

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of March on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 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, Mary Linkevich, Ritchie Linkhorst and David Mace. Officials present were Mayor Nathan Gerace, Officer in Charge Corporal Dwayne Hacker, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Solicitor Michael S. Greek, 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 Stephen Behun of Boy Scout Troop 755. The roll was called with all councilmembers present.

President Mace announced that an executive session was held on March 1, 2018 to discuss personnel issues. President Mace also announced that an executive session was held prior to tonight's council meeting to discuss personnel issues.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on February 20, 2018 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.

Under Special Business, President Mace presented a Certificate of Achievement to Lexi Kerstetter in recognition of winning the Girl's 200 Freestyle at the PIAA District XI Class AA Swimming Championships.

Under Special Business, a moment of silence was held for Lewis H. Erbe, who served on the Tamaqua Borough Council for approximately 32 years and he had also served as President.

Communication was received from Kevin Titus stating that he is resigning from his position at the Still Creek Water Treatment Plant and his last day of work will be on April 3, 2018. Mr. Titus also stated that he would be using his accumulated vacation and compensation time making his last day of employment on or about May 5, 2018. A recommendation was made to accept the resignation of Kevin Titus. 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.

Communication was received from Eric Zizelmann of the Tamaqua Remembers Committee requesting permission for the following: the opening ceremony would be held on May 1, 2018 at 7:00 p.m., which is also a council meeting night, and is requesting that councilmembers be present for the ceremony; to close South Nescopec Street between West Broad Street and Cottage Avenue for the afternoon and evening of May 1st and to restrict Cottage Avenue to local traffic between Hunter Street and Stadium Hill at the same time; to have the parking lot on the west side of South Nescopec Street available as standing room for the crowd; a formal approval to utilize the retaining wall that faces north on South Nescopec Street for the creation of the patriotic mural; the creation of the mural may necessitate the occasional blocking of the two sloped portions of Cottage Avenue on either side of the mural and the portion of Cottage Avenue at the base of the iron steps; to relocate 91 wreaths that would line South Nescopec Street during the opening ceremony to Depot Square Park to be kept there for the remainder of the month; and a permit for a professional fireworks display over the mountains to the east side of the borough that would be held at the conclusion of

Memorial Day weekend mixer on May 26th. A recommendation was made to grant permission for all the requests with a stipulation that the borough has supervision over the placement of the wreaths at Depot Square Park. There was some discussion about the following: making every effort to cancel the May 1st council meeting; placements of the wreaths; relocating the wreaths after the prom date of May 5th since the park is also used for prom photographs; and an additional request via email to whitewash Stadium Hill. 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 Connely, and unanimously approved.

There was some discussion about a request to whitewash Stadium Hill. A recommendation was made to close South Lehigh Street from West Broad Street to Spruce Street on May 22nd, with a raindate of May 23rd, from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. to whitewash Stadium Hill with the 91 names of Tamaqua Borough's war dead citizens, as requested by the Tamaqua Remembers Committee, and contingent upon approval by the Tamaqua Area School District. There was some discussion about this matter. Council recognized South Ward Fire Chief Mark Bower who expressed his concerns about fire responders getting to the fire department building, which is located at the top of the hill, in the event of an emergency. Councilman Connely recommended creating a single lane on the left side of the hill in the event of an emergency. There was more discussion about this matter. 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from David J. Meredith, adjutant of the C.H. Berry Post No. 173 of The American Legion and parade chairperson, requesting permission to hold the annual Memorial Day Parade on May 28th beginning at 10:00 a.m. 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 Bowman, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Josh Schaeffer, president of On The Grind (OTG) Association, requesting permission to hold a small carnival with a few small rides, vendors and games and possibly a car show as a fundraising event at Willing Park over Father's Day weekend. Councilman Connely stated that Summerfest is on a one-year postponement due to the West Broad Street Bridge Replacement Project. He expressed some concern that part of the detour for the bridge project is in that area near the park and could create other problems. After some discussion, a motion was made by Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved to table the pending motion. President Mace stated that it would be discussed at the next council meeting. Manager Steigerwalt stated that On The Grind is also planning a spring clean-up on March 24th at the Willing Park, a Basket Bingo on March 28th at The Italian Club and an egg hunt.

Communication was received from Pastor Steve Gintz of Revive Community Fellowship requesting permission to use Tamaqua Borough Parks to hold summer activities for the children of the town. The dates and times of the events would be as follows: June 18th -21st, South Ward Playground, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; June 18th to 21st, North and Middle Ward Park, 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; June 25th to 28th, South Ward Playground, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; June 25th to 28th, Dutch Hill Playground ball fields, 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; July 16th to 19th, South Ward Playground, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; and July 18th to 19th, North and Middle Ward Park, 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The communication is also requesting permission to use the North and Middle Ward Park/Playground on July 17th for a Community Carnival starting at 5:30 p.m. The communication is also requesting permission from the borough to clean up the parks at South Ward, North and Middle Ward and Dutch Hill and to construct new benches for the community pool area. A motion was made by Bowman and seconded by Linkevich to grant the requests. Councilman Linkhorst recommended that Pastor Gintz contact Tamaqua Baseball Association members to coordinate activities in order to avoid any conflicts with other events at the baseball fields. After some discussion about obtaining background checks/clearances, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to grant the requests and that the letter also stipulate that they comply with all state and federal regulations. 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 reported that the demolition was completed for 216 Penn Street. He stated that a bid opening was held for the sale of 216 Penn Street on March 2nd and one bid was received from Norene Valentini in the amount of \$3,006.00. A recommendation was made to accept a bid for the sale of 216 Penn Street from Norene Valentini of 216 ½ Penn Street in the amount of \$3,006.00. 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 also reported that Alfred Benesch and Company sent a letter of review/recommendation for bids for the Bungalow Park Bath House and Admission Building Rehabilitation project. Contract 1 is the Building Improvements which consist of the roof replacement on both bath houses and the admissions building and the wall reinforcing to the women's bath house. Contract 2 is the Electrical Improvements which consists of the replacement of the lighting and electrical components in all three buildings. Manager Steigerwalt stated that Alfred Benesch is recommending that Contract 2 for the Electrical Improvements be awarded to the lowest bidder, Larry McCullion and Son Electrical Construction Services. A recommendation was made to award Contract 2 for the Electrical Improvements for the Bungalow Park Bath House and Admission Building Rehabilitation Project to the lowest bidder, Larry McCullion and Son Electrical Construction Services, in the amount of \$10,600.00. 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 Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that Alfred Benesch stated that one bid was received for Contract 1 for the Building Improvements and it exceeded the construction estimate amount of \$45,262.00. Alfred Benesch and Company is recommending that Contract 1 be rebid. A recommendation was made to reject the bid and rebid Contract 1 for the Building Improvements. 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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt announced the following events: Lehigh Carbon Community College is hosting a Community Resource Fair on March 27th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; an invitation to a fundraising event for Hope Coffee Shop on April 6th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. with tickets to

attend costing \$20.00; and Step Up Tamaqua would be holding an event on April 19th at 11:00 a.m. at the Tamaqua Area High School to address the opioid crisis.

Manager Steigerwalt discussed a Police Pension Plan Actuarial Cost Study and an ordinance amending the Police Pension Plan Ordinance for a change that was approved in the 2017-2020 Police Contract. A recommendation was made to advertise an ordinance amending the Police Pension Ordinance. Solicitor Greek explained the language changes to the ordinance. 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 Connely, and unanimously approved.

President Mace stated that the last day of school keeps changing and has the potential to affect the start of the West Broad Street Wabash Tunnel Replacement Project. Manager Steigerwalt stated that PennDOT would adjust the project start date.

Director of Community Development Calabrese reported that the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) extension was filed. Also, a separate bank account must be opened for the grant award from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program which is administered by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) for the H.D. Buehler Memorial Pool Feasibility Study grant funds. A recommendation was made to open a new bank account for grant funds awarded for the H.D. Buehler Memorial Pool Feasibility Study from DCNR. 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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 235 Spruce Street. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkhorst, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 403 Willing Street. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkhorst, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a motion was made by Linkhorst and seconded by Cara to purchase new stop signs and street name signs from U.S. Municipal Supply in the amount of \$5,000.00 with funds designated from Liquid Fuels. There was much discussion about the following: Tamaqua has 229 intersections, 127 do not have street names, 35 signs are faded and 67 intersections are okay; the cost for a sign, post, brackets and hardware is approximately \$60.00; the \$5,000.00 would cover approximately one-third of what is needed to be replaced; using reflective material for the signs; purchasing signs with a blue background and white lettering; new signs would not match the old ones and replacing old signs; new mast signs are not needed yet; and adding block numbers to the bottom of the signs. After much discussion, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to purchase new stop signs and street name signs with a blue background and white lettering from U.S. Municipal Supply in the amount of \$5,000.00 with funds designated from Liquid Fuels. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkhorst, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Chairman Cara of the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee gave an update on the Center Street Welcome Sign Improvements as follows: moving the sign location; an estimate from Graver's Landscape Design, LLC; and beautifying all four entrances to Tamaqua. The Graver's Landscape Design, LLC landscape installation includes the following: hauling of materials, boulders to surround newly installed sign, decorative river rock; excavation and preparation of the lawn area surrounding signage; plantings as per landscape design; final grading and seeding; and a total cost of \$3,070.00. A motion was made by Cara and seconded by Bowman to accept a proposal from Graver's Landscape Design, LLC at a maximum cost of \$3,070.00 for the improvements to the welcome sign on Center Street. There was some discussion about work that needs to be done prior to the start of Graver's work and the funding source for the project. A motion was made by Linkevich, seconded by Linkhorst, and approved by a 4-3 vote to table the pending motion with Councilmembers Bowman, Cara and Connely opposed.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve and appoint the list of members of the Owl Creek Reservoir Commission (OCRC) as follows: Tom Sr. and Carol Banditelli; Tom Jr. and Roxanne Banditelli; Steve and Christine Bayer; Jon Bonner; Mark Bower; Tom and Marie Coggiano; Ellsworth and Gail Davis; Steve and Lori Daynorovich; Chris Daynorovich; Joe and Joan Deitrich; Maria Derr; Thorn and Heidi Devlin; Justine Evans; Shawn and Kelly Frederickson; Elaine Hackenberg; George Haldeman; Nancy and Bob Koslop; Pam and Larry McCullion; Kay McGrath; John Mickey; Jennifer and Nikolai Nelson; Bob and Cindy Reed; Shawn Riley and Jen Ruch; Jack Sakusky; Wanda Schmidt; Ed and Betty Sherry; John and Tammy Sienkiewicz; Doug Springer Jr.; Rich Stianche; Greg and Tracey Taras; Ben and Melanie Turrano; and Linda Wagner. There was some discussion about obtaining background checks/clearances and that the OCRC is a commission of the borough. Council recognized Kathy Kunkel of The Times News newspaper who asked about new members and other park commissions. Solicitor Greek stated that other park commissions have Use and Maintenance Agreements with the borough. There was no one else 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.

Chairman Connely of the Public Safety Committee announced that the Insurance Services Office (ISO) recently completed an analysis of the structural fire suppression delivery system provided in Tamaqua. The Borough's Public Protection Classification (PPC) has improved from a Class 4 rating to a Class 2 rating. Tamaqua is one of only eleven communities, out of 2,432, in Pennsylvania to receive a Class 2 PPC rating. The ISO analysis evaluates the water delivery system, 911 communication system, and fire department equipment and training. ISO's PPC plays an important role in the underwriting process of insurance companies. Chairman Connely commended the fire departments and those involved. President Mace also thanked former Fire Chief Tom Hartz, the current Fire Chief Jim Connely and the fire departments.

Under the Building and Equipment Committee report, Councilman Bowman reported that roof repairs to the building that the borough leases for office space to District Justice Stephen Bayer is necessary. A bid was received from Sinn Construction of Tamaqua in the amount of \$7,775.00 to repair the roof. A recommendation was made to authorize Sinn Construction to repair the roof to the building that the borough leases for office space to District Justice Stephen Bayer at a cost of

\$7,775.00 with funds designated from 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 Bowman, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Chairman Cara of the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee reported on a Procurement Card Program (P-Card) offered by the Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT) as follows: specialized cards would be given to select employees who are responsible for ordering goods and services; it enables online purchases; there is no annual fee; it reduces check writing; it earns a rebate on dollars spent; a limit of \$5,000; limits that could be adjusted by the Administrator; the Assistant Borough Secretary/Treasurer would be the Administrator; having two P-Cards available; a payment is due within seven to ten business days of a billing cycle; a penalty for late payment of seven points above prime; and Finance Committee approval is needed for payments. A motion was made by Cara and seconded by Linkevich to authorize the Borough Manager and the Assistant Borough Secretary/Treasurer to establish a PLGIT P-Card. There was some discussion about the following: card limits; changes to card limits; setting the card due date at the 15th of the month; adoption by resolution; and changes made to the resolution by Solicitor Greek. After some discussion, the motion and second were amended as follows: A motion was made by Cara and seconded by Linkevich to adopt a resolution authorizing the Borough Manager and the Assistant Borough Secretary/Treasurer to establish a PLGIT P-Card. After additional discussion, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to adopt a resolution, as amended by the Solicitor, authorizing the Borough Manager and the Assistant Borough Secretary/Treasurer to establish a PLGIT P-Card. The following resolution was presented for council's consideration:

RESOLUTION 2018-5
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
PROCUREMENT CARD PROGRAM (P-CARD) OFFERED BY
THE PENNSYLVANIA LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT TRUST (PLGIT)

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 Cara, seconded by Linkevich, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Gerace reported on the following: the Police are doing a great job; he is requesting that No Parking signs be posted near the basketball court side at the Willing Park due to an incident that happened there; asked council to consider advertising for a tax abatement for new businesses; and asked for an update from the Building and Equipment Committee regarding his request to install window tint on two police vehicles. Councilmembers Connely and Bowman of the Building and Equipment Committee stated that the request to install window tint on the police vehicles is still under review. There was some discussion about the grade of the tinting, complying with the borough's insurance policies, and that the police vehicles are leased. Officer in Charge Corporal Hacker expressed his concerns about tinted windows as follows: complying with the vehicle code; he does not like tinting; and the police department is in possession of two free tint meters as part of a grant. Chairman Evans of the Building and Equipment Committee stated that due to the responses by the committee members and Officer in Charge Corporal Hacker, the window tinting would not be installed on the vehicles. There was some discussion about police electronic equipment.

Mayor Gerace requested an executive session prior to adjournment to discuss personnel matters.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Stephen Behun stated that he was attending the meeting as part of his Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge class.

Kathy Kunkel stated that the police cameras are part of a system serviced by Communication Systems Inc. (CSI) and there have been issues with CSI's servicing.

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 Connely stated that he had an ordinance renaming Nescopec Street between Broad Street and Cottage Avenue to present for council's consideration:

**ORDINANCE NO. 694
BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

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 Connely, seconded by Linkevich, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to hold an executive session to discuss personnel matters. 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 Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 8:48 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 9:20 p.m.

President Mace announced that an executive session was held to discuss personnel matters.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:20 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer