

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of May on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Tamaqua Municipal Building, 320 East Broad Street, Tamaqua, PA.

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, Solicitor Michael S. Greek, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire and Director of Community Development Ann Marie Calabrese.

The meeting was called to order by President Mace. The invocation was given by Councilman Cara followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Linkhorst. The roll was called with all councilmembers present.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on May 7, 2019 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.

President Mace turned the meeting over to Mayor Gerace. Mayor Gerace introduced Savas Logothetides, owner of the Wheel Restaurant. Mr. Logothetides stated that he is looking forward to being a big part of the community and is excited to get going on the construction of the restaurant. Mr. Logothetides stated that construction should begin in July, with a tentative opening in November. Mr. Logothetides presented council with two drawings of the restaurant.

Communication was received from Justin McCarroll stating that he is interested in the in-house job posting position of Chief Mechanic. A recommendation was made to appoint Justin McCarroll to the position of Chief Mechanic. 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 Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to post an in-house job vacancy for Assistant Mechanic. 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.

Communication was received from Pastor Steve Gintz of Revive Community Fellowship requesting permission to use Tamaqua Borough Parks to hold summer activities for the children of the town. Pastor Gintz is requesting the use of the South Ward Playground for a Community Family Fun Night event on July 9<sup>th</sup> from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Pastor Gintz is also requesting that a small section of Oak and Race streets around the park be closed from 2 p.m. until the end of the event. Revive Community Fellowship would also like to provide free summer sports and kids activities at the South Ward Playground from July 8<sup>th</sup> to July 12<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and at the Dutch Hill ball field/pavilion on July 10<sup>th</sup> and July 11<sup>th</sup> from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. each day. A recommendation was made to grant the requests. Councilman Linkhorst recommended that Pastor Gintz contact Tamaqua Baseball Association members to coordinate activities in order to avoid any conflicts with other events at the baseball fields. 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.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the bid opening results for the Refuse and Recyclable Materials Collection Contract as follows: three bids were received; the bidders were Tamaqua

Transfer and Recycling, J.P. Mascaro and Sons and County Waste; and the lowest bidder was Tamaqua Transfer and Recycling of Tamaqua. Manager Steigerwalt read the Tamaqua Transfer bids as follows: the year one contract price is \$525,600.00; the year two contract price is \$525,600.00; the year three contract price is \$525,600.00; and a three-year contract price, which is the total of years one to three, is \$1,576,800.00. Manager Steigerwalt stated that he spoke with Jonas Kreitzer of County Waste, our current provider, whose bid is double the amount the borough is currently paying. Mr. Kreitzer stated that labor costs, the recyclable market, and that the company is losing money on what the borough is currently paying County Waste, as some factors attributing to the higher bid amount. Manager Steigerwalt stated that the County Waste recycling bins would be returned to them. Councilman Cara asked if the borough can buy the recycling bins. A recommendation was made to award the Refuse and Recyclable Materials Collection Contract year one to the lowest bidder, Tamaqua Transfer and Recycling, with the option to extend for one year and with the option to extend for two years. 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 Linkhorst, and approved by a 5-2 vote with Councilmembers Cara and Mace opposed.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: the fee schedule for garbage should be examined; the Center Street Bridge Project is completed; the Welcome to Tamaqua sign is lit; the bathroom renovation project in the borough building is underway; and pool preparations.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported the he has a list of six part-time seasonal maintenance applicants being recommended for hire. In addition, the borough may be getting some REDCO/Pennsylvania Career Link Schuylkill County workers. A recommendation was made to hire part-time seasonal employees for general maintenance work at an hourly rate of \$10.00 per hour. The list of general maintenance applicants are as follows: Michael Bonetsky, Daniel Dolly, Tyler Shilko, Christian Slane, Ryan Smith and Devon Zehner. 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 Calabrese reported on the following: the Tamaqua Community Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ) annual reporting for businesses and tenants with businesses is due by June 15<sup>th</sup>; a new Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Map; a notice of public hearing on proposed amendments to the Eastern Schuylkill Regional Planning Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance and the Eastern Schuylkill Regional Planning Zoning Ordinance would be held on June 18, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.; and a notice of public hearing and request for proposals for the Fiscal Year 2019 CDBG Program would be held on June 18, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Chief Woods reported than an officer will be off for approximately four weeks for non-work related issues.

Chief Woods stated that a neighborhood complaint was received about displays of fireworks and asked what the status is of the ordinance addressing fireworks. President Mace stated that an ad-hoc committee would be reviewing the matter. Solicitor Greek stated that he did provide a draft ordinance to council for their review. There was some discussion about this matter.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 415 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 Linkhorst, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 438 Arlington Street. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkhorst, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Chairman Linkhorst of the Parking and Traffic Committee reported that he had an ordinance establishing a Loading/Unloading Zone for approximately 60 feet on West Cottage Avenue behind La Dolce Casa restaurant to present for council's consideration:

**ORDINANCE NO. 704**  
**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, SCHUYLKILL COUNTY,**  
**PENNSYLVANIA, CHANGING AND AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF**  
**THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, ORDINANCE #304, CHAPTER XVII, PART 1,**  
**SECTION 35, LOADING AND UNLOADING ZONES ESTABLISHED; PARKING**  
**RESTRICTED, AS AMENDED.**

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing ordinance. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkhorst, seconded by Cara, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for the demolition of a property located at 418-420 West Broad Street with the condition that the applicant submits two estimates indicating the cost of rehabilitation versus the cost of demolition. 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 the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness to install two business signs at 124 East Broad Street. 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 the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for the renovation of an existing parking lot at 255 West Broad Street. 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 the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to open the pool on Saturday, June 8, 2019 and close on Sunday, August 25, 2019. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkhorst, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a lease agreement with Tiffanie Wirth for the pool concession stand for the 2019 season provided she makes the required down payment. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council

about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkhorst, seconded by Connely, and unanimously approved.

Mayor Gerace asked Manager Steigerwalt about a storm drain issue at the Citizen's Fire Company. Manager Steigerwalt already referred the matter to the Street Department.

Mayor Gerace stated that the Chamber of Commerce is no longer holding a community yard sale event in August.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Thomas Hartz of 322 Market Street asked for an update on the tax breaks for volunteer fire fighters. Mr. Hartz expressed his concerns about potholes in the 300 block of Market Street. There was some discussion about these matters and obtaining a list of active fire fighters.

Savas Logothetides, owner of the Wheel Restaurant, asked about the following: the process and if permits are needed for placing a dumpster on a vacant lot; and who takes care of trimming a large tree in front of his building at 123 East Broad Street. There was some discussion about these matters.

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

Solicitor Greek reported on the following: an Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission resolution and revisions; and a pool lease agreement was completed.

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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under Unfinished Business, Councilman Cara discussed a proposal for renewing the franchise agreement with Service Electric Cablevision Inc. which is offering a seven-year agreement. Councilman Cara discussed proposing a four-year agreement.

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, Councilman Connely discussed a fee agreement between Bowe and Odorizzi Law, LLC and the Borough of Tamaqua and Tamaqua Borough Authority. The Tamaqua Borough Authority has already approved the fee agreement and the annual retainer for 2019 is \$1,200.00. A recommendation was made to approve a fee agreement between Bowe and Odorizzi Law, LLC and the Borough of Tamaqua and Tamaqua Borough Authority. 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 New Business, Councilman Cara expressed his concerns about a recent fire call located at 217 Washington Street and the large amount of animals that were in the house. Councilman Cara asked if we need an exotic animal ordinance in our community. There was much discussion about the following: re-examining the zoning ordinance; the Zoning Officer is aware of this situation; the current zoning rules allow for up to five pets at a residence; if more than five pets, it would be considered a kennel; animal waste and noise issues; and cases involving limits to the number of animals. Council recognized South Ward Fire Chief Mark Bower who asked if the Game Commission has rules.

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 Connely, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 8:07 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:24 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 8:24 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkhorst, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

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Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer