

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of August on Tuesday, August 19, 2014 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, Micah Gursky, Kerry Lasky, and David Mace. Absent were Councilmembers R. Daniel Evans and Justin Startzel. Officials present were Mayor Christian Morrison, Corporal Dwayne Hacker, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Solicitor Michael S. Greek, and Assistant Borough Secretary/Treasurer Amy Macalush.

The meeting was called to order by President Gursky. The invocation was given by Councilman Cara followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Mace. Prior to the invocation, Councilman Cara requested a moment of silence in memory of Allen Breiner, a long-time borough worker who recently passed away. The roll was called with five council members present and two absent.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on July 15, 2014 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Mace, seconded by Connely, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from the Citizens Fire Co. #1 Event Committee requesting permission to close Hegarty Avenue on Saturday September 20 from 8:00 a.m. until midnight for their 1st Annual Pig Roast and Corn-hole Tournament. 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 Mace, seconded by Connely, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from William McMullen, project manager of ARRO Consulting Inc., regarding the next step for formal adoption of the Eastern Schuylkill Regional Planning Zoning Ordinance, Zoning Map Revisions and Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance Revisions. The letter states that on August 29, 2014 the ordinances will be forwarded to the Schuylkill County Planning Commission for a forty-five day review. After this review, a joint public hearing and adoption meeting will be scheduled.

Communication was received from A. E. Rodrigue on behalf of the Tamaqua Planning Commission in regards to the above-referenced letter received from ARRO Consulting Inc. The Planning Commission is respectfully requesting Council to notify ARRO that a 4-6 week delay is required in order for the Planning Commission to complete their recommendations and for Council to review them prior to submission to ESRP. There was some discussion regarding the delay and the ability to make modifications after submission.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that soon the Borough would be advertising for bids for a demolition program with concentration being on the top five properties which were previously shared with Council. Steigerwalt mentioned he is also working on the annual renewal of the property, liability and workers compensation insurance policies. Additionally, Manager Steigerwalt stated he is working with Solicitor Greek on the new Defined Contribution Pension Plan Ordinance. Solicitor Greek commented that he is about halfway done, stating that it has been difficult to plug in the recommendations without creating a new ordinance. Manager Steigerwalt said he would be able to offer assistance with the ordinance.

Manager Steigerwalt mentioned that there was one response received for each of the four job vacancies posted in-house and discussed at last meeting; Street Maintenance Work Leader, Street Sweeper Operator, Water Distribution Work Leader and Water Distribution Worker. Steigerwalt also mentioned that applications are being reviewed for two additional vacancies that were previously posted and advertised, and a list will be provided for consideration by Council.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to grant the placement of two One-Hour Parking Only from 7:00 a.m. – to 3:00 p.m. signs outside of the Stadium Hill Café located at 417

Spruce Street. Council recognized Kathy Kunkel of 420 Spruce Street, who asked where the signs would be posted. Councilman Cara stated that the signs would be placed in front of the Stadium Hill Café. There was some discussion as to when the signs would be posted. 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 Mace, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for Gary Trevorah of 316 N. Columbia 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 Mace, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to remove handicapped parking signs at 252 Clay Street and 36 Market 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 Mace, and unanimously approved.

Under Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a motion was made to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness to enclose an existing rear porch at 253 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 Connely, seconded by Mace, and unanimously approved.

Under Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a motion was made to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness to construct a detached residential garage at 330 Arlington Street. 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 Mace, and unanimously approved.

Under Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a motion was made to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness to remove a three foot high retaining wall, install a ground level entrance, and remove and replace sidewalks at 420 - 422 Hazle Street. 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 Mace, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee Report, Councilman Mace thanked the following volunteers for their participation and effort in the River Walk cleanup; Stacey Faust, Payton Faust, Emily Zancofsky, Tamaqua High School Students and members of Zion Church. Mayor Morrison also thanked the Borough Manager and workers for their cooperation as well.

Mayor Morrison reported that a pension meeting was held last Thursday for police and non-uniform employees, and that additional information is forthcoming. Mayor Morrison stated that, for the most part, the police and non-uniform earnings for the year are on target, with the police plan being slightly more aggressive. Mayor Morrison also mentioned that the new Defined Contribution Pension Plan Ordinance needs to be completed. Manager Steigerwalt stated that there are some particulars that need to be worked out, and he is currently working with Solicitor Greek to get the new ordinance completed.

Mayor Morrison discussed the new digital radio system for the police. He mentioned that options were explored as far as different providers; however, the problem is getting the frequencies from the County. A Motorola dealer is the only provider in the County with frequencies, but the estimate is high. Kenwood is about half the cost, but with no frequencies from the County. Mayor Morrison stated the issue is with security, even though these radios are for police activity. There was some discussion regarding the frequencies, digital versus narrowband and different brand radios. Councilman Gursky thanked Mayor Morrison and Solicitor Greek for

continuing to pursue the issue. Solicitor Greek stated he would forward an updated letter to the Schuylkill County Commissioner's Office.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Council recognized Tony Prudenti of 167 Archery Club Road. Tony thanked Council for everything they did for the Stadium Hill Café. Mr. Prudenti, a member of the West Penn Zoning Hearing Board, stated there is grant money available for the purchase of police radios. Councilman Gursky asked that Tony provide him or Manager Steigerwalt with any information he has regarding the grants for police radios.

Council recognized Harold Kunkel of 420 Spruce Street. Mr. Kunkel asked for an update on a letter from homeowners on the 400 block of Spruce Street, which was presented at the Parking and Traffic Committee meeting in March regarding the parking situation on Race Street at the rear of their homes. Mr. Kunkel stated the street is heavily parked on, predominantly during school hours and events, making it difficult to move their vehicles parked in their driveways. Mr. Kunkel also expressed concern in the event of an emergency, stating that emergency vehicles would have difficulty getting through since the street is very narrow. With school going back in session soon, Mr. Kunkel asked if there would be any relief. Councilman Mace stated that Parking and Traffic Committee members did meet with school administrators to determine if all available parking spaces were being utilized to the fullest extent. Councilman Mace stated that based on the response they received from school administrators, the Parking and Traffic Committee feels that the parking spaces are being used properly, noting that although all parking spaces are assigned, they are not all utilized at the same time. Councilman Mace stated that, for now, there is no change but hopes that the students will become more aware of the situation and will be more courteous to the neighbors. Kathy Kunkel, also of 420 Spruce Street, asked Council if they are to call police when a parking issue arises. Mrs. Kunkel commended the Police Department, but stated that a ticket issued to the student would not resolve the issue. Councilman Gursky recommended they call 911 and state non-emergency. Mrs. Kunkel also expressed concern over the loss of parking behind their homes and also in front of their homes, noting that two parking spaces were just taken away and granted to Stadium Hill Café, a neighboring business. Mayor Morrison agreed with the Kunkels that there is an issue with school parking and it is an issue for all the neighbors. Mayor Morrison feels the allocated parking spaces are not being used properly and stated that the school district needs to be forced to do things differently.

Council recognized Tony Rodrique of 28 South Railroad Street, who expressed concern with the Wabash Creek. Mr. Rodrique stated he had contacted Tamaqua Police twice to report kids throwing boulders, boards and stones into the Wabash Creek. Mr. Rodrique's concern is that the creek will become blocked, causing flooding on Broad Street. Additionally, Mr. Rodrique reported that residents on Hunter and Cherry Streets are dumping coal ash over the guardrail behind the Library. Mr. Rodrique's fear is that the coal ash will kill the trees which are holding the bank in place.

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 Connely, seconded by Mace, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to pay all properly approved bills and claims against the borough, with the exception of a bill related to unemployment compensation, which would be discussed during an executive session. 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.

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 Connely, seconded by Mace, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 7:50 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:50 p.m.

President Gursky stated that an executive session was held to discuss personnel matters.

A recommendation was made to promote Michelle Barron to Utility Clerk 2, effective September 30, at a rate of \$16.00 per hour. 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 Mace, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to approve the transfer of Matthew Mateyak to the Street Maintenance Work Leader position, Jay Stidham to the Water Distribution Work Leader position, Frank Morris to the Water Distribution Worker position, and Steve Naylor to the Street Maintenance/Sweeper Operator position. 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 Mace, and unanimously approved. Councilman Connely stated the vacancies were filled within the parameters of the Union to bid into these classifications.

A recommendation was made to post job vacancies for two street workers and one water distribution worker. 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 Mace, and unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m. on motion of Mace, seconded by Connely, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Amy Macalush, Assistant Borough Secretary/Treasurer