

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of May on Tuesday, May 6, 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, R. Daniel Evans, Micah Gursky, Kerry Lasky, David Mace and Justin Startzel. Absent was Councilman Brian Connely. Officials present were Mayor Christian Morrison, Chief of Police Richard Weaver, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Solicitor Michael S. Greek and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire.

The meeting was called to order by President Gursky. The invocation was given by Councilman Cara followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Solicitor Greek. The roll was called with six councilmembers present and one absent.

The reading of the minutes of the last Regular Council Meeting held on April 15, 2014 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Mace, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from The Tamaqua Salvation Army Corp inviting borough officials and employees to their Annual Dinner to be held on May 16, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. A reception would be held from 5:30-5:45 p.m. The cost of the dinner is \$18.00 per person and those interested in attending should respond by May 9, 2014.

Manager Steigerwalt stated that a bid opening was held on May 1, 2014 and that he and Secretary/Treasurer DeWire were at the bid opening. Manager Steigerwalt reported on the sale of equipment results. There were two bids for the 1974 Diamond Reo Triaxle, one bid for the 1961 Caterpillar Grader and one bid for the 1992 Mercury Topaz. Manager Steigerwalt also stated that two verbal proposals were received after the bid opening. The two verbal bids that were received are as follows: a bid in the amount of \$450.00 for the 1987 Chevrolet Pickup Truck from James R. Whah; and a bid in the amount of \$200.00 for the Gravely Riding Mower from Watkins Lawn and Garden. A recommendation was made to award the sale of equipment as follows:

1974 Diamond Reo Triaxle	Edwin L. Ziegler	\$ 3,310.00
1961 Caterpillar Grader	Bruce W. Eberts	\$ 1,500.00
1992 Mercury Topaz	James Oliver	\$ 850.00
1987 Chevrolet Pickup Truck	James R. Whah	\$ 450.00
Gravely Riding Mower	Watkins Lawn & Garden	\$ 200.00

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 Evans, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt presented a resolution for the Lincoln Drive Sewer Extension Project. There was some discussion about this matter. The following resolution was presented for council's consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-8
BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA
RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA,
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
RUSH TOWNSHIP - LINCOLN DRIVE SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT

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 Mace, seconded by Startzel, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Manager Steigerwalt gave an update on the Schuylkill County Floodplain Ordinance and timeline. Code Enforcement Officer Joshua Esposito of Barry Isset and Associates Inc. will review the ordinance and make his recommendations to council. Manager Steigerwalt stated that no action is needed today.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that Lenape Solar, LLC of Sunbury, PA started the exterior lighting project and the project should be finished today.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that the next regular council meeting would be held on Wednesday, May 21, 2014 since Tuesday, May 20th is Primary Election Day.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that the first public CDBG hearing would be held on May 21st at 6:30 p.m. before the council meeting.

Under the Borough Manager's report, Councilman Mace stated that he made an inquiry to PPL renewing a request to change the streetlights to LED's. Councilman Mace stated that PPL does have a plan to change the streetlights to LED's but it needs PUC approval. Councilman Mace stated that the borough would revisit this matter in January 2015.

Chief Weaver reported on a reporting system update from visual alert one to visual alert two. The total cost is approximately \$3,800. Chief Weaver stated that he will present it at the next council meeting.

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 Startzel, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 7:15 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 7:37 p.m.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire part-time lifeguards for the H.D. Buehler Memorial Pool for the 2014 pool season as listed on the list of pool applicants that was presented on April 15, 2014. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The motion failed on a 2-4 roll call vote with Councilmembers Evans, Lasky, Mace, and Gursky opposed.

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 2014 pool season as listed on the list of pool applicants being presented on May 6, 2014. Councilman Mace read the list of 2014 pool applicants. The part-time lifeguards are as follows: Earl Atkins, Allison Amoda, Nathan Bastanzi, Emily Bumbulsky, Joann Butkus, Tyler Butkus, Ethan Eberts, Chelsea Frantz, Amber Gulick, Melanie Kostecky, Victoria LaBar, Rebecca Minehan, Jordan Nowacki, John Ritzko, Matthew Stanek, Denae Starry, Carly Trovinger, Benjamin Turrano, Aleida VanBuren, Kathryn Wagner, Megan Wagner, Gage Whalen and Andrea Whitley. The part-time clerks are as follows: Beth Fritzinger-Jones, Brianna Heck, Justin Huegel and Emily Wenzel. Council recognized Kathy Nunemacher of 322 Mahanoy Street who expressed her concerns regarding the opening and closing hours of the pool, and the last day the pool is open for the season. Councilman Mace discussed the following: the pool hours; the number of patrons at the pool; closing the pool due to inclement weather; and the pool closes for the season on the Sunday before the first day of

school. 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 Evans, and approved by a 4-3 roll call vote with Councilmembers Evans, Mace and Gursky voting in favor and Councilmembers Cara, Lasky and Startzel opposed and Mayor Morrison casting the tie-breaking vote in favor of the motion.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to set the starting wage for pool lifeguards and clerks at \$7.25 per hour with a \$0.25 per hour increase for each year of service and to adjust returning employees' wages accordingly. 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.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Matthew Stanek 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 Mace, seconded by Startzel, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to accept a proposal from L&S Electrical Construction Company Inc. in the amount of \$3,986.00 to upgrade the electrical system at the Bungalow Park Pavilion with funds designated from the J.E. Morgan Concession Stand account. Council recognized Michelle Mehallic of 313 Orwigsburg Street who expressed her concerns about work done by L&S Electrical and recommended that the borough be sure to check the work they are doing. Ms. Mehallic stated that L&S Electrical performed work at the South Ward Playground and they still have issues with the work they did. Council recognized Tony Rodrigue of 28 South Railroad Street who expressed his concerns regarding costs associated with meter charges and separate meters and the borough should look at cost savings. 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.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Donna Hill of 65 Bowe Street expressed her concerns about the condition of a house at 63½ Bowe Street, which is situated between her house and her son's house, as follows: the property has not been maintained since the owners moved out; the roof and ceiling are falling down; water damage to her property and her son's property; she wants to find out which bank or mortgage company owns it; the owners are not paying the taxes on the property; the taxes have not been paid since 2005 and it went to judicial sale; reported to code enforcement department last year and this year; and code violations. There was much discussion about this matter. President Gursky referred the matter to the Code Enforcement Officer.

Cathy Miorelli of 163 Owl Creek Road stated that when she was on council that council voted to pay for repairs to the Elwood Apartments located on Schuylkill Avenue and that the construction was done by Eric Orach. Mrs. Miorelli questioned why the borough could not help the Hill family and that the borough is picking and choosing which properties are repaired. President Gursky stated that the borough did not repair the Elwood Apartments but that the property was secured as a safety measure and that the property owners were billed for costs incurred by the borough. There was much discussion about the following: assisting the Hill family by helping to fix the roof of the property; the code enforcement department; repairing properties; many properties in

town are in the same condition; the code enforcement process is a slow process; the Elm Street project; and to look into help from churches.

Tony Prudenti of 167 Archery Club Road, New Ringgold stated that he is representing the Stadium Hill Café which is located at 417 Spruce Street. Mr. Prudenti expressed his concerns regarding parking issues stemming from high school students that are parking in front of his business during school hours. Mr. Prudenti requested two one-hour parking signs be placed in front of his business to deter students from parking there. Mr. Prudenti stated that he would pay for the costs to install the signs. There was much discussion about this matter. A recommendation was made to refer the matter to the Parking and Traffic Committee. There was more 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 Mace, seconded by Startzel, and unanimously approved.

Robert Bachert of 312 Pine Street stated that he is representing the North and Middle Ward Playground. Mr. Bachert expressed his concerns about vehicles going through stop signs in the area of the playground. Mr. Bachert requested playground signs and Slow Children at Play signs. President Gursky referred the matter to the Recreation and Youth Committee.

Mr. Bachert stated that they paid for dusk to dawn lights, and that new lights were installed in their place, and he wants to know what happened to the old lights. Manager Steigerwalt stated Lenape Solar upgraded the lights today and he will contact them for the lights. Manager Steigerwalt apologized to Mr. Bachert for not notifying him about the light replacement by Lenape Solar.

Tony Rodrigue of 28 South Railroad Street expressed his concerns about traffic gridlock at various intersections in town. Mr. Rodrigue requested enforcement to eliminate these gridlocks.

Andy Leibenguth of 429 Rear Mauch Chunk Street expressed his concerns about the Hill Family issues, getting insurance company involvement and if the matter is a civil issue.

Michelle Mehallic expressed her concerns about inappropriate language being used in the area where she lives and that somebody is going to get hurt in a fight. Ms. Mehallic stated that something needs to be done.

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

Mayor Morrison stated that the street sweeper is out and helping to spruce up the town.

Mayor Morrison read a letter for the Dear Tamaqua Project from R. Thomas Berner.

Under New Business, President Gursky stated that in 2011 when designing the Center Street Bridge, the borough applied for a street lighting grant and is requesting that council consider resubmitting the grant application. A recommendation was made to resubmit a grant application for the Multimodal Transportation Grant. 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 Evans, 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 Evans, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 8:35 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 9:16 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:16 p.m. on motion of Mace, seconded by Startzel, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer