and Gary Tennis, Secretary of Drug and Alcohol Programs, would be held on April 12th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Tamaqua Middle School Auditorium; and STEP-Up Carbon and STEP-Up Tamaqua would be coordinating community involvement for Earth Day on April 22nd. STEP-Up Carbon meets every third Tuesday at St. Peter's Recreation Center, 177 Main Road, Lehigh, PA.

Manager Steigerwalt discussed a resolution for PennDOT Temporary Construction Easements. The following resolution was presented for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-1
AUTHORIZATION OF SIGNER RESOLUTION
TEMPORARY EASEMENT AGREEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION PURPOSES
WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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

Under the Borough Manager's report, there was some discussion about the West Broad Street Bridge Replacement Project over the Wabash Creek and the Family Dollar store sidewalk issue.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that he had a resolution accepting a \$60,000.00 grant from the John E. Morgan Foundation Inc. for pool operating expenses and a resolution accepting a \$47,000.00 grant from the John E. Morgan Foundation Inc. for the purpose of assisting with the acquisition and installation of Automated External Defibrillator Units in Municipal Police Vehicles in Tamaqua, Coaldale, Lansford, Nesquehoning, Summit Hill, Rush Township, Schuylkill Township, West Penn Township and Ryan Township to present for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-2
RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL, TAMAQUA, PENNSYLVANIA,
REGARDING GRANTS FROM THE JOHN E. MORGAN FOUNDATION, INC.
AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR UNITS**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-3
RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL, TAMAQUA, PENNSYLVANIA,
REGARDING GRANTS FROM THE JOHN E. MORGAN FOUNDATION, INC.
BUNGALOW POOL OPERATING EXPENSES**

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution. 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 Gursky, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Manager Steigerwalt gave an update on the Lincoln Street Wall. There was much discussion about the following: the wall is collapsing in two areas, the rear of 510 Washington Street and 524 Washington Street; the borough's engineer, Alfred Benesch and Company, looked at two areas and the cost is approximately \$72,000.00 for engineering services and construction; using Highway Aid funds is not recommended for repairs; and discussed the allocations of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

Under the Borough Manager's report there was much discussion about the demolition of a property at 216 Penn Street. Councilman Connely expressed his concerns about the following: the two-year length of time it is taking to have the 216 Penn Street property demolished; the property

was purchased in 2015 with the intent to demolish; the advertising for bids for the demolition of 216 Penn Street was approved; and the authorization to use CDBG funds for the demolition. President Mace directed Director of Community Development Linkevich to contact Schuylkill County who administers the CDBG program and ask them to expedite the demolition of the property. Ms. Linkevich stated that she has already done that and that the county wanted an engineer to review the demolition property. A recommendation was made to send a letter to the Schuylkill County Commissioners expressing displeasure with the delay of the CDBG demolition program funds. 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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Borough Manager's report, a recommendation was made to expend funds from CDBG Program year 2014 for the demolition of 216 Penn Street as soon as possible. There was much discussion about this matter. Council recognized Tammy Sienkiewicz who suggested notifying the neighbors about the unsafe condition of the property. Council recognized Michelle Mehallic who agreed that the house is not safe. 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 Gursky, and unanimously approved.

Under the Borough Manager's report, Councilman Gursky recommended reviewing the repository sale list to determine if there are properties the borough should look into purchasing in order to demolish the property. Councilman Connely stated that the borough purchased the 216 Penn Street property with the intent to demolish and it is taking two years.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the bid results from the sale of used equipment. Director of Community Development Linkevich stated that there was one flaw with the auction of the animal pens. Ms. Linkevich stated that the auction ended with a tie for the highest bidder of the animal pens and both individuals want to have first pick. Ms. Linkevich stated that the animal pens must be readvertised. A recommendation was made to accept the bids for the sale of the borough listed equipment, with the exception of four animal pens, as follows: \$2,252.00 for the Jeep Grand Cherokee 4WD from Harry Wensel of Jersey Shore, PA; \$216.00 for the Garden Trailer from Joe Lankford of Manchester, MD; \$325.00 for the Steel Sewer Router from Jay Geissinger of Quakertown, PA; \$23.00 for the Parking Meters (3 hour) from James Muir of Lancaster, PA; \$405.00 for the Line Striping Machine from John Briggs of Douglassville, PA; \$61.00 for the Line Striping Machine, old from Chris Stoodley of Shickshinny, PA; \$510.00 for the Portable Pool Lift from Heather Shive of Lansdale, PA; and \$21.00 for the Parking Meters (2 hour) from A.J. Grimaldi of Liverpool, NY. There was some discussion about costs to readvertise the four animal pens. 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.

A recommendation was made to deposit the proceeds from the sale of used equipment into the Building and Equipment Fund. 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 approved by a 6-1 vote with Councilman Gursky opposed.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: he is working with Child Development who purchased the 240 Center Street property; and a Department of Community and Economic

Development (DCED) approval of the PPL streetlight acquisition and LED (light-emitting diode) upgrade project loan and a loan closing date of March 1, 2017.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that the next sewer bills would be prorated because the billing period is for December 2016, January 2017 and February 2017 and the new sewer rate is effective January 1, 2017. The next bill amount would be \$78.35. The following sewer bill would be for the full amount of \$85.00.

Manager Steigerwalt requested an executive session to discuss legal and real estate issues prior to adjournment.

Director of Community Development Linkevich reported that a grant has been given to Schuylkill County by DCED to combat blighted properties. Ms. Linkevich stated that the property must be owned by the borough or under a court order for demolition in order to receive funding from the grant. Ms. Linkevich stated that she would be meeting with Solicitor Greek and Code Enforcement on a monthly basis, beginning on March 3rd, to review the demolition list, to place properties on a demolition list and to review strategy.

Director of Community Development Linkevich also reported on a blighted property at 202 Pitt Street. Ms. Linkevich stated that she considers this property in need of emergency demolition and the borough should proceed with obtaining a court order. There was some discussion about this matter. A recommendation was made to proceed with the process of obtaining a court order for the demolition of a property at 202 Pitt Street. 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 Gursky, and unanimously approved.

Director of Community Development Linkevich also reported on the following: an osprey platform was installed at the Owl Creek Reservoir; the CRIZ program and a thank you to state Senator David Argall for promoting the CRIZ program; and she should have addition information about the streetlight project by the end of the month.

Director of Community Development Linkevich presented a Website Service Agreement renewal with Bobby O’Gurek’s Web Design and Services. A recommendation was made to approve renewal of a website service agreement between Bobby O’Gurek’s Web Design and Services and the Borough of Tamaqua at a cost of \$480.00 per year. 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 Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Director of Community Development Linkevich reported that she had a resolution approving the submission of a demolition request to the County of Schuylkill in the amount of \$25,000.00 for the demolition of 216 Penn Street to present for council’s consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-4
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA APPROVING SUBMISSION
OF A DEMOLITION REQUEST TO THE COUNTY OF SCHUYLKILL
IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000.00 FOR THE DEMOLITION OF 216 PENN STREET**

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Evans, seconded by Cara, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Chief Weaver read a letter from the Pennsylvania State Police which stated that an annual audit of the Tamaqua Police Department's policies and procedures was conducted on January 18, 2017 and there were no discrepancies identified.

Under the Building and Equipment Committee report, a motion was made by Evans and seconded by Connely to advertise for the sale of a 2004 Dodge Intrepid police car, a gas-powered leaf vacuum and two trailer axles on the Municibid online government auction website. After some discussion about the paving machine, the motion and seconded were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to advertise for the sale of a 2004 Dodge Intrepid police car, a gas-powered leaf vacuum, two trailer axles and a Blaw Knox C M Asphalt Paver Diesel Engine with a minimum bid of \$1,000.00 for the paving machine, on the Municibid online government auction website. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Evans, seconded by Connely, and unanimously approved.

Chairman Evans of the Building and Equipment Committee also reported on the following: a quote for a keypad lock system for the aerial building would be reviewed by his committee; and November and December revenue figures for the newer parking meters would be shared with the Parking and Traffic Committee and the Building and Equipment Committee.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to send up to two Fire Chiefs to the Fire Department Instructor Conference (FDIC) training as budgeted. 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 approve the renewal of a one-year extended warranty and software maintenance agreement for the cameras in the police cars at a cost of \$2,000.00 with Secure Watch 24 (SW24). 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 hire Dinu Dermargosian as a part-time police officer. 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 Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 244 Mauch Chunk 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

Chairwoman Lasky of the Parking and Traffic Committee gave an update on the Sidetrack Tap Room request for a special parking area in front of the building to be used as take-out parking and to load/unload deliveries only.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Adrian Bumbulsky as pool manager at the pay rate of \$15.00 per hour and Matthew Stanek as assistant pool manager at the pay rate of \$12.50 per hour for the 2017 pool season. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Evans, seconded by Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, Councilman Evans reported that a committee meeting would be held on March 1, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers. Councilman Evans stated that some of the items to be discussed include the pool concession stand vendor, pool bathhouses, Lansford pool and disposition of the old pool concession stand.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, Manager Steigerwalt asked that Solicitor Greek write a letter to the concession stand vendor as they did not pay the money owed from the 2016 pool season.

Mayor Morrison reported that he met with the Fire Police last week, and stated that if anyone is interested in serving with the Fire Police to notify them.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Herbert Curvey of 118 Clay Street expressed his concerns about a water main break last week on Lombard Street that closed the street completely. Mr. Curvey suggested that the borough contact the school district and ask them to consider building an access road to the school. There was some discussion about this matter.

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.

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 Gursky, seconded by Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, Manager Steigerwalt reported that he had a Fee Schedule Resolution revising the health inspection fees and the hourly equipment rates to present for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-5
BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA
FEE SCHEDULE RESOLUTION**

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Evans, seconded by Bowman, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

A recommendation was made to hold an executive session to discuss real estate, legal and personnel matters. 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.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 8:42 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 9:23 p.m.

President Mace announced that an executive session was held to discuss real estate, legal and personnel matters.

A recommendation was made to hire Jeremy Sborz from the certified eligibility list prepared by the Tamaqua Civil Service Commission for the position of full-time police officer and effective February 26, 2017. 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.

A recommendation was made to approve the sidewalk program for the east side of Center Street from the bridge to Spruce Street and for all of the bridge, and to delete the west side of Center Street from the bridge to Spruce Street for the scope of the Center Street Streetscape Improvement Project. 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.

A recommendation was made to authorize the Civil Service Commission to conduct a new test and compile a list for the hiring of police officers to fill two vacancies. 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.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:26 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Connely, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer