

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of May on Wednesday, May 17, 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. Absent were Councilmembers Micah Gursky and Kerry Lasky. Officials present were Mayor Christian Morrison, 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 Cara followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by President Mace. A moment of silence was held for Georgeann Knowles, the first woman elected to the Tamaqua Borough Council. The roll was called with five councilmembers present and two absent.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on May 2, 2017 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Connely, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Pastor Steve Gintz of Revive Community Fellowship requesting permission to use the Dutch Hill Playground on June 20-22, 2017 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. for a Kid's Club and the Dutch Hill Baseball Field on July 17-20, 2017 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. for a Sports Camp event. There was some discussion about this matter, coordinating the activities with the Tamaqua Baseball Association and obtaining a certificate of insurance. 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 Bowman, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Liz Pinkey requesting permission for members of the Tamaqua Blue Waves, who are also USA Swim Team members, to hold two to three swim practices a week at the Bungalow pool for no more than an hour at a time. 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 Matthew Stanek of 23 Sherwood Street stating that he has accepted an offer for a resident internship at a funeral home and is resigning from his position of Assistant Pool Manager at the H.D. Buehler Memorial Pool. A recommendation was made to accept his resignation and send a letter thanking him for his service. 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt gave updates on the following: the Depot Square Park work is progressing nicely; after the work in the park is completed, Gravers Landscape Design would look at the trees; Public Works Director Rob Jones has scheduled the cleaning of the sidewalks with the Fire Company for the Tamaqua Has Heart project Artist Meet and Greet event; a hard copy plan came in today for the Family Dollar Store sidewalk replacement and the borough is seeing progress; and the Bungalow pool has been cleaned, the walls patched and once refilled the handicap lift would be installed.

Manager Steigerwalt stated that both Barry Isett and Associates and the Board of Health have reviewed an ordinance that Solicitor Greek prepared that regulates the Board of Health. A recommendation was made to advertise an ordinance that regulates the Board of Health. 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 reported on the detour route for the West Broad Street Bridge Replacement Project. There was some discussion about the following: assigning the Parking and Traffic Committee to meet with PennDOT and the engineers, Gannett Fleming, for the project; a no left turn at Spruce Street; the detour route; concerns about turning left at the Five Points intersection without a left-turn signal; and paving will be done in 2019. A recommendation was made to refer the PennDOT detour details to the Parking and Traffic Committee. Councilman Bowman stated that he would be available to assist with the meeting. President Mace stated that only three councilmembers are able to be in attendance for the meeting. There was some discussion about setting the timeframe for the meeting. 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 requested an executive session to discuss real estate and litigation issues prior to adjournment.

Under the Borough Manager's report, there was some discussion regarding the recommendations of an arborist from Penn State.

Director of Community Development Linkevich reported that Resolution 2017-6 modifying the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 by using the funds designated for street reconstruction to reconstruct a retaining wall that supports Lincoln Street must be rescinded. Ms. Linkevich stated that the funds must be redirected because the area where the project was planned did not come close to meeting the low to moderate income requirements necessary for the use of these types of funds. A recommendation was made to rescind Resolution 2017-6 modifying the Community Development Block Grant Program for fiscal years 2014 and 2015. 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.

Director of Community Development Linkevich recommended that a public hearing and request for proposals for the fiscal year 2017 CDBG program be held a half hour before the next council meeting. President Mace stated that the public hearing would be scheduled for June 20, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Director of Community Development Linkevich stated that 51 percent of the residents must be in low to moderate income in a project area. There was some discussion about this matter.

Director of Community Development Linkevich stated that she had a resolution requesting a Greenway, Trails and Recreation Program grant in the amount of \$45,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for completion of a master plan and pool feasibility study for the Howard D. Buehler Memorial Park Complex to present for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-12****RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA GREENWAY, TRAILS AND RECREATION PROGRAM GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$45,000 FROM THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY TO BE USED FOR COMPLETION OF A MASTER PLAN AND POOL FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE HOWARD D. BUEHLER MEMORIAL PARK COMPLEX**

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.

Director of Community Development Linkevich stated that she was asked if microphones could be hooked up for the council meetings. Mayor Morrison stated that he would take care of this matter.

Under the Director of Community Development's report, a recommendation was made to send a letter to Governor Tom Wolf supporting an RACP application by the D.G. Yuengling and Son Brewery, Pottsville, PA for a tourism development project. 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.

Director of Community Development Linkevich reported on a meeting with an urban forester to discuss the replacement of trees in the downtown area.

Under the Director of Community Development's report, Councilman Cara stated that Father Frink of Saint John XXIII Parish would like to take down two trees in front of the church. Manager Steigerwalt stated that Father Frink does not need borough approval.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, Councilman Evans stated that the borough received a special spring promotion through May 31, 2017 for 25 percent off the list price for all Duncan Eagle Meter and Housing Products. There was some discussion regarding the following: the special promotion and discount; looking at the various areas that need parking meters replaced; the tracking of parking meter revenues for 2016; the budget and rationalizing the meter purchase; and the number of meters to purchase. A recommendation was made to purchase 25 Eagle CK Mechanism Parking Meters from Duncan Parking Technologies, Inc. of Milwaukee, Wisconsin during the special spring promotion of 25 percent off the list price. 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 Parking and Traffic Committee report, Councilman Evans would like to have the information PennDOT provided for the North Railroad Street area and to have a committee meeting next week. There was some discussion regarding the street markings and crosswalks and the poor condition of the road on North Railroad Street.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Tyler Hollenbach for part-time general maintenance work with an hourly rate set as per the past practice of setting the starting wage for part-time general maintenance workers at \$8.00 per hour with a \$0.25 per hour increase for each year of service. 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.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Emily Bumbulsky as assistant pool manager at the pay rate of \$12.50 per hour. 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 recommendation was made to hire Nathan Steigerwalt 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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Casey Akins, Gabrielle Markiewicz, Victoria Markiewicz, John Ritzko, Kaitlyn Shlanta, Sierra Szabo and Megan Toth as additional 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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

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

President Mace congratulated Nathan Gerace who won the Republican Party's nomination for Mayor and stated that he worked hard for it.

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 Cara, 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.

Under New Business, there was some discussion about a cost-savings electricity procurement program being offered to all COSTARS members.

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 7:55 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:31 p.m.

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

A recommendation was made to approve the transfer of Steve Naylor from the Street Department to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Maintenance Worker position effective on May 22, 2017. 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.

A recommendation was made to post an in-house job vacancy notice for the Street Maintenance/Sweeper Operator position. 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.

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

ATTEST:

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Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer