

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of August on Tuesday, August 21, 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, Brian Connely, R. Daniel Evans, 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 Evans. The roll was called with all councilmembers present.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on August 7, 2018 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.

Communication was received from Jordan Fegley stating that he is resigning from his current position at the Borough of Tamaqua and his last day of work will be on August 24, 2018. Mr. Fegley stated that he would be using his accumulated vacation, sick and compensation time making his last day of employment on or about October 19, 2018. A recommendation was made to accept the resignation of Jordan Fegley. 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.

Communication was received from Brian Connely stating that he is resigning from the Tamaqua CRIZ Authority. A recommendation was made to accept the resignation of Brian Connely. 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.

Council recognized Pete Trudich of Owl Creek Road who expressed his concerns about the following: weeds that are not being cut along the road; police protection in Owl Creek in the evenings; and speeding issues. There was some discussion about these matters.

President Mace stated that there is now a vacancy on the Tamaqua CRIZ Authority. A recommendation was made to appoint R. Daniel Evans to serve on the Tamaqua CRIZ 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the West Broad Street Wabash Creek Bridge Project as follows: the road opening scheduled for August 19<sup>th</sup> was delayed due to weather and the road would now open on August 24<sup>th</sup>; traffic patterns would return to normal sometime Thursday evening; work would still be going on; the traffic signal arrangement at Spruce and Hunter streets will become permanent; he would be having a discussion with PennDOT representatives regarding the placement of one of the poles at Spruce and Hunter streets and would advise council; and the redesign of a handicapped ramp in front of the former Tire Pros Building.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the borough road improvements utilizing the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program as recommended by the project engineer,

Alfred Benesch and Company. A recommendation was made to approve the borough road paving and restoration improvements utilizing the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program as recommended by Alfred Benesch and Company as follows: Swatara Street from Broad Street to Jerome Street; Lafayette Street from Swatara Street to Pitt Street; Jerome Street from Swatara to Pitt Street; and 12 ADA ramps. There was some discussion about keeping a close watch on the contractor as they are known for adding extras. Manager Steigerwalt stated that some of the line items in the contract can be done in-house. Council recognized Kathy Kunkel of The Times News newspaper who asked who is the contractor. Manager Steigerwalt stated that the contractor is M and J Excavation, Inc. of Bloomsburg, PA. 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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that he had a resolution modifying the CDBG Program for fiscal years 2015 and 2017 to present for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-9**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE**  
**BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, MODIFYING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**  
**BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEARS 2015 AND 2017.**

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

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: the part-time seasonal general maintenance workers finished working last week; the pool would be closing on Sunday; and the documents were received for the lease/purchase of a 2019 Ford Explorer Police SUV with a term of three years, a down payment of \$4,000.00 and annual payment of approximately \$16,398.00.

Manager Steigerwalt requested an executive session prior to adjournment to discuss real estate matters.

Director of Community Development Calabrese reported on a new agreement with Schuylkill County for the CDBG Program that replaces the current agreement. A recommendation was made to adopt an agreement with Schuylkill County for the CDBG Program. 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 Evans, and unanimously approved.

Director of Community Development Calabrese also reported on the following: an update on the borough website and Facebook page; the borough office is a drop off location for items being collected for residents of Port Carbon; Kyle Whitley assisted with the CRIZ program; and an updated spreadsheet for the rehabilitation loans. There was some discussion about the Sidewalk Program.

Chief Woods reported on the following: Officers Rodgers, DeAngelo and Sborz would be attending a Live Fire Exercise on August 29<sup>th</sup>; Officer Rodgers would be attending an Interview and Interrogation Class from October 22<sup>nd</sup> to October 24<sup>th</sup>; and Officer Rodgers would be attending a Glock Armorer's Training Course on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Connely of the Public Safety Committee requested an executive session prior to adjournment to discuss personnel matters.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a motion was made by Linkhorst and seconded by Cara to move a handicapped parking sign from 155 Orwigsburg Street to 426 Rolling Mill Avenue. After some discussion, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to move a handicapped parking sign from 155 Orwigsburg Street to 426 Rolling Mill Avenue contingent upon the verification that the move was made by the residents. 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 Evans of the Street Light Committee discussed the sample LED light fixtures manufactured by Current by GE and Acuity Brands AEL Autobahn Series that were installed in the 500 and 600 blocks of Arlington Street. Chairman Evans is recommending the purchase of LED street light fixtures manufactured by Current by GE. Manager Steigerwalt stated that he has a tentative approval from PennDOT and an auditor in Harrisburg to use Liquid Fuels funds for the project. There was some discussion about these matters. A recommendation was made to purchase LED light fixtures manufactured by Current by GE for the Street Light Replacement Project. 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 approved by a 6-1 vote with Councilman Mace opposed.

Mayor Gerace reported on the following: the Police Department is doing well; he thanked the sponsors of the Coffee with a Cop event; and another Coffee with a Cop event may be held in the future. Mayor Gerace asked council to consider purchasing benches to be placed at the Tamaqua High Rise and the Majestic House.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Jeff Knadler and Maggie Knadler of 219 Washington Street expressed their concerns about a property at 217 Washington Street as follows: the owner of the house lives in another property nearby and visits this house at all different hours; the house is filled with cages and terrariums filled with snakes; there are several cats and other animals living there; the area is infested with fleas; the house is harboring fleas; a fan in the upstairs window is moving the fleas to their property and the other adjoining properties; they are getting bit from the fleas; they had to pay Seitz Exterminating to come in to treat their property for fleas coming from their neighbor's property; Seitz contacted the borough about the fleas; urine and feces smells are also coming from the house; they want to have the house checked by code enforcement as the house is a safety issue; firemen would not know what they are going into; and if the borough has any laws limiting the number of pets in a home. There was much discussion about this matter.

Mr. Knadler also discussed a handicapped sign at 215 Washington Street and cars parking on an angle. Councilman Linkhorst would look into the matter.

Amanda Kerr of 223 Washington Street stated that she read the Pennsylvania Game Commission codes. She expressed her concerns about the property at 217 Washington Street and if the owner is selling exotic animals.

Joseph Salla of 204 Owl Creek Road stated that during a snowstorm this winter, the driver of the plow truck was courteous by changing the plow angle in the area of his mom's house.

Mr. Salla stated that he is looking into purchasing an "Owl Creek Welcomes You" sign to be placed at the beginning of Owl Creek. He wants to obtain the funding for it. Bartush Sign

Company is designing the sign. Mr. Salla is requesting the use of the borough's backhoe, dump truck and labor for its installation.

Mr. Salla expressed his concerns about the following: who is responsible for maintaining the trails; and people are using utility poles to post their signs.

Mr. Salla also requested that the stones at the entrance to Owl Creek be pressure washed. Councilwoman Linkevich advised Mr. Salla that Councilman Cara has been working on welcome signs for the borough. She recommended that Mr. Salla talk to him first about a welcome sign for Owl Creek.

Mr. Salla also expressed his concerns about the following: motorcycles, trucks and Tamaqua Transfer using Owl Creek Road; speeding; an obscene symbol on a sign; and a supervisor at the Waste Water Treatment Plant that refused to cut weeds at Pump Station 1. There was some discussion about these matters.

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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under Unfinished Business, Councilman Evans commented on a response by Solicitor Greek, who was instructed to prepare a notice to the company responsible for the manufacturing defect of the gaskets on the sluice gates at the Upper and Lower Owl Creek Dam. Solicitor Greek's response stated that the location for Coldwell-Wilcox Technologies, LLC, has been closed and he believes is no longer in business.

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, a recommendation was made to collect electronics for recycling with details to be determined at a future date and posted on the borough website and at the borough hall. Council recognized Kathy Kunkel who asked if a motion is needed if the program is not yet in place. Council recognized Tom Hartz of Tamaqua who stated that the individual who would be starting the electronics recycling program in Tamaqua is already telling people to drop off the electronics behind the borough garage. There was some discussion about this matter. 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, Councilman Evans requested that the Parking and Traffic Committee or the Public Safety Committee look into a missing No Parking sign or zone in the 500 block of Arlington Street and the public safety issue it creates. There was some discussion about enforcement issues. Council recognized former Fire Chief Hartz who stated that a list of troublesome intersections had been prepared for council to review.

A recommendation was made to hold an executive session to discuss real estate and 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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 8:31 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 9:04 p.m.

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

A recommendation was made to hire Aaron Koehler as a 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 Connely, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to hire Jeff Wainwright as a part-time Police Officer, effective immediately. There was some discussion about his previously served time and that he does not qualify for the hourly rate increase. Council recognized Tom Hartz who expressed his concerns about the hiring of this officer as follows: the officer was squeezed out the last time he was employed; the officer was left off the schedule; and he did not approve of the hiring. There was no one else from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Connely, seconded by Cara, and approved by a 6-1 vote with Councilman Bowman opposed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:09 p.m. on motion of Connely, seconded by Bowman, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

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Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer