

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of August on Tuesday, August 16, 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, Thomas Cara, R. Daniel Evans, Micah Gursky, Kerry Lasky and David Mace. 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.

The meeting was called to order by President Mace. The invocation was given by Councilman Cara followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mary Linkevich. The roll was called with six councilmembers present and one absent.

The reading of the minutes of the last Regular Council Meeting held on July 19, 2016 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Cara, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to hire Timothy Walsh as part-time police officer 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 Gursky, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Gayle R. Heath, Tamaqua Public Library Director, thanking councilmembers for their kind generosity in donating three pool passes to their summer reading program.

Communication was received from Chief Michael J. Conway of the Tremont Borough Police Department and Mayor Rodger D. Adams requesting the assistance of the fire police with the 62nd Annual Schuylkill County Firefighters Convention Parade on September 17, 2016 starting at 1:00 p.m. A recommendation was made to authorize the use of the fire police, if available, for the event. Council recognized Herbert Curvey of 118 Clay Street who stated that the fire police should be notified. Mr. Curvey will notify the fire police. 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 Evans, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Land of the Running Water Coordinator Lisa Mace, Tamaqua Band Director Mark Beltz and Tamaqua Area Band Booster President Dave Hadesty requesting permission to prohibit parking on both sides of Coal Street from Orwigsburg to Spruce streets on October 15, 2016 for a fall Marching Band Adjudication Festival to be held at the Tamaqua Area Sports Stadium. 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 Cara, seconded by Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from John Sienkiewicz, president of Safer Streets for Tamaqua's Little Feet, stating that they are teaming up with The Skook Recovers for joint beautification projects. The joint projects are going to be the Skate Park directly behind Boyers Food Market and the benches on the corner of Hunter and Spruce streets. The communication provided a list of items they are asking to be donated. A motion was made by Bowman and seconded by Gursky to permit Safer Streets for Tamaqua's Little Feets to make improvements to the Hunter Street lot. Council recognized John Sienkiewicz who stated that they have almost all of the materials. Mr. Sienkiewicz also stated that the improvement projects will be completed in two

phases as follows: phase one includes nine benches at the Hunter and Spruce streets lot and to clean up the skate park; and phase two includes redoing the brick at the Hunter and Spruce streets lot and the benches and gate at the skate park. After some discussion about the improvements, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to permit Safer Streets for Tamaqua's Little Feets to make improvements to nine benches and to redo the brick at the Hunter and Spruce streets lot and to clean up the skate park and to also make improvements to the benches and the gate at the skate park. Council recognized Michele Mehallic of Safer Streets for Tamaqua's Little Feets stating that the bright colors were picked out for the benches by recovering drug addicts. 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 Gursky, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Steven Rajnic, Jr. of 587 Hemlock Road stating that he is a retired pharmacist and is writing in regard to the drug abuse problem in the community. Mr. Rajnic suggested placing a billboard within the community with a message to those who are addicted to choose life.

Communication was received from Kevin Steigerwalt of 510 Washington Street requesting leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act for a health condition and he stated that he would provide medical verification and updates. A recommendation was made to approve a Family and Medical Leave Act request from Kevin Steigerwalt contingent upon receiving the proper medical documentation. 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 resolution appointing Robert Jones as Acting Borough Manager, at his same pay rate, was presented for council's consideration:

RESOLUTION 2016-11
ROBERT JONES IS APPOINTED AS ACTING BOROUGH MANAGER

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

Communication was received from George Taylor, Outreach Team of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, requesting that Mauch Chunk Street be closed from Greenwood Street to Market Street on October 30, 2016 from Noon to 6:00 p.m. for a Trunk or Treat event. 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 Gursky, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from R. Scott Winterburn, secretary of the Tamaqua Elks Lodge 592, requesting that Nescopec Street, between Rowe and Broad streets, be blocked to vehicle access in order to provide parking and accessibility for a Poker Run Benefit beginning at 12:01 a.m. on August 27, 2016 and ending at 12:01 a.m. on August 28, 2016. 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 Bowman, seconded by Evans, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Nicholas Wall of 1379 Valley Road stating that he is a member of Boy Scout Troop 777 and will be working on his Eagle Scout project. Mr. Wall stated

that his project will be to build bat and owl nesting boxes. Mr. Wall is requesting permission to place a box at the Owl Creek Reservoir. 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 Cara, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Acting Borough Manager Jones reported on a cost sharing proposal for the Broad and Greenwood streets railroad crossing improvements. There was some discussion about this matter.

Acting Borough Manager Jones reported on a proposal from Alfred Benesch and Company of Pottsville, PA in the amount of \$3,950.00 for the 2016 Annual Inspection of the Upper and Lower Owl Creek Dams. A recommendation was made to approve a proposal from Alfred Benesch and Company of Pottsville, PA to inspect the Upper and Lower Owl Creek Dams at a cost of \$3,950.00. 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

Acting Borough Manager Jones also reported on the following: a revised proposal for the drainage project at the pool; Alfred Benesch and Company is preparing a general permit for the Wabash Creek project; and gave an update on the Family Dollar store sidewalk issue. There was some discussion about these matters.

President Mace introduced Mary Linkevich, the new Director of Community Development. Ms. Linkevich reported on the following: a borough Facebook page; the borough website, tamaquaborough.com, is more or less complete and went live today; she is working with Christine Zamudio, Manager Steigerwalt's Secretary, regarding the rehabilitation loan program; a reorganization meeting of the Citizen's Advisory Committee; she is working with Karen Parish, the CDBG consultant for Schuylkill County; working on special projects with PPL and the Pennsylvania Game Commission; the Tamaqua Community Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ) and a media event; and she is looking into grant opportunities.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to authorize the Civil Service Commission to conduct a test and compile a list for the hiring of police officers. 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.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 241 Clay Street. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Lasky, seconded by Evans, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 325 North Columbia Street. Councilman Evans commended Christine Zamudio for doing a great job administratively with the handicapped parking applications and process. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Lasky, seconded by Evans, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, Councilman Evans discussed vehicle parking issues in the area of the South Ward Fire Company. Council recognized South Ward Fire Chief Mark Bower who expressed his concerns about the following: difficulties getting a fire truck

down the street; additional traffic in the area due to Lehigh Carbon Community College; and a request to remove parking on the west side of Oak Street. There was much discussion about this matter.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a motion was made by Cara and seconded by Gursky to advertise an ordinance for No Parking on the west side of Oak Street between Spruce and Van Gelder streets. Council recognized Tom Schlorf of 23 Orwigsburg Street who asked why an ordinance is needed and tow away zone should be added to the request. Solicitor Greek stated that it assists with enforcement issues. After some discussion, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to advertise an ordinance for No Parking Tow Away Zone on the west side Oak Street between Spruce and Van Gelder streets. 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 Gursky, and unanimously approved.

Chairman Mace of the Recreation and Youth Committee reported that the H.D. Buehler Memorial Pool would be closing on August 28, 2016. Chairman Mace stated that there is not adequate staff to have the pool open for the Labor Day weekend.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, Councilman Gursky stated that on the bill list there is a bill for the purchase of two Authorized Vehicles Only signs to be placed at the entrance of the Owl Creek Dams. The request for the signs was made by the Owl Creek Reservoir Commission. There was some discussion about what is an authorized vehicle.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to purchase ten Eagle CK Mechanism meters at a cost not to exceed \$176.00 per meter from Duncan Parking Technologies, Inc. of Milwaukee, WI to be installed on Berwick Street. There was some discussion about the following: meter rates would be the same as those purchased under the Community Development Block Grant program; the meters would be purchased with funds designated from the General Fund; planning for future purchases of meters; and meter revenue monitoring. 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.

Councilman Evans gave an update on the streetlight conversion proposal as follows: a feasibility study by Entech Engineering Inc. of Reading, PA; PPL requires \$47,800.00 by October 31, 2016 for the estimated cost of inspecting the system; the borough needs to do more due diligence quickly regarding the cost savings, purchase and funding.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, Councilman Cara discussed the following: preparation of a budget for 2017; his revenue plan; and to consider budgeting an appropriation for a senior citizens club by reallocating funds from another appropriation. There was some discussion about this matter.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

John Sienkiewicz commented about the vehicle parking issues and no parking request.

Joseph Orlik of 227 Penn Street read his communication that was sent to council in July. Mr. Orlik stated that they have difficulty entering and exiting their garage on Race Street, which is at the rear of their property on Penn Street. Mr. Orlik is requesting a one car length No Parking yellow line opposite their garage. Mr. Orlik stated that the situation is getting worse. Councilman Bowman stated that the matter was referred to the Parking and Traffic Committee at the July 19, 2016 council meeting.

Evelyn Curvey of 118 Clay Street expressed her concerns and dislike regarding the placement and/or storage of the recyclable bins. There was some discussion about this matter.

Mrs. Curvey also suggested that the police should wear shorts during this period of hot weather.

Roseann M. Weinrich, Tamaqua Area High School Educator and Supurban 5K Race Director, requested permission to hold the Second Annual Supurban 5K Race on Broad Street in the Tamaqua Borough on October 8, 2016. The race would begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at approximately 10:00 a.m. The 5K run is being held in honor of Thelma Urban, a Tamaqua Area High School Language Arts teacher, who passed away last year. Ms. Weinrich is asking for assistance from the Police Department and the Fire Police to help the Race Committee address safety concerns and to plan a route for redirected traffic. A recommendation was made to approve the request for assistance from the Police Department and to authorize the use of the Fire Police. 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.

Mark Bower of 213 Spruce Street expressed his concerns about people going into his yard and through his garbage bags on garbage night.

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 Cara, seconded by Gursky, and unanimously approved.

Under Unfinished Business, a recommendation was made not to fix the Tamaqua Fire Department Chief's vehicle, which is a 1997 Jeep, because the cost to repair the vehicle would be \$1,100.00. 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. There was some discussion about a replacement vehicle for the Fire Department and removing the equipment from the Fire Department Chief's vehicle.

A motion was made by Gursky and seconded by Cara to pay all properly approved bills and claims against the borough. After some discussion about the payment of an invoice from Entech Engineering Inc., the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to pay all properly approved bills and claims against the borough with the exception of voucher number 32935 payable to Entech Engineering Inc. in the amount of \$2,313.75. 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, Councilman Cara stated that there is an asthma registry for people to receive notifications.

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 Gursky, seconded by Evans, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 8:55 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 10:05 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 10:05 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Lasky, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer