

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of May on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 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, Brian Connely, R. Daniel Evans, Micah Gursky and David Mace. Absent were Councilmembers Kerry Lasky and Justin Startzel. Officials present were Chief of Police Richard Weaver, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire and Fire Chief Thomas Hartz. Absent was Mayor Christian Morrison. Solicitor Michael S. Greek arrived later in the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by President Gursky. The invocation was given by Councilman Cara followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Secretary/Treasurer DeWire. The roll was called with five councilmembers present and two absent.

The reading of the minutes of the last Regular Council Meeting held on May 5, 2015 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.

Under Special Business, President Gursky gave an update on the City Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ) program as follows: the first major deadline is June 1, 2015 and all business enterprises doing business in the Tamaqua CRIZ must be reported; businesses located in the CRIZ must file its annual state and local tax reports electronically with the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue by June 15, 2015 in order to certify the amount of taxes to be transferred to the CRIZ fund; nonprofit organizations must also complete the report; a qualified business that does not submit complete CRIZ tax reports would be subject to a non-filing penalty of \$1,000; CRIZ designation is not optional; all CRIZ property owners were sent second letters; a vacant or residential property is not required to file; there are 297 tax parcels located in the CRIZ; and CRIZ allows the state taxes a business pays to come back to the community to assist with community and economic development projects.

Solicitor Greek arrived at approximately 7:10 p.m.

There was some discussion about the CRIZ program.

Communication was received from the Citizens Fire Co. #1 Bazaar Committee stating that their annual block party would be held from July 10 to 12, 2015. The communication is requesting permission to close Hegarty Avenue from July 6 to 12, 2015 and all through traffic on Berwick Street from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on July 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> and from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on July 12<sup>th</sup>. The communication also requested permission to hold a fire truck parade on July 10, 2015. 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 Mace, seconded by Connely, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Aimee Dotson, president of the Tamaqua Blue Waves Swim Boosters, requesting the use of the Bungalow pool for their summer season swim practices. Ms. Dotson stated that the closing of the Tamaqua High School pool for repairs has left them with no local pool to hold their practices. A recommendation was made to grant the request, on a schedule to be agreed upon by the pool manager, and to request that the Tamaqua Blue Waves Swim Boosters provide the borough with a certificate of insurance. Councilman Cara stated that the Tamaqua YMCA uses the pool in the morning for swim lessons. Councilman Mace stated that the

swim practices may be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that one bid was received for the sale of a property at 234 Columbia Street in the amount of \$100.00 from Steve Matalavage of 423 East Union Street. Manager Steigerwalt stated that the property is a vacant lot demolition site. Mr. Matalavage owns an adjoining property. A recommendation was made to accept a bid in the amount of \$100.00 from Steve Matalavage for 234 Columbia Street. 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 Connely, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt asked for direction on how to proceed with the sale of a property at 319 Washington Street. Manager Steigerwalt stated that the property is a vacant lot demolition site and it had been advertised for bids for sale several times in the past years. There was some discussion about this matter. A recommendation was made to readvertise for bids for the sale of 319 Washington Street without a minimum bid amount. 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: the demolition project at 216 Pitt Street is finished; the demolition project on Gay Street is underway; and the demolition project on Spruce Street would begin next week; street cleaning; the fountain at Depot Square Park would be up and running for Memorial Day; the pool should be ready for opening day; and the borough picked up the new line painting machine and painting should begin tomorrow.

Under the Borough Manager's report, Councilman Mace asked about the status of a grant application for a bath house project at the Bungalow Pool. Manager Steigerwalt reported on the following: a grant application must be submitted by the end of June; a professional's cost estimate to perform survey work and a preliminary site plan is needed; and the cost would not be reimbursable by the grant. Council recognized Community Development Officer Daniel Schroeder who stated that he spoke to Mark Conville, a registered architect; and according to Mr. Conville, the cost for engineering and architectural work for a complete design would be approximately five to six percent of the whole project. Mr. Schroeder also stated that he did not get in touch with Phillip Navitsky, a registered surveyor. Manager Steigerwalt stated that the borough does not need a complete design for the grant application. There was much discussion about this matter. There was also some discussion about contacting the borough's engineer, Alfred Benesch. A motion was made by Mace, and seconded by Connely, to authorize Borough Manager Steigerwalt to solicit prices for surveyor and architectural services needed to complete the bath house grant application. After some discussion about proceeding with the work, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to authorize Borough Manager Steigerwalt to solicit prices for surveyor and architectural services needed to complete the bath house project grant application, and to proceed with the work after consulting with the Recreation and Youth Committee. 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 Connely, and unanimously approved.

Under the Borough Manager's report, there was some discussion about pothole patching and paving along Owl Creek Road and at the railroad crossing at Spruce Street.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to authorize the appropriate officials to execute the Mutual Aid Agreement for fire protection between the Borough of Nesquehoning, Nesquehoning Hose Company #1, New Columbus Fire Company and the Hauto Fire Company (hereinafter referred to as the Borough of Nesquehoning Fire Department) and the Borough of Tamaqua and Tamaqua Fire Department contingent upon changes to the language to properly reflect it as the Tamaqua Fire Department and eliminating the signature section for the Tamaqua Fire Department. Council recognized Daniel Schroeder who stated that the Citizen's Advisory Committee is in need of at least two additional members. 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 Mace, and unanimously approved.

Chairman Connely of the Public Safety Committee reported that a Fire Chief attended the Fire Department Instructor Conference (FDIC) in Indianapolis, Indiana in April and a copy of his report is included in the reports of the borough.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

With no one 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 Mace, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under Unfinished Business, a discussion on the 2014 and 2015 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Applications included, but was not limited to, the following: a project to build a new bath house at the Bungalow Pool is no longer an eligible CDBG project allowed under the new guidelines developed in Washington, D.C.; approximately \$61,000 in funds from 2014 needs to be earmarked elsewhere; handicapped accessibility projects are eligible anywhere within the borough; the area of town eligible for CDBG fund use includes all of the North and Middle Wards; some eligible projects include housing rehabilitation, street paving, water lines, drainage and sewer projects, recreation and demolition; a second countywide hearing would be held at the Schuylkill County Courthouse in Pottsville; some suggested projects were a pedestrian walkway to link Pleasant Row and Washington Street, repairing crumbling retaining walls in the area of Water and Washington streets and elsewhere, updating parking meters, placing guide rails in dangerous places within the borough and the fire departments still need financial assistance with purchasing new radios; up to 18 percent of CDBG funds were eligible for administrative costs and the county is now administering the program on behalf of eligible communities; and a Sub-Recipient Agreement between Schuylkill County and the Tamaqua Borough for CDBG funds. There was much discussion about these matters. President Gursky asked Community Development Officer Daniel Schroeder and Manager Steigerwalt to prepare a list of all eligible projects with cost estimates.

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 Connely, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, Councilman Cara discussed the following: a PennDOT long-range transportation meeting; the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is citing for illegal dumping; and suggested having a brochure highlighting the trail and history of the Owl Creek Reservoir area.

Under New Business, a resolution authorizing the Borough Council President and/or Borough Manager to execute any and all documents including an Agreement of Sale and a Transfer of Property to purchase a property located at 240 Center Street, Tamaqua, PA was presented for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-6**

**A RESOLUTION EMPOWERING AND AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND/OR BOROUGH MANAGER TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS INCLUDING AGREEMENTS OF SALE, TRANSFER OF PROPERTY AND TO RECORD ANY DEED RESULTING FROM THE SALE OR TRANSFER OF ANY PROPERTY; SPECIFICALLY A PROPERTY LOCATED AT 240 CENTER STREET, TAMAQUA, PA**

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution. Manager Steigerwalt stated that the property is a lot that formerly housed the Hosak Pontiac dealership and PennDOT had purchased it for a bridge replacement project. Manager Steigerwalt stated that PennDOT no longer has a use for the property and has offered the property to the borough at the fair market value of \$22,400.00. 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 Connely, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Under New Business, there was some discussion about the hiring of part-time seasonal workers. Manager Steigerwalt stated that he has a list of applicants that were narrowed down to approximately eight applicants and these applicants have not been interviewed yet. Solicitor Greek stated that council would be able to ratify Manager Steigerwalt's action regarding the hiring of these part-time seasonal workers at the next council meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m. on motion of Mace, seconded by Cara, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

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Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer