

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of June on Tuesday, June 7, 2016 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, R. Daniel Evans, Micah Gursky, Kerry Lasky and David Mace. Councilman Thomas Cara arrived later in the meeting. Absent was Councilmember Brian Connely. Officials present were Mayor Christian Morrison, Chief of Police Richard Weaver, Public Works Director Robert Jones, Solicitor Michael S. Greek and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire. Fire Chief Thomas Hartz arrived later in the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by President Mace. The invocation was given by President Mace followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilwoman Lasky along with Emily and Jordan Palumbo. 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 17, 2016 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Gursky, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under Special Business, President Mace recognized 2016 District XI Varsity Track and Field Champions Olivia Stanek, Victoria LaBar and Monika Shimko who were in attendance. He presented each with a Certificate of Achievement. President Mace stated that Morgan Boyle, Joe Nortavage, Alli Pedersen and Chelsea Frantz were not in attendance and their Certificate of Achievement would be forwarded to them.

Under Special Business, President Mace read his nomination letter to the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs nominating Micah Gursky for the Outstanding Council Member of the Year Award. President Mace recognized Councilman Gursky and stated that Mr. Gursky received the award today during the association's conference in Hershey.

Communication was received from the officers and members of the Tamaqua Masonic Lodge No. 238 of 7 Shawn Avenue and Route 54 East in Tamaqua informing council that the lodge is offering its building as a temporary shelter in case of an emergency. The building can accommodate 100 people and is accessible to handicapped individuals.

Communication was received from Daniel D. Schroeder of 555 Tuscarora Mountain Drive, Barnesville, PA stating that he is resigning as a member of the Historic Architectural Review Commission (HARC). A recommendation was made to accept his letter of resignation and to send a letter thanking him for serving on HARC. 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.

Communication was received from Liz Pinkey requesting permission to tentatively hold swim practices at the Bungalow pool on the weekends of June 4th, June 11th, June 25th and July 2nd. Ms. Pinkey stated that following a meet on July 8th, she would only ask for additional sessions if they have swimmers qualify for the USA swimming summer championship meet at the end of July. 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 Gursky, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Tammy Sienkiewicz of 215 Bowe Street requesting permission to have an Overdose Awareness candlelight walk on July 30, 2016 at 8:00 p.m. The purpose of the walk is to honor those who have succumbed to the disease of drug addiction and

hope to those who are still fighting it, and to educate family and friends on ways to get them help. The walk would begin at the Bungalow pool and end at the old CVS building. The communication also requested the assistance of the Tamaqua Fire Police for this event. A recommendation was made to grant the request and to authorize the use of the fire police. There was some discussion about the event. Council recognized John Sienkiewicz of 215 Bowe Street and Christine Bugdanavage of 176 Penn Street who discussed the event. 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 Gursky, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Thomas Wood, secretary of American Hose Company No. 1, requesting permission to close Pine Street from Broad to Mauch Chunk Streets for their annual Fireman's Festival from August 4th at 8:00 a.m. until August 7th at 11:30 p.m. 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 Gursky, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Porter Huber of 7503 Church Road, Germansville, PA stating that he found out the yellow-faced train was painted all black, even over the face, and it makes him sad because it was cute and he loved it. Mr. Huber asked if we could get a train that looks the same and make it blue and have a yellow face. A recommendation was made to send the letter from Porter Huber to Tamaqua Save Our Station with a cover letter from the borough. 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 Gursky, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the bid opening results for the Refuse and Recyclable Materials Collection Contract as follows: four bids were received; the lowest bidder was County Waste of 2302 Shermans Mountain Road, Tremont PA. Manager Steigerwalt read the County Waste bids as follows: the bid amount for a one-year contract is \$408,276.00; the bid amount for a two-year contract is \$816,552.00; and the bid amount for a three-year contract is \$1,236,708.00. A recommendation was made to award the Refuse and Recyclable Materials Collection Contract year one to the lowest bidder, County Waste, 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 Gursky, seconded by Bowman, and approved by a 4-1 vote with Councilmember Lasky opposed.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace the existing covered railings into open railings with spindles at 244 West Rowe Street. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Gursky, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to install new Trex flooring, repair/replace the existing posts and to replace the roofing structure with two gage metal roofing panels and tie into the neighboring property at 33 Pine Street. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Gursky, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to attach three gooseneck lights similar in style and size to the existing lighting on the Station Restaurant sign and signage for The Station Creamery at the Tamaqua Train Station on Berwick Street. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Gursky, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to demolish a residential deck and pool and to install a five-foot metal fence at 504-506 Arlington Street. 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 Evans, and approved by a 4-0-1 vote with Councilman Gursky abstaining.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to reimburse lifeguards, clerks and managers for background checks required by the Child Protective Services Law. There was some discussion about the following: the amount of the reimbursement is approximately \$43; reimbursing only the present year applicants; the documentation needed for reimbursement; and the reimbursement would be made only after the borough receives all three clearance documents. 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 Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to donate three season pool passes to the Tamaqua Public Library to use as prizes for the summer reading program. 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.

Council recognized Colleen Stanek of 23 Sherwood Street who asked if the pool managers are included in the reimbursement. Councilman Gursky stated it would be reflected in the minutes.

Councilman Cara arrived at approximately 7:35 p.m.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, Councilman Evans reported that no action was taken at the last meeting regarding 217 Penn Street and 522 Arlington Street.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, there was some discussion regarding the Fee Schedule changes.

Mayor Morrison stated that the parking issue at 217 Penn Street was already referred to the Parking and Traffic Committee.

Mayor Morrison reminded the public that the quality of life ordinance is in effect, discussed code enforcement issues and code enforcement complaints. There was some discussion about this matter.

Mayor Morrison stated that the Tamaqua Area Faith Fellowship Network (TAFNN) would be hosting a meeting on Monday night to discuss the national drug epidemic. Mayor Morrison stated that the public is finally opening their eyes to the problem, that different groups are coming together, the need for community support and establishing a community watch program.

Mayor Morrison requested an executive session to discuss personnel matters prior to adjournment.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

John Sienkiewicz of 215 Bowe Street discussed the following: a citizen's patrol was formed which is a new version of the neighborhood watch; the disease of drug addiction; overdose awareness candlelight walk event; and a meeting would be held shortly.

Jamie Folweiler of Tamaqua directed questions to Chief Weaver and Borough Officials and expressed his concerns about the following: there were 50 victims of vandalized vehicles over the last two weeks; since there were so many victims, do the police intend on upgrading the charges to possible felonies; what the qualifications are for charging a juvenile as an adult; the 21 year-old driver was using another person's vehicle; if the owner of the vehicle knew of the vandal's intent to commit these crimes, can they also be charged; the process for legally seeking restitution and if it is an option for the victims; informing victims of upcoming court dates; and how to better protect themselves from future vandalism. There was some discussion about these matters.

Liz Pinkey of 237 East Broad Street stated she was a victim of vandalism and it is a long and arduous process through the magisterial court system but she did get restitution.

Heather Schuima of 258 Brown Street expressed her concerns about drug problems in her neighborhood. Chief Weaver stated that he would pass on the information to the narcotics team.

Carol Boyle of 225 Brown Street asked about landlords being held responsible if they are notified of drug activity. Ms. Boyle also asked about a deadline for submitting the cost estimates for the reimbursement due to the car vandalism. It was noted that a report should be filed as soon as possible.

Karri Garber of 200 Pine Street expressed her concerns about handicapped accessibility as follows: the condition of sidewalks at various properties in the borough; bushes covering sidewalks leaving little room to get through; and has photographs of the various properties on poster boards.

John Foster of 240 Brown Street expressed his concerns about the recent vandalism and going after the insurance company of the person who owns the car.

Billy Garber of 200 Pine Street asked council to consider purchasing a new wheelchair lift with a maximum capacity weight of 500 pounds for the Bungalow pool. A recommendation was made to refer the matter to the Recreation and Youth Committee. Council recognized Billy Garber who recommended places to look for the wheelchair lift. There was no one else from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Gursky, seconded by Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Karri Garber expressed her concerns about being stopped by police and she was advised to get back on the sidewalk with her wheelchair. There was some discussion about this matter.

Fire Chief Hartz arrived at approximately 8:04 p.m.

Tom Schlorf of 223 Orwigsburg Street asked for an update on the patching of Stadium Hill. There was some discussion about this matter.

Mr. Schlorf also asked for an update on the incident where the Fire Chief's truck was at the Rabbit Run Derby and the two occupants were drinking alcoholic beverages. President Mace stated that it is a personnel matter.

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

Solicitor Greek asked for clarification on the three-year franchise agreement with Service Electric Cablevision Inc. There was some discussion about this matter.

Under New Business, Councilman Evans discussed the Fire Department problem intersection list from May of 2007. There was some discussion about the eleven problem intersections and repainting lines. A recommendation was made to repaint the lines at the intersections listed on the Fire Department problem intersection list. The Fire Department problem intersection list is as follows: Elm and Elizabeth Streets-Elizabeth Street; Pine and Elm Streets-Elm Street (southeast corner); Elm Street and Rolling Mill Avenue-Rolling Mill Avenue (both directions); Coal and Mahanoy Streets-Mahanoy Street; Bowe and Spruce Streets-Green Street; Hunter and Mahanoy Streets-Mahanoy Street; Pitt and Clay Streets-Clay Street (both sides); Union and Clark Streets-both sides of Clark Street (south); Greenwood and Arlington Streets-Arlington Street; and Clay and Nescopec Streets-all four ways. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Gursky, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to hold an executive session to discuss personnel, legal 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 Gursky, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 8:15 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 9:15 p.m.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Evans, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer