

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of May on Tuesday, May 2, 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, Brian Connely, R. Daniel Evans, Micah Gursky, Kerry Lasky and David Mace. Absent was Councilmember Thomas Cara. Officials present were Mayor Christian Morrison, Chief of Police Richard Weaver, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, 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 Connely followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Evans. The roll was called with six councilmembers present and one absent.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on April 18, 2017 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Gursky, seconded by Connely, 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 2017 Summer Adventure Camp and swim lessons. 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 Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Francis Betz, secretary of the Citizens Fire Company #1 requesting permission to hold their annual Bazaar on July 7th, 8th and 9th. The communication is requesting permission to close Hegarty Avenue and Rowe Street. The closing of Hegarty Avenue would start Tuesday, July 4th until Monday, July 10th. The 100 block of Rowe Street would only be closed during the hours of the Bazaar, 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. The communication also requested permission to hold their annual Fire Apparatus parade on July 7th at 7:00 p.m. The parade would start at the high school and proceed through town and end back on West Broad Street at South Railroad Street. 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 Bowman, seconded by Gursky, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from the Tamaqua Community Art Center's Tamaqua Has Heart Committee members, Leona Rega, Kyle Whitley and Wandie Zammer, requesting the following permissions: June 8, 2017-6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.-Artist Meet and Greet along the Hearts path; permit for Food Truck vendors (4-5 different food trucks); and hanging of a double-sided banner, proposed size 16 feet by 30 inches, that will stretch across the road in the 100 block of East Broad Street and will work with property owners to gain their approval as well. 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 Bowman, seconded by Connely, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from David Funk M.B.A. stating that he is interested in creating an event to sponsor the American Cancer Society. Mr. Funk is requesting permission to hold a three mile race on foot throughout the town on August 19, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. The race event

participants would be stopping in local taverns as check points along a route that has not been finalized but the ending destination would be at Schick's Café Calcutta on Pine Street. Council recognized David Funk who distributed flyers and discussed the event. A recommendation was made to grant the request. There was some discussion about this matter and council requested that Mr. Funk provide more information when it becomes available. 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 Paul Dreisbach, secretary of American Hose Company No. 1, requesting permission to close Pine Street from Broad to Mauch Chunk streets for their annual Fireman's Festival from August 3rd at 8:00 a.m. until August 6th at 11:30 p.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 Gursky, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the following: a bid opening would be held on May 11th for the Refuse and Recyclable Material Collection Contract; he is working with Alfred Benesch and Company on the Wabash Project; using the PENNBID (Pennsylvania's Electronic Document & Bid Management) Program; gave an update on the Center Street Streetscape Project; an engineering proposal from Alfred Benesch and Company for the Commonwealth Financing Authority Multimodal Bridge Lighting and Streetscape Improvements Project; the town-wide street sweeping ended today and the regular street sweeping schedule would begin; the pool; he circulated copies of an ordinance that Solicitor Greek prepared that regulates the Board of Health; and the Board of Health would be reviewing the ordinance tomorrow.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the Family Dollar Project as follows: Family Dollar did submit information for a building/zoning permit; a request for a 5-foot by 100-foot plain cement sidewalk in front of the store; there is difficulty in incorporating the streetscape design brick sidewalk because of the insufficient width in areas; and that Burger King is also looking at redoing their sidewalks.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that PennDOT is looking closely at the intersection of Center and Spruce streets and possibly removing a pedestrian pole due to concerns regarding the turning movement. Manager Steigerwalt stated that PennDOT will be coming back with a proposal but that it is currently in the discussion stage.

Under the Borough Manager's report, Councilman Evans asked about the sidewalk and street lighting as it relates to the streetscape project. Manager Steigerwalt stated that only the Center Street Bridge will have lights. There was some discussion about this matter.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that the borough received an invoice from PPL in the amount of \$330,339.00 which includes the cost of the utility make-ready work in the amount \$294,549.00 and the cost of the customer make-ready work in the amount of \$35,790.00.

Manager Steigerwalt requested an executive session to discuss personnel issues prior to adjournment.

Under the Borough Manager's report, a recommendation was made to approve a professional engineering services proposal from Alfred Benesch and Company of Pottsville, PA in the amount of \$8,900.00 to revise the plan limits supplement and to provide additional services

which includes the addition of a new streetscape improvements area as related to the Multimodal Bridge Lighting and Streetscape Improvements Project. 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.

Director of Community Development Linkevich reported that everything is going great with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

Under the Director of Community Development's report, a recommendation was made to approve a professional engineering services proposal from Alfred Benesch and Company of Pottsville, PA in the amount of \$5,500.00 for the design of rehabilitation improvements to the Bungalow Park Bath House Facilities for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. 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.

Director of Community Development Linkevich reported that the borough plans on using Pennsylvania's Electronic Document and Bid Management Program (PennBid), an online bidding process, to advertise for demolition bids of 216 Penn Street. There was some discussion about this matter.

Director of Community Development Linkevich reported that two Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Grant Applications were submitted. One application was for the H.D. Buehler Memorial Pool Feasibility Study and the other application was for the H.D. Buehler Memorial Park Master Plan.

Under the Director of Community Development's report, a recommendation was made to approve a Department of Community and Economic Development Commonwealth Financing Authority application fee in the amount of \$100.00 for an application to the Act 13 Greenways, Trails and Recreation Grant Program to match the costs of the H.D. Buehler Memorial Park Master Plan. 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 Gursky, and unanimously approved.

Director of Community Development Linkevich also reported on the following: researching multimodal funding; meeting with an urban forester next Friday; there is progress on the Tamaqua Community Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ) responses; working on the CDBG loan program; pursuing legal action on the most delinquent loan offenders; and will send out an email for council to review the rules governing the CDBG sidewalk program.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 129 West Spruce 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 Evans, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 407 East Union 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 Evans, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 18 South Lehigh 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 Evans, and unanimously approved.

Chairwoman Lasky of the Parking and Traffic Committee reported that a handicapped parking space application for 341 East Union Street would be added to a waiting list since the handicapped policy limits the number of handicapped parking spaces to no more than two spaces per block and there are currently two handicapped parking spaces in the 300 block of East Union Street. Chairwoman Lasky also reported that a handicapped parking space application for 125 Orwigsburg Street is still in the review process.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire part-time employees for general maintenance work. The list of general maintenance applicants are as follows: Daylon Barron, Bradley Clemson, Bernie Gigli, Ernest Shilko, Christian Slane, Benjamin Turrano and Dylan Woods. 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.

Chairman Gursky of the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee gave the following statement: "The grievance process cost the taxpayers of Tamaqua \$13,610.50 to prove to the United Auto Workers that the borough can hire part-time workers to do seasonal work including cutting grass and shoveling snow on borough properties. The expensive multi-year arbitration battle and the recent hearing confirmed this. Had the borough been able to use that \$13,610.50 to get work done and pay employees instead of paying it to arbitrators and lawyers, our community could have completed 1,700 hours or 212 work days of grass cutting, snow shoveling and other work. That is a lot of grass and a lot of snow. The borough's full and part time employees are dedicated, skilled and hardworking and should be applauded. The Borough Council has no comment in regards to their United Auto Workers leadership."

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, Councilman Evans reported that the borough was contacted by several people interested in operating the pool concession stand. Councilman Evans stated that two operators were vetted. A recommendation was made to offer the pool concession stand lease for the 2017 season to Chris and Tracey Stegemerten. There was some discussion about menu items and if there were any changes to the terms of the lease. President Mace stated that the menu items will be determined by the Stegemertens and there were no changes to the lease. 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 unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a motion was made by Evans and seconded by Gursky to hire part-time clerks for the 2017 pool season as follows: Dawn Clouser, Brianna Heck, Braydan Hess, Megan Ruch, Andrew Taras and Kelsey Ziegler. President Mace discussed some comments that he received from the Pool Manager as follows: typically the number of pool clerks that are hired for a season is four; two clerks were already hired at the last council meeting; and a recommendation was made to hire Brianna Heck and Megan Ruch. After some discussion, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to hire

Brianna Heck and Megan Ruch as part-time clerks 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 Gursky, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Ethan Eberts, Kailyn Erbe, Kennedy Ho, Carly Kosciolek and Olivia Stanek as part-time lifeguards 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, a recommendation was made to award the contract to replace the Bungalow Pavilion roof to Lykens Valley Contractors of Millersburg, PA at a cost of \$6,129.84. 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 Street Light Acquisition Project Committee report, Councilman Evans discussed an invoice from PPL in the amount of \$330,339.00 which includes the cost of the utility make-ready work in the amount \$294,549.00 and the cost of the customer make-ready work in the amount of \$35,790.00. A recommendation was made to approve an invoice from PPL in the amount of \$330,339.00. 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 Gursky, and unanimously approved.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

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

Under New Business, Councilman Connely asked about moving permits as follows: how many permits does the borough collect in a year's time; has the borough ever spot checked those who are moving to see if they had a permit; has the borough ever spot checked those who are moving around 9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. to see if they had a permit; and is there a fine for not having a permit. Chief Weaver stated that he has spot checked those who are moving in the past.

Under New Business, Councilman Bowman stated that it is time to make a move on blacktopping Lehigh Street. There was some discussion about this matter.

Under New Business, Councilman Evans discussed street markings, driving lanes and crosswalks on North Railroad Street in the area from the Ambulance Building to the Five Points Intersection. Manager Steigerwalt would provide information about the area to the Parking and Traffic Committee. There was some discussion about the number of areas that need to be restriped, the condition of the road traveling north on Route 309 and the railroad crossing at Greenwood Street.

Under New Business, Director of Community Development Linkevich requested an executive session to discuss real estate matters prior to adjournment.

A recommendation was made to hold an executive session to discuss 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 Bowman, seconded by Evans, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 8:02 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 9:02 p.m.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:02 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