

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of May on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. through the Zoom video conference system. The public was able to participate in the council meeting using a computer, tablet or smart phone with an internet connection using the link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87675032534> and by entering Meeting ID 876 7503 2534. Individuals who did not have internet access were able to participate by telephone by dialing 1-929-436-2866 and entering Meeting ID 876 7503 2534 #.

Present were Councilmembers Robert Amentler, Ronald Bowman, Thomas Cara, Brian Connely, Mary Linkevich, Ritchie Linkhorst and David Mace. Officials present were Mayor Nathan Gerace, Chief of Police Henry Woods, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Public Works Director Robert Jones, Solicitor Anthony Odorizzi, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire, Director of Community Development Ann Marie Calabrese and Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Gregory Kurtz Jr.

The meeting was called to order by President Mace. The invocation was given by Councilman Cara. President Mace stated that since the borough is using a video conferencing platform, the Pledge of Allegiance was waived. The roll was called with all councilmembers present.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on May 5, 2020 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Bowman, seconded by Connely, and unanimously approved.

Under Communications, Councilwoman Linkevich stated that Justin Startzel would like to place signs of the 2020 Tamaqua graduates throughout the downtown. The signs would be made of corrugated plastic and attached with zip ties in a way that does not harm the street lights. There was some discussion about this matter.

Manager Steigerwalt had a resolution extending the Mayor's Declaration of Disaster Emergency of March 20, 2020 for a third thirty (30) day additional period to terminate on June 26, 2020 to present for council's consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-4
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 10AO6 OF THE PENNSYLVANIA BOROUGH CODE, AND SECTION 7501 OF THE PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES CODE, EXTENDING THE MAYOR OF TAMAQUA'S DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY OF MARCH 20, 2020 FOR AN ADDITIONAL PERIOD OF THIRTY (30) DAYS.

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

Manager Steigerwalt reported that at their April meeting the Planning Commission recommended that Borough Council grant a conditional final approval of the Tamaqua Area School District Solar Array project. A recommendation was made to grant a conditional final approval of the Tamaqua Area School District Solar Array 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 Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Under the Borough Manager's report, a recommendation was made to approve a proposal from Dx Dempsey, Inc. for the Tamaqua Choose Happiness planning grant. 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: starting next week, PennDOT storm drain work is to be done on the south side of town from Fegley Oil in South Tamaqua to the Center Street Bridge; the Memorial Day Parade is cancelled; and changes to the garbage collection schedule for the Memorial Day holiday.

Under the Borough Manager's report, a recommendation was made to purchase a 2021 freightliner dump truck with a snowplow and spreader through Community Leasing Partners and with the financing option to be determined by the Building and Equipment Committee. 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.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that the rebuilding of a wall on Water Street would be finished today but the street must still be paved.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that Tamaqua Save Our Station is repairing the curb at the train station in preparation for the train platform project. Manager Steigerwalt suggested that the borough fill out the permit forms and waive the fees for the permits. A motion was made by Connely and seconded by Linkevich to have borough staff prepare a permit application for the platform improvement project and to waive the fees. After some discussion, the motion and second were amended as follows: a recommendation was made to have borough staff prepare a permit application for the platform improvement project and the borough would absorb the cost associated with the permits for the project. 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

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

Under the Borough Manager's report, President Mace recognized Justin Startzel who discussed the senior sign project as follows: the signs would be placed on the Victorian-style street light poles; the signs are 24 inches by 30 inches and made of corrugated plastic; the signs would be attached with heavy duty zip ties; a group of volunteers would put up and take down the signs; Times News Printing needs parental permission by the end of May; sign production starts at the beginning of June; and the signs would be kept up for one month and then given to the family in July. A recommendation was made to grant permission for the project of placing the signs of the 2020 Tamaqua seniors on the street light poles from June to the beginning of July. Council recognized Justin Startzel who stated that he will keep council and the borough updated during the entire process. There was no one else from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Director of Community Development Calabrese reported on the following: the public is notified about the Council Zoom meetings; the meeting notifications are published in The Times News newspaper, posted on the Borough's Facebook and website, and posted at the Municipal Building front and back doors; the Tamaqua Community Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ) annual reporting for businesses and tenants with businesses is still due by June 15th with no

extensions; a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) public hearing was held at 6:30 p.m. prior to the regular council meeting; the 2020 CDBG allocation will be \$124,884.00 and due to COVID-19, the borough could receive additional CDBG funds in the amount of \$68,463.00, which is based on the borough's population of 7,107, to use for food distribution, rent assistance or economic development; and 2020 Census reporting.

Director of Community Development Calabrese had a resolution adopting an Amended Citizen Participation Plan to present for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-5
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA
ADOPTING AN AMENDED CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN, AS REQUIRED UNDER
SECTION 104(d) OF THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
ACT OF 1974 AS AMENDED**

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

Director of Community Development Calabrese also reported that the second public meeting to discuss a Pool Feasibility study will be held on May 26, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Chief Woods reported that everything is good in the Police Department. Public Works Director Jones gave the police department masks and hand sanitizer.

Under the Chief of Police report, a recommendation was made to hire Kyle Woodward as a part-time police officer. 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Chief Woods also reported on call volume and Highway Safety's Pennsylvania Aggressive Driving Enforcement.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District report, a motion was made by Connely and seconded by Bowman to award a contract to Daniel J. Farber in the amount of \$3,200.00 for the demolition of a garage at the rear of 21 North Greenwood Street. Solicitor Odorizzi stated that a notice was sent out to the property owner on Friday, and the demolition would be contingent upon the owner not complying. Solicitor Odorizzi recommended allowing fifteen days for the owner to respond prior to the demolition of the garages. The motion and second were amended as follows: a recommendation was made to award a contract to Daniel J. Farber in the amount of \$3,200.00 for the demolition of a garage at the rear of 21 North Greenwood Street pending a fifteen day allowance for the owner to respond. 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 the Railroad Committee report, a recommendation was made to waive the permit fees for the replacement of the curb at the Tamaqua Train Station. 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 Linkevich, seconded by Connely, and unanimously approved.

Chairwoman Linkevich of the Recreation and Youth Committee reported on the following: there is a lot of talk about pools; other pools are closing but the borough is not proposing to close

yet; a decision will be made in June; only if in the Green Phase; and prepared a draft pool reopening plan.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Marlene Boyle asked if there is going to be a sidewalk loan program this summer. President Mace stated that the program is available and she should contact Director of Community Development Calabrese for information.

Joe Bennett discussed a building addition adjoining the Boyers Food Market building to house a liquor store and a beer distributor. The discussion included, but was not limited to, the following: a CRIZ project; adding 9,000 square feet to the building; the addition would be built to the left of the building towards the creek; requesting a waiver for land development; flood plain; DEP sewer planning module; net impact to parking is zero; architect to submit a flood plain impact; widening the existing driveway to the right of the building by 24 feet; utilizing the trail property and applying for a variance; parking count and asking for a variance; have 109 parking spaces and still would have 109 parking spaces; LED lighting; an urgency for the relocation of the liquor store due to their current lease expiring soon; the relocation of a beer distributor located within the town; and a waiver subject to two engineers working together.

President Mace stated that Manager Steigerwalt did circulate electronically that Barry Isett and Associates is recommending against a waiver.

A recommendation was made to approve a waiver of the land development process contingent upon Mr. Bennett's engineer satisfying the requirements of the borough's engineer. Council recognized John Boyer of Boyers Food Market who stated that another part of the project is to expand the grocery portion of the store. Mr. Boyer stated that it is two different projects and two different entities. Mr. Boyer stated that there would be extensive interior remodeling of the store, and a 3,500 square foot extension to the building. There was much 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 Cara, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

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

Solicitor Odorizzi reported on the Tamaqua Area School District Solar Panel project as follows: still finalizing a Development, Improvement and Maintenance Agreement; costs; and an authorization to have President Mace sign the documents. A recommendation was made to authorize President Mace to sign a Development, Improvement and Maintenance Agreement contingent upon approval of Solicitor Odorizzi. 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Solicitor Odorizzi gave an update on the Tamarack Square Subdivision project.

Solicitor Odorizzi also reported on a lease agreement with the Tamaqua Area Chamber of Commerce. A recommendation was made to authorize President Mace to sign a lease agreement with the Tamaqua Area Chamber of Commerce contingent upon the final revisions by Solicitor Odorizzi and approval by the Tamaqua Area Chamber of Commerce. 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

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 Cara, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Under Unfinished Business, Councilman Connely asked about the final determination on the borough hosting a polling site for the Primary Election on June 2nd. Manager Steigerwalt discussed the following: he spoke with County Administrator Gary Bender and Schuylkill County Commissioner George F. Halcovage Jr.; he gave a summary of the process for use of a facility as a polling place during COVID-19; the Inspector or Judge of Elections is responsible for following the Pennsylvania Department of State and Pennsylvania Department of Health COVID-19 guidelines for the Primary Election; the County will provide for the cleaning and sanitizing of the polling place after the election consistent with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines and recommendations. Councilman Connely expressed his concerns that, as an employer, the county is not doing anything more to decontaminate the areas being used in the building and he thinks this is wrong.

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 Bowman, seconded by Cara, 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 Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 8:26 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:58 p.m.

President Mace announced that an executive session was held to discuss personnel matters

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m. on motion of Connely, seconded by Linkevich, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer