

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of April on Tuesday, April 18, 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 and David Mace. Councilman Micah Gursky arrived later in the meeting. Absent was Councilmember Kerry Lasky. 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 Bowman. The roll was called with five councilmembers present and two absent.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on March 21, 2017 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 Tanner McHugh in recognition of winning the PIAA District XI Class 2A Wrestling Championship on February 25, 2017. Tanner took first place in the 132-pound weight class. Tanner also earned third place in the Southeast Regional Tournament and sixth place in the state championships.

Communication was received from David J. Meredith, adjutant of the C.H. Berry Post No. 173 of The American Legion, requesting permission to hold the annual Memorial Day Parade on May 29, 2017 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 Connely, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Sarah Connely, executive director of the Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission (ESRC), requesting their yearly appropriation in the amount of \$6,000.00.

Under the Borough Manager's report, a recommendation was made to accept the bids for the sale of all borough listed equipment, including the items where the reserve was not met, as follows: \$80.00 for four Goodyear tires 245-70-17 (Lot 2) from James Long of Philadelphia, PA; \$200.00 for five Michelin 245-70-R17 tires (Lot 4) from James Long of Philadelphia, PA; \$40.00 for two Goodyear Workhorse LT 225-75-R16 M&S tires (Lot 5) from James Taylor of Mansfield, PA; \$40.00 for two Goodyear Workhorse Extra Grip tires 225-75-16 (Lot 6) from James Taylor of Mansfield, PA; \$69.00 for two Goodyear Wrangler AT/S Tire (Lot 7) from James Taylor of Mansfield, PA; \$40.00 for two Goodyear Eagle RS-A P225-70-R15 (Lot 8) from Gerard Healy of Albrightsville, PA; \$80.00 for three Trailer Axles from Eric Kirkpatrick of Coopersburg, PA; \$5,500.00 for the 1997 WolfPac 4000 Stone Asphalt Roller from William Pieniadz of Oakdale, CT; \$5,600.00 for the Blaw-Knox Paver from Mike Lewis of Unionville, PA; \$10.00 for the Leaf Vacuum from John Gagnon of Woonsocket, RI; \$300.00 for the Dodge Intrepid Police Car from Arvey Dyke of Knoxville, PA; \$110.00 for Animal Pen 1 from Joshua Christ of Lenhartsville, PA; \$150.00 for Animal Pen 2 from Michael Strouse of Orwigsburg, PA; \$110.00 for Animal Pen 3 from Joshua Christ of Lenhartsville, PA; \$150.00 for Animal Pen 4 from Michael Strouse of

Orwigsburg, PA; reserve of \$80.00 not met, high bid of \$75.00 for four Goodyear Tires 215-70-15 (Lot 1) from an unknown bidder; reserve of \$40.00 not met, high bid of \$35.00 for two Goodyear tires 225-70-15 (Lot 3) from an unknown bidder; reserve of \$40.00 not met, high bid of \$10.00 for two Powerstar 758 Kumho Tires (Lot 9) from an unknown bidder; and reserve of \$60.00 not met, high bid of \$40.00 for three BF Goodrich Commercial LT 245-70-R17 (Lot 10) from an unknown bidder. 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.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that multiple attempts were made to contact the high bidder of the Parking Meters (3 hour) and the bidder did not respond. Manager Steigerwalt stated that the next highest bid was \$22.00 from A.J. Grimaldi of Liverpool, NY who was also the high bidder for the Parking Meters (2 hour). A recommendation was made to accept the bid for the sale of the Parking Meters (3 hour) to the next highest bidder, A.J. Grimaldi of Liverpool, NY, for the amount of \$22.00. Manager Steigerwalt noted that there is a \$1.00 difference from the winning bid. 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.

Manager Steigerwalt stated that equipment taken out of the old concession stand prior to its demolition included a commercial stainless steel sink, a refrigerator and a Coca-Cola cooler. A recommendation was made to advertise for the sale of a commercial stainless steel sink, a refrigerator and a Coca-Cola cooler on the Municibid online government auction website. Councilman Connely recommended looking into setting a minimum bid amount for the Coca-Cola cooler. 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.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: a bid opening for the Refuse and Recyclable Materials Collection Contract is scheduled for May 11, 2017 and the current contract with County Waste expires at the end of June; a \$60,000.00 grant was received from the John E. Morgan Foundation Inc. for pool operating expenses; a \$47,000.00 grant was received from the John E. Morgan Foundation Inc. for the purpose of assisting with the acquisition and installation of Automated External Defibrillator Units; Solicitor Greek is preparing an ordinance needed for the Board of Health; the certification of a Health Officer is voluntary; and there is a vacancy on the Board of Health.

Manager Steigerwalt requested an executive session to discuss litigation issues prior to adjournment. President Mace stated that an executive session would also include personnel matters.

Under the Borough Manager's report, there was some discussion about the Family Dollar Store sidewalk issue. A recommendation was made to have Solicitor Greek send a letter to the Family Dollar Store informing them that they have 30-days to begin the process of installation of the sidewalk. 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.

Director of Community Development Linkevich reported that she had a resolution opposing the elimination of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program to present for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-9**  
**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPPOSING ELIMINATION OF THE**  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG)**

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 Evans, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Director of Community Development Linkevich reported that she had a resolution approving a grant application for a pool feasibility study to present for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-10**  
**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND**  
**NATURAL RESOURCES GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE H.D. BUEHLER**  
**MEMORIAL POOL FEASIBILITY STUDY**

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.

Director of Community Development Linkevich reported that she had a resolution approving a grant application for a Bungalow Park Master Plan to present for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-11**  
**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND**  
**NATURAL RESOURCES GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE H.D. BUEHLER**  
**MEMORIAL PARK MASTER PLAN**

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 Director of Community Development's report, there was some discussion about the following: other CDBG projects are moving forward; demolition of 216 Penn Street; revision to CDBG loan program; and a CRIZ audit.

Chief Weaver reported on the following: Patrolman DeAngelo and Patrolman Sborz attended Report Writing School; Patrolman DeAngelo would be attending Firearm Instructor School in May; an Annual Licensing and Maintenance Contract invoice in the amount of \$1,665.00 from Metro Alert; and part-time Patrolwoman Rachael Lenar resigned effective April 1, 2017.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary report, a recommendation was made to approve an updated Borough of Tamaqua Employee Handbook prepared by East Coast Risk Management. 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 hire Emily Bumbulsky as senior lifeguard at a pay rate of \$10.00 per hour when acting as pool manager.

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 unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire part-time lifeguards and clerks for the H.D. Buehler Memorial Pool for the 2017 pool season. The part-time lifeguards are as follows: Emily Andrews, Emily Bumbulsky, Tyler Calkins, Amber Gulick, Kirstin Jones, Christopher Miller, Jacob Rudy, Kaitlyn Stauffenberg, Nathan Steigerwalt and Ethan Turrano. The part-time clerks are as follows: Beth Fritzinger-Jones and Haley Macalush. President Mace stated that the pool still needs additional personnel. 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 unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, Councilman Evans stated that they were advised by the concession stand operator that they would be unable to operate the concession stand this year. Councilman Evans stated that the borough is reaching out to other vendors or businesses but has not been able to secure anyone to operate the concession stand. There was some discussion about the following: what alternatives are available if a vendor is not found; using a pool clerk to operate the stand; having nonprofit organizations operate the concession stand; and providing support staff for a vendor. A recommendation was made to advertise for a concession stand vendor 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

Mayor Morrison reported that he provided his report of monies received for performing marriage ceremonies during the first quarter of 2017.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Joan Dietrich of East Broad Street stated that she is a representative from the Tamaqua senior citizens group and asked council if there are any thoughts or inclinations to establish a senior citizen center in Tamaqua. Ms. Dietrich discussed the following: the seniors meet at the Tamaqua YMCA; they share the YMCA facility with other groups; the seniors group consists of 70-80-90-year old members; they need a locked closet to store their tables, chairs and other items; it is difficult for them to set up and take down the tables and chairs each time they have a meeting; if the borough can find another property for a senior center; the group has approximately 70 members; and there are five senior centers in the county in which the rent is paid by the Schuylkill County Commissioners. President Mace stated that there are no current plans to have a senior center but he can look into finding them help with the setting up and taking down of tables for their meetings. Ms. Dietrich stated that the seniors would like a place to call home so they can use it on a daily basis. She does not believe their senior group has a charter or by-laws. There was much discussion about this matter. Director of Community Development Linkevich would look into the matter.

Joan Love of Green Street expressed her concerns about the following: the code enforcement department works twelve hours a week; the increases in rates for water, sewer and garbage; tax increases; being on a fixed income; explaining the lengths she takes to conserve water; to consider providing discounts to seniors and cited Whitehall Township as an example; how are you supposed to keep a house on a limited income when the borough and school district keep putting more on the homeowners. There was some discussion about this matter.

Herbert Curvey of 118 Clay Street asked who owns the lots at the bottom of Stadium Hill at the corner of Cottage Avenue and Lehigh Street. The borough owns the two lots. Mr. Curvey stated that on behalf of the Tamaqua Fire Police, he is requesting that the borough consider turning these properties over to the Fire Police so that they could build a garage for their vehicle. The Fire Police would be able fund the cost of construction. Mr. Curvey stated that the building that is storing the vehicle now is in terrible condition. Councilman Connely stated that the borough is currently providing them with a building to store their vehicle that is rent free and out of the weather.

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.

Under Unfinished Business, Councilman Evans discussed the Street Light Acquisition Project as follows: the committee held a short meeting to discuss the PPL streetlight proposal; the PPL utility make-ready work in the amount of \$294,549.00 was already approved; PPL's authorized list of contractors/vendors; an additional all inclusive cost of \$35,790.54 for the customer make-ready work which includes labor and equipment; the identifying tags are not inclusive in the customer make-ready work cost; and we are obtaining a quote from Remaly Manufacturing Company Inc. for the identifying tags. A recommendation was made to approve an additional payment to PPL in the amount of \$35,790.54 for the customer make-ready work. Council recognized Joan Love who asked if the savings from the project would be passed on to residents. 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 Evans, 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 Cara, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Councilman Gursky arrived at approximately 8:19 p.m.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, Councilman Bowman asked about the status of a handicapped parking space application for 341 East Elm Street. There is not a handicapped parking space application pending for 341 East Elm Street but there is a pending handicapped parking space application for 341 East Union Street. Councilman Evans stated that the application would be addressed at the next Parking and Traffic Committee meeting.

A recommendation was made to hold an executive session to discuss legal, personnel and real estate 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 8:22 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 9:04 p.m.

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

A recommendation was made to advertise for part-time seasonal summer help for 2017. 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 unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:04 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Connely, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

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Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer