

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of April on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at The Salvation Army of Tamaqua located at 105 West 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, Public Works Director Robert Jones, Solicitor Michael S. Greek, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire and Fire Chief Thomas Hartz.

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 Evans. The roll was called with all councilmembers present.

The reading of the minutes of the last Regular Council Meeting held on March 15, 2016 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Cara, seconded by Gursky, and unanimously approved.

Under Special Business, a public hearing was held to discuss an intermunicipal transfer of a restaurant liquor license from Jones Grille LLC for property at 550 West Penn Pike, West Penn Township, Tamaqua, PA to Ross Restaurant Enterprise LLC d/b/a the Tamaqua Station Restaurant for restaurant facilities within the Borough of Tamaqua to be located at the Tamaqua Train Station, 18 North Railroad Street, Tamaqua, PA. Council recognized John Ross of Ross Restaurant Enterprise LLC and Attorney Gary Marchalk who were in attendance. It was noted that the resolution contains a typographical error listing the business name as Ross Restaurant Enterprises LLC and the correct business name is Ross Restaurant Enterprise LLC. Solicitor Greek stated that the public hearing was duly advertized and citizens have been given the opportunity to make written or verbal comments on the liquor license transfer. There was no one in the audience in opposition to the liquor license transfer. The following resolution was presented for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-3**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, COUNTY OF SCHUYLKILL, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE NO. R-2468 LID NO. 68087 INTO THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA.**

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution with the modification to the business name as Ross Restaurant Enterprise LLC. 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 Special Business, President Mace introduced Brian P. Teles, P.E., Michael J. Urban, P.E. and Thomas J. Dominiecki, P.E., P.T.O.E of Gannett Fleming, Douglas McInnes, P.E. of AECOM and Christopher Kufro, Assistant District Executive-Design of PennDOT District 5-0 who gave a presentation on the West Broad Street Bridge Replacement Project. The presentation included, but was not limited to, the following: the plans were on display for public viewing from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; PennDOT has begun planning the design work for the bridge replacement; the proposed action would provide a safe crossing over the Wabash Creek for the traveling public; the project objectives and the proposed bridge replacement; to update the public and local communities on the project design and the results of recent environmental studies related to the project; to obtain feedback from the public; the project would begin in the summer of 2018, during

the months of May to August, when school is out of session; the detour route and parking restrictions; the detour route for trucks; providing access to the Citizen's Fire Company; the PennDOT Letting date is tentatively planned for Fall 2017; the contractor would patch the detour route; milling of certain streets and curb to curb paving; and upgrading ADA ramps. At the end of the presentation there was a question and answer period for councilmembers and members of the audience.

Communication was received from Pottsville Mayor James T. Muldowney requesting the assistance of the Tamaqua Fire Police for traffic control for a Yuengling Light Lager Jogger 5K race event to be held in Pottsville on April 9, 2016. 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 Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Communications were received from Al Herness, Treasurer and Steven Gintz of the Hazleton Community Church of 400 East 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Hazleton, PA requesting the use of Tamaqua Borough Parks to hold summer activities for the children of the town. The communications requested the use of the Tamaqua Borough Parks as follows: the South Ward from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Dutch Hill Park from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on June 14-16, 2016; the North and Middle Ward Park from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and the Willing Memorial Skate Park from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on June 28-30, 2016; and East End Park from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and the North and Middle Ward Park from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on July 12-14, 2016. These are free outreach events. A recommendation was made to send the letters requesting the use of the parks to the appropriate park associations. 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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Tara Goho requesting permission to use the Bungalow Park Pavilion for the Tamaqua/Panther Valley Area Girl Scouts annual day camp on July 22 and 23, 2016 and the use of the pool the morning of July 23, 2016 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The communication also requested that the rental fee for the pavilion and the entrance fee to the pool be waived. A recommendation was made to grant the requests. 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that Schuylkill County has been approved for Federal Assistance (FEMA) for storm clean-up costs related to Winter Storm Jonas on January 22-23, 2016. Manager Steigerwalt stated that FEMA/PEMA needs a resolution from Borough Council designating an Agent to sign the Designation of Agent Resolution form. The following resolution was presented for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-4  
DESIGNATION OF AGENT RESOLUTION  
FOR: FEMA-4267-DR-PA**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF  
TAMAQUA THAT KEVIN A. STEIGERWALT, BOROUGH MANAGER IS HEREBY  
AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE FOR AND IN BEHALF OF THE BOROUGH OF  
TAMAQUA, SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, A PUBLIC ENTITY ESTABLISHED UNDER  
THE LAWS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ALL REQUIRED  
FORMS AND DOCUMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING FINANCIAL**

**ASSISTANCE UNDER THE ROBERT T. STAFFORD DISASTER RELIEF AND  
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ACT.**

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 Gursky, seconded by Bowman, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that Univest Municipal Pension Services has filed the 2015 Act 205 Report and the accompanying Actuarial Valuation Report for the Tamaqua Borough Police Pension Plan and the Non-Uniformed Employee Pension Plan.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that the Center Street Streetscape Project is in the design phase and the Family Dollar store sidewalk issue is in the hands of the Code Enforcement Department.

Chief Weaver stated that a Town Hall Meeting, Heroin-A Rural Epidemic, was held on March 30, 2016. Chief Weaver reported that there were five heroin overdoses in the last five days. Chief Weaver reported that the police department is working on the drug issue in the community.

Under the Building and Equipment Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a proposal from Link Computer Corporation of Bellwood, PA for new utility billing software for water, sewer and garbage billing. There was some discussion about the following: the proposal was adopted by the Tamaqua Area Water Authority and the Tamaqua Borough Authority; the cost would be split between the General, Water and Sewer Funds; the upfront cost is \$5,000, which includes implementation fees of \$2,500 and data conversion fees of \$2,500; and the Muni-Link monthly fee is \$1,350 per month for 3,500 active accounts. 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.

Under the Building and Equipment Committee report, a recommendation was made to purchase a Motorola radio at a cost of \$5,765.00 from Green's Communications of Pottsville, PA for the new police vehicle. Council recognized Rich Stianche, owner of Dn'A Bikes, 115 West Broad Street, who asked why the department is buying the radios. Council recognized George Haldeman of the South Ward who asked if the police are still using the old Ford Explorer. 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 Evans, seconded by Connely, and unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to repair the existing exterior railings of the property at 44 Mauch Chunk Street to "like kind". 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to construct new commercial signage at the Train Station Restaurant located at 18 North Railroad Street. 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to attach a 30-inch by 18-inch sign on the structure and a 4-foot by 8-foot hanging perpendicular sign on the existing signage post at 801 East Broad Street. 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 Connely, and unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, Councilman Gursky stated that there has been a resignation from the Historical Architectural Review Commission (HARC) creating an at-large vacancy and those interested in serving on HARC should send letters of interest to the borough.

Councilman Gursky stated that the ad-hoc committee of council, who also included Councilmembers Cara and Connely, met with the borough's code enforcement company, Barry Isett and Associates (BIA) to discuss code enforcement issues. BIA will provide the committee with suggestions and strategies to resolve the concerns that were addressed.

Councilman Gursky reported on Tamaqua Community Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ) as follows: the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue would be sending letters to businesses notifying them that a \$1,000 fine would be imposed for failing to file a CRIZ tax report by June 2015 for fiscal year 2014; the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue has agreed not to fine the business \$1,000 for failing to file, if the business files the fiscal year 2015 information by the June 15, 2016 deadline; and the borough sent out preliminary letters to businesses regarding the notice of penalty assessment. Councilman Gursky thanked Christine Zamudio and Manager Steigerwalt for their hard work with the CRIZ project. Councilman Gursky reported that he would be testifying on behalf of the CRIZ Authority in Harrisburg.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 400 West Broad 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.

Chairperson Lasky of the Parking and Traffic Committee reported that the deadline for handicapped parking space renewal applications was March 31, 2016. A recommendation was made to rescind a handicapped parking space at 107 Clay Street. Council recognized Fire Chief Hartz who asked how soon the handicapped sign would be taken down. The sign would be taken down within a week. Council recognized Kim Haldeman who asked why it was rescinded. Chairperson Lasky stated that the owner of the vehicle used for the applicant must reside at the same address as the applicant and there are no vehicle owners or operators residing in the household. There was no one else 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.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, Councilman Evans gave an update on the following: a PennDOT proposal with Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance (NEPA) of Wilkes-Barre regarding the walkable communities program; and the streetlight conversion proposals.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Mark Bower of the South Ward Fire Company asked about the status of the burned out buildings. Public Works Director Jones stated that demolition starts tomorrow on the Orwigsburg properties and the owners of the Center Street properties did not have insurance.

Fire Chief Hartz asked if there were any homes the fire company could use for Fire Fighters Survival Training. Manager Steigerwalt mentioned the 216 Penn Street property but it is attached.

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

Solicitor Greek reported that he would be requesting an executive session at the next council meeting to discuss legal matters.

Under Unfinished Business, Councilman Cara reported on the following: the Owl Creek Reservoir brochure is at the printers; the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee would be meeting with Service Electric in April; and Chamber of Commerce maps.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:39 p.m. on motion of Connely, seconded by Evans, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

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Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer