

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of April on Tuesday, April 1, 2014 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, R. Daniel Evans, Micah Gursky, David Mace 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 Councilman Mace. The roll was called with all councilmembers present.

The reading of the minutes of the last Regular Council Meeting held on March 18, 2014 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Mace, seconded by Startzel, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Nicholas Zigmant, branch executive of the Tamaqua YMCA, requesting permission to use the H.D. Buehler Memorial Pool from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. this summer for their Summer Adventure Camp. 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 Mace, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Tara Goho of 1012 Park Drive, Tamaqua requesting permission to use the H.D. Buehler Memorial Pool and Bungalow Pavilion for the Tamaqua/Panther Valley Area Girl Scouts annual Day Camp on July 18 and July 19. The communication also requested lifeguards and that the fee of the pool and pavilion be waived. A recommendation was made to refer the matter to the Recreation and Youth Committee. 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 Startzel, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Stacia Smith, commander of the C.H. Berry Post No. 173 of The American Legion, requesting permission to hold the annual Memorial Day Parade on May 26, 2014 beginning at 10:00 a.m. The communication is also requesting a no parking ban on Broad Street to be in effect and also to have the Tamaqua Fire Police at intersections. A recommendation was made to grant the request. Councilman Mace stated that the bridge is still closed and an alternate parade route would still be in effect. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Startzel, seconded by Mace, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from David W. Christ of 406 Pine Street expressing an interest in serving on the Tamaqua Area Water Authority. Mr. Christ stated that he has over 40 years of experience working with the Tamaqua water system. A recommendation was made to appoint David W. Christ to serve on the Tamaqua Area Water Authority to fill the unexpired term of John Tracy. The term expires January 1, 2015. There was some discussion about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Mace, seconded by Connely, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Michael Angelo, president of the East End Fire Company, requesting permission to close Columbia Street from East Broad Street to East End Alley and to close East End Alley from Elizabeth Street going east, as needed, to hold their annual block

party from June 6 to June 8. 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.

Communication was received from Kerry Dowd Lasky of 541 Arlington Street expressing an interest in serving as a member of Tamaqua Borough Council to fill the current vacancy created by the death of John Trudich Jr.

Communication was received from Benjamin E. Beckett of 333 Owl Creek Road expressing an interest in serving as a member of Tamaqua Borough Council to fill the current vacancy created by the death of John Trudich Jr.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that the Refuse and Recyclable Materials Collection Contract expires at the end of May. Manager Steigerwalt discussed a one-year extension of the contract with a rate increase adjustment using the Consumer Price Index. A recommendation was made to approve a one-year extension of the Refuse and Recyclable Materials Collection Contract with Tamaqua Transfer and Recycling Company with a rate increase adjustment using the Consumer Price Index as required in the contract. 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.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that two properties, 27 Hunter Street and 27 ½ Hunter Street, were not connected to the municipal sewer system. There was some discussion about this matter.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on three Repository Sale Notices pending for properties at 27 East Elm Street, 537 East Elm Street and 252 Cottage Avenue. Manager Steigerwalt reported that J. Valley Properties of Easton, which is the bidder for 537 East Elm Street, was not found to be registered as a business in Pennsylvania and 252 Cottage Avenue has a number of violations and appears on the borough's demolition list.

A recommendation was made to approve the Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau Repository Sale of 27 East Elm Street for tax parcel #65-07-0092.003 to Joseph W. Smith and Lorna Young of Tamaqua. 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 Connely, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to disapprove the Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau Repository Sale of 537 East Elm Street for tax parcel #65-04-0006.000 to J. Valley Properties of Easton, PA, based on being an unregistered business. Fire Chief Hartz asked about outstanding violations for this property. Council recognized Tony Rodrigue of 28 South Railroad Street who stated that there is no statute in Pennsylvania requiring a business to register as a corporation but a business is required to register with the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue. There was some discussion about these matters. There was no one else from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Mace, seconded by Startzel, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to disapprove the Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau Repository Sale of 252 Cottage Avenue for tax parcel #65-15-0044.001 to Milligan Group, LLC of New York, NY, based on being listed on the borough's CDBG list as a potential demolition property. 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 Connely, and unanimously approved.

Under the Borough Manager's report, Councilman Cara discussed a newspaper article about the Hazleton Police Chief going to New Jersey to serve a property owner. There was some discussion about this matter.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that Lenape Solar, LLC of Sunbury, PA is now offering a program, free of charge, for certain outdoor light fixtures. There was some discussion about this matter and to renew a request for LED's for streetlights.

Under the Building and Equipment report, a recommendation was made to advertise for the sale of the following equipment: 1974 Diamond Reo Triaxle; 1961 CAT Grader #14; 1987 Chevrolet Pickup; 1992 Mercury Topaz; and 12 H P Gravely Riding Mower. Councilman Connely stated that all of the vehicles have been taken out of service and are no longer of use. 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 Evans, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to advertise for part-time seasonal laborers at a pay rate of \$8.00 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 Mace, and unanimously approved.

Chairman Mace of the Recreation and Youth Committee reported on the following: the Bungalow Park Commission is in need of volunteer members; and the Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission member communities have agreed upon some park projects. There was some discussion about the availability of grants for park projects and preparing a list of projects.

A recommendation was made to approve a subdivision plan of the Mady Real Estate Company's car wash property as per the recommendation of the Tamaqua Planning Commission. Council recognized Tony Rodrigue, chairman of the Tamaqua Planning Commission, who discussed the following: the subdivision plan of the property; adjacent easements to the property; ownership by the YMCA which is a defunct corporation; and obtaining a quiet title. There was some discussion about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Startzel, seconded by Cara, and approved by a 5-1 vote with Councilman Evans opposed.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Jason Petrucci of 330 Mahanoy Street expressed his concerns about a condemned property at 332 Mahanoy Street. There was some discussion about this matter. Manager Steigerwalt would look into the matter and advise Mr. Petrucci.

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

Mayor Morrison discussed damages to a camera, light pole and street sign caused by an oversized load traveling through the Five Points intersection. Mayor Morrison is recommending that two bollards be installed in the area near the Flat Iron Building. Manager Steigerwalt would look into the matter.

Under Unfinished Business, Councilman Cara stated that several letters of interest in serving as a member of Tamaqua Borough Council to fill the current vacancy created by the death of John Trudich Jr. have been submitted. Councilman John Trudich Jr. died on March 8, 2014 thereby creating a vacancy on the Tamaqua Borough Council. A recommendation was made to appoint

Kerry Dowd Lasky of 541 Arlington Street as a member of the Borough Council to fill the vacancy of John Trudich. The following resolution was presented for council's consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-6
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, SCHUYLKILL COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA, TO FILL A VACANCY OF A MEMBER OF COUNCIL.

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 Startzel, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Morrison administered the Oath of Office to Kerry Dowd Lasky.

Under New Business, a recommendation was made to appoint Councilman Thomas Cara as the borough's library board representative to the Tamaqua Public Library. 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.

Under New Business, a recommendation was made to adopt a resolution appointing Tax Collection Committee representatives as follows: Kevin A. Steigerwalt as the primary voting delegate; Micah J. Gursky as the first alternate voting delegate; and Dave Mace as the second alternate voting delegate. The following resolution was presented for council's consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-7
BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA
APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATE RESOLUTION

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

Under New Business, a recommendation was made to appoint Councilman Justin Startzel as a member of the Nonuniformed Pension Committee. 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 Mace, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, a recommendation was made to appoint Councilman Dave Mace as President Pro Tem. 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.

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 Mace, seconded by Connely, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 8:00 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 9:10 p.m.

President Gursky stated that an executive session was held to discuss personnel matters.

A recommendation was made to post an in-house job vacancy notice for the Water Department and an in-house job vacancy notice for the Street Department. 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 Startzel, and unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:12 p.m. on motion of Connely, seconded by Mace, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer