

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of June on Tuesday, June 19, 2018 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, R. Daniel Evans, Mary Linkevich and David Mace. Absent was Councilmember Brian Connely. Councilmember Ritchie Linkhorst arrived later in the meeting. Officials present were Mayor Nathan Gerace, Corporal Henry Woods, Public Works Director Robert Jones, 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 Bowman. The roll was called with five councilmembers present and two absent.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on May 16, 2018 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Cara, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Under Special Business, President Mace recognized the 2018 PIAA District XI Varsity Track and Field Champions Brad Clemson, Dair Miller, Derian Stianche, Matt Kistler and Chris Osenbach. He presented them with Certificates of Achievement. President Mace stated that Chris Osenbach was not in attendance but his certificate would be forwarded to him.

Councilmember Linkhorst arrived at approximately 7:03 p.m.

Under Special Business, President Mace introduced Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Director Nate MacDonald who started on May 9th as the Executive Director. Mr. MacDonald discussed the following: recreational opportunities; increased exposure to the community via the ESRC website; an importance placed on social media such as Facebook and Twitter; actively looking for business sponsorships; improving and revitalizing ESRC programs such as a summer basketball league, co-sponsoring a volleyball camp, a tennis clinic, an open pickleball game and cornhole tournaments; hosting a Senior Olympic Day event, a Breakfast with Santa event, Easter Egg hunts in various communities, a winter basketball league, and open gyms; maintaining the Route 309 recreation trail; and to contact him with any ideas or for more information.

Communication was received from Paul Dreisbach, 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 2nd at 8:00 a.m. until August 5th 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 Linkevich, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Borough Manager's report, Public Works Director Jones reported on the bid results for the Street Light Replacement Project. Public Works Director Jones recommended awarding the base bid for the removal of high pressure sodium (HPS) light fixtures and installation of new light-emitting diode (LED) light fixtures to West Side Hammer Electric in the amount of \$45,450.00 and to award an Alternate Bid to Denney Electric Supply in the amount of \$69,900.00 to furnish LED light fixtures manufactured by Current by GE or Acuity Brands AEL Autobahn Series. A recommendation was made to award the base bid to West Side Hammer Electric in the amount of \$45,450.00 and an Alternate Bid to Denney Electric Supply in the amount of \$69,900.00.

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.

Public Works Director Jones also reported on a notice that was received from the Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau regarding a bid received for the repository sale of a property located at 116 Center Street. Code enforcement violations do exist on the property and he is waiting to discuss the property with Solicitor Greek.

Public Works Director Jones also reported on two applications for payment one from Spotts Brothers, Inc. of Schuylkill Haven, PA in the amount of \$40,798.00 and one from Larry McCullion and Son Electrical Construction Services, LLC of Summit Hill, PA in the amount of \$10,600.00 for the Bungalow Park Bath Houses and Admissions Building Renovations. The Bungalow Project is still approximately \$8,400.00 short from the Community Development Building Grant funds. A recommendation was made to pay the amount of \$40,798.00 to Spotts Brothers, Inc. and the amount of \$10,600.00 to Larry McCullion and Son Electrical Construction Services, LLC. There was some discussion about this matter. Council recognized Michele Mehallic of 411 Lehigh Street who asked if the payment was for one roof. Public Works Director Jones stated that it is for three roofs. There was no one else from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Public Works Director Jones noted that Director of Community Development Ann Marie Calabrese has come off of her probationary period. A recommendation was made to retain the employment of Ann Marie Calabrese as full-time Director of Community Development. 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 Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Public Works Director Jones requested an executive session prior to adjournment to discuss personnel matters.

Director of Community Development Calabrese reported on the following: she is working on the 2018 CDBG and public hearing; the City Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ) deadline was June 15th; and the purple flags for American Cancer Society's Relay for Life pre-event promotion called "Paint the Town Purple" would arrive tomorrow.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, Councilman Bowman stated that after the interview process for Chief of Police they found that we have very intelligent people on our police force. A recommendation was made to appoint Henry Woods as Chief of Police effective immediately. 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 unanimously approved.

Chairman Evans of the Building and Equipment Committee explained changing the lock system on the aerial building to an electronic lock system and presented a quote for its installation. A recommendation was made to purchase new electronic locks for the aerial building doors from High Mountain Hardware Inc. of McAdoo, PA at a cost of \$4,065.40. There was much discussion about the following: keys for the building were not being returned by those who no longer drive the aerial truck; the borough is not able to monitor who goes in and out of the building; if anyone talked to the ambulance association personnel regarding a keyless system; no one spoke with the ambulance association personnel; a CRIZ fine was received by the ambulance association;

questions regarding the ownership of the building; the building is jointly owned by the borough and the ambulance association; the American Hose Fire Company is not a part owner of the building; the ambulance association would have equal to or greater access to the building but it may not have been communicated well; control of a master list of access; the monitoring system software; and the cost of the system. Council recognized George Haldeman of 247 Van Gelder Street who recommended that the borough be in charge of the system. There was no one else 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.

Chairman Evans of the Building and Equipment Committee reported on the following: received a quote for the purchase of 53 parking meters from Duncan Parking Technologies in the amount of \$10,759.00; the meters would be purchased with funds from the Equipment Fund; and the meter coin revenues are deposited to the General Fund, so the General Fund would then reimburse the Equipment Fund. A recommendation was made to purchase 53 Eagle 2100 Mechanism Coin Only Single-Space Meters from Duncan Parking Technologies, Inc. of Milwaukee, WI in the amount of \$10,759.00 from funds designated from the Equipment Fund and to have the General Fund reimburse the Equipment Fund. 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 Evans, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Chairman Linkhorst of the Parking and Traffic Committee expressed his concerns regarding traffic and public safety concerns on Washington Street as a result of the West Broad Street Wabash Tunnel Replacement Project detour route. Chairman Linkhorst stated that even though Washington Street is not part of the official detour route, more motorists are using it as a short cut and the traffic has increased. A recommendation was made to prohibit parking on the west side of the 200 block of Washington Street for the duration of the West Broad Street Wabash Tunnel Replacement Project. There was much discussion about this matter. Council recognized Kathy Kunkel of The Times News newspaper who asked how many parking spaces would be lost to residents and how much higher is the volume of traffic than during the school year with busses and students using it. There was more discussion about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkhorst, seconded by Bowman, and approved by a 4-3 roll call vote with Councilmembers Bowman, Cara, and Linkhorst in favor and Councilmembers Evans, Linkevich and Mace opposed and Mayor Gerace casting the tie-breaking vote in favor of the motion. Mayor Gerace stated that he would contact the Pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ to see if the church parking lot could be used by residents.

Council recognized Dave Schuetrumpf of 431 East Elm Street who expressed his concerns about parking issues on the north side of the Elm Street Bridge and requested that a No Parking sign be placed in that area. There was some discussion about the placement of a sign and the matter was referred to the Parking and Traffic Committee to review.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, Councilman Bowman asked the committee to look into placing a stop sign in the area of Swatara and Van Gelder streets.

Chairman Cara of the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee reported that he had an ordinance setting the speed limit at 25 miles per hour for all borough streets except

for Owl Creek Road and portions of State Routes 209 and 309 to present for council's consideration:

ORDINANCE NO. 696
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, CHAPTER XVII, SECTION 12, "SPEED LIMITS ESTABLISHED ON CERTAIN STREETS"

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing ordinance. 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 Cara, seconded by Bowman, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a lease agreement with BET Lehigh Real Estate, LLC of Tamaqua for the placement of a sign on the company's property near the Center Street Bridge. Chairman Cara explained the lease agreement. 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.

Chairwoman Linkevich of the Recreation and Youth Committee gave an update on the Community Garden.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to purchase a robotic pool vacuum from Recreonics, Inc. of Louisville, KY at a cost not to exceed \$4,500.00 from funds designated from the H.D. Buehler Memorial Park Fund. 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 Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Mayor Gerace stated that he has a communication from David Hadesty, president of the Tamaqua Fire Police Association, stating that the association will be purchasing a 2010 Ford Explorer to be used as a quick response emergency vehicle and it is requesting permission to register this vehicle under the Borough of Tamaqua and place it on the Borough's insurance. There was some discussion about this matter. A recommendation was made to add the 2010 Ford Explorer purchased by the Tamaqua Fire Police Association to the Borough's insurance. 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 unanimously approved. There was some discussion about the garage usage for the Fire Police. Council recognized John Bowman of the Fire Police who discussed the location.

A recommendation was made to authorize Mayor Gerace to attend the 47th Annual Conference of the Pennsylvania State Mayors' Association held at the Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square in Lancaster, Pennsylvania from July 19 to 22, 2018. 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.

Mayor Gerace also reported on the following: he will have a solid list of part-time police officers for the next meeting; and he is contacting ABC High Rise to work towards a resolution to parking issues.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Michele Mehallic of 411 Lehigh Street expressed her concerns that cameras have not yet been installed at all of the playgrounds and parks. President Mace stated that the funds remaining in the camera fund is needed to pay maintenance fees for the next four years and there is not enough funds to purchase camera systems for the playgrounds. Kathy Kunkel, a member of the Camera Committee, explained the camera project phases and available funds. Councilwoman Linkevich stated that she, Chief Woods, Mayor Gerace and Kathy Kunkel would look into obtaining additional funds for the camera project.

Ms. Mehallic, who is also a member of Safer Street For Tamaqua's Little Feet, also expressed her concerns about damages to the memorial benches located at the corner of Hunter and Spruce streets. There was some discussion about the following: damages done to the benches; contacting the contractor for the bridge project again; allowing Safer Streets to remove the wooden slats from the benches now and then having the slats put back on before school returns to session; and the grassy area of the lot is temporarily being used as a parking area to help the neighborhood residents during the detour.

Dave Schuetrumpf of 431 East Elm Street expressed his concerns about an ongoing issue of children playing ball in the street in the 300 block of Columbia Street. Mr. Schuetrumpf noted an incident on May 20th when he reported to police that children were playing ball in the street and damaging cars and property. He said that the response by the officers was unacceptable and that they refused to enforce an ordinance and to issue citations to the children or their parents. Mayor Gerace discussed the incident and agreed that he would not want his car being hit and that the best approach would be to not choose to issue citations to the children or their parents but to reinforce to the children not to play in the street. Chief Woods agreed that the children should not be playing in the street and that an officer can issue citations at their own discretion based on the situation. Chief Woods would speak with the officers and read the report of that night.

Jean Morrison of 322 Columbia Street also expressed her concerns about this matter. There was much discussion about this matter.

South Ward Fire Chief Mark Bower stated that he is still waiting for an old fire hydrant that he requested to use for training purposes. Public Works Director Jones stated that the next hydrant that comes out of the ground would be given to him. There was some discussion about this matter.

With no one else 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 Evans, seconded by Linkevich, 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.

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 8:43 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 9:10 p.m.

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

A recommendation was made, on a recommendation of the Tamaqua Area Water Authority, to post an in-house job vacancy notice for one Water Treatment Plant Operator Trainee position and if the position is not filled in-house, the position would be advertised in the newspaper. 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.

A recommendation was made to change the health care plan for the office staff to the equivalent health care plan agreed to in the UAW contract and to be retroactively effective January 1, 2018 and to make any appropriate adjustments as necessary. 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.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:12 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer