

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of September on Tuesday, September 16, 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, R. Daniel Evans, Micah Gursky, David Mace and Justin Startzel. Absent was Councilwoman Kerry Lasky. Officials present were Mayor Christian Morrison, Chief of Police Richard Weaver, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Solicitor Michael S. Greek and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire.

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 Connely. The roll was called with six councilmembers present and one absent.

President Gursky announced that an executive session was held for personnel matters on August 23, 2014.

The reading of the minutes of the last Regular Council Meeting held on August 19, 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 Jeanette Major, Ashly McArdle, Jennifer Miller and Richard Bachman stating that an all-day Memorial Bike Run event would be held for Zachary Hess at Freddy's Pub located at 16 Mauch Chunk Street on October 4, 2014. The communication requested that both sides of Mauch Chunk Street be available for bike parking on the day of the event. 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 Startzel, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Rachael Paisley who is an Ambassador Girl Scout in Tamaqua. Ms. Paisley is working with Girl Scout leaders to hold the Pink Light Walk event to raise awareness of breast cancer and to show support for survivors. The event would be held on October 4, 2014 beginning at 5 p.m. The walk would begin at the Bungalow Pavilion to West Broad Street by Odd Fellows Cemetery and then walking down West Broad Street to Depot Square Park. Ms. Paisley is requesting permission to hold the event similar to last year as a mini-parade procession. 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 Startzel, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from The Tamaqua Salvation Army thanking councilmembers and borough employees for supporting and helping to make their first Kidz Karnival event a success for the whole community.

Communication was received from Brian Keich, president of the Tamaqua Lions Club, stating that the Annual Tamaqua Halloween Parade is planned for October 28, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., with a rain date of October 29, 2014. The communication requested permission to prohibit parking along the new parade route and assistance from the Tamaqua Police Department and the Fire Police. The parade will assemble on East Broad Street, in the vicinity of the former Maff Motors, and proceed west on Broad Street, and due to the bridge construction, the parade would turn north on Greenwood Street, west on Mauch Chunk Street, south on Pine Street and west on Broad Street, where the same route as previous years would be followed. The communication also requested that

East End Avenue be made a one-way going west from Laurel to Columbia streets so that traffic is going in one direction for drop off of the Tamaqua Band and Soccer teams at the M&M Storage Lot. A recommendation was made to grant the requests. Council recognized Herbert Curvey of 118 Clay Street who recommended that a letter be sent to Bobbi Johnson at 534 East Union Street. There was no one else from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Mace, seconded by Startzel, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Secretary/Treasurer DeWire informing borough council that the MMO for the Police Employees Pension Plan is \$263,935, the MMO for the Non-Uniformed Employees Pension Plan is \$53,117, and the MMO for the Non-Uniformed Defined Contribution Component Plan is \$14,000. Secretary/Treasurer DeWire stated that the borough would require state aid and /or borough contributions in the year 2015 to meet the funding requirements for any or all pension plan(s). Secretary/Treasurer DeWire stated that if General Municipal Pension System State Aid monies were not available, the borough contributions in the year 2015 to meet the funding requirements for all pension plans would be approximately \$331,052. There was some discussion about this matter.

A recommendation was made to approve the certification for the Police Employees Pension Plan calculating the 2015 MMO as \$263,935, to approve the certification for the Non-Uniformed Employees Pension Plan calculating the 2015 MMO as \$53,117, and to approve the certification of the Non-Uniformed Defined Contribution Component Plan as \$14,000. 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 Evans, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Roseann Weinrich of the Tamaqua Area High School stating that on behalf of the class of 2015, she is requesting permission to hold their annual whitewash of Stadium Hill on September 29, 2014 from 3:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m., with a raindate of October 6th. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Startzel, seconded by Mace, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Rosemary Gibas of 309 West Rowe Street requesting a water line easement to be connected from the Swatara Street Parking Lot to her house. A recommendation was made to grant the request. 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 Connely, seconded by Startzel, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Schuylkill County Board of Commissioners, Frank J. Staudenmeier, George F. Halcovage Jr. and Gary J. Hess, stating that the second annual Schuylkill County Youth Summit was held on March 20, 2014 at the Schuylkill County Court House. That day the students discussed three top issues of concern: Quality of Life, Public Safety and Job Opportunities. The communication also stated that three Town Hall Meetings would be held at three different locations, Sweet Arrow Lake County Park, Schuylkill Mall and the Tamaqua Area High School and extended an invitation to the Tamaqua Borough to attend a Town Hall meeting at the Tamaqua Area High School Auditorium on October 29, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Communication was received from A.E. Rodrigue, II, Chairman of the Tamaqua Planning Commission stating that the commission has completed the review of the SALDO and Joint Zoning Ordinances and offered the attached document as their comments and opinions.

President Gursky turned the meeting over to Councilman Startzel. Councilman Startzel presented Certificates of Appreciation to Schuylkill County District Attorney Christine Holman and Police Chief Rick Weaver and the Tamaqua Police Department for their work in one of the largest drug busts in Tamaqua earlier this year.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the 2014 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application as follows: the CDBG allocation for 2014 is \$106,521; the due date for applications is January 3, 2015; the first CDBG public hearing was already held; and a second CDBG public hearing needs to be advertised. President Gursky stated that the second CDBG public hearing should be held on October 21, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

Under the Borough Manager's report, a recommendation was made to advertise for bids for the demolition of properties at 252 Cottage Avenue, 67 Hunter Street and 301 Pitt Street. 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 Mace, seconded by Connely, and unanimously approved.

President Gursky advised residents of a Judicial Sale to be held by the Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau that includes eleven properties in Tamaqua. The properties listed on the judicial sale are as follows: 104 Pitt Street; 335 Rowe Street; 421 West Broad Street; 13 Market Street; 310 East Broad Street; 256 Cottage Avenue; 266 Van Gelder Street; 214 Race Street; 160 West Spruce Street; 63 ½ Bowe Street; and 750 East Broad Street.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the 2014 insurance policy renewal. Manager Steigerwalt stated that he is waiting for quotes and the policy renews on October 1, 2014. A recommendation was made to refer the insurance policy renewal to the Borough Manager and the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee to review and execute. 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 Startzel, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the 2014 Schuylkill County Fall Cleanup and Recycling Event and the 2014 Schuylkill County Household Hazardous Waste Event.

Under the Borough Manager's report, a recommendation was made to approve the permanent transfers 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 effective September 19, 2014 provided that no issues arise and pending approval by the Borough Manager. 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 Borough Manager's report, a recommendation was made to retain Jarrad J. Bernitsky as a full-time Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, effective October 9, 2014 pending approval of the Borough Manager. 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 Borough Manager's report, a recommendation was made to hire Justin C. McCarroll as a full-time Street Worker/Assistant Mechanic at a pay rate of \$20.03 per hour. 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.

Manager Steigerwalt stated that there were no in-house applicants interested in applying for the vacant positions of Street Maintenance Worker and Water Distribution Worker. There was some discussion about this matter.

Chief Weaver stated that there are nine police officers collecting a pension.

Chief Weaver reported that a Police Awards Presentation Ceremony was held at the Tamaqua Community Arts Center on September 20, 2014 at 6 p.m.

Chairman Connely of the Public Safety Committee reported on a quote for new mobile and portable radios for the Police Department that was received from Green's Communications of Pottsville, PA. There was much discussion about the following: not prepared to approve the quote until more information is received and clarified; Motorola program only has over the air programming; an October deadline; reviews by other County Communications Directors; having Solicitor Greek send letters to the County Commissioners and Director of the 9-1-1 Communication Center for clarification on the status of over the air programming; cost difference; and financing package issues. A recommendation was made to purchase two Motorola mobile two-way radios and six Motorola portable two-way radios at a total cost of \$33,735.00. There was much discussion about this matter. Council recognized Andy Leibenguth of 429 Rear Mauch Chunk Street who asked what the total cost was. There was no one else from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Startzel, seconded by Mace, and approved by a 5-1 vote with Councilman Connely opposed. There was more discussion about financing packages, finance rates, and funding from the Equipment Fund.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a motion was made by Startzel, and seconded by Mace, to advertise for bids for the sale of 311 Orwigsburg Street. There some discussion about the following: the property had already been advertised twice before; the length of time between the second advertisement; negotiating the sale of the property; and adding to the motion to advertise for sealed bids for the property. After the discussion, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to advertise for sealed bids for the sale of 311 Orwigsburg Street. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Startzel, seconded by Mace, and unanimously approved.

Chairman Startzel of the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee reported that he had three resolutions to present revising the 2009, 2010 and 2011 Community Development Block Grant Program. The following resolutions were presented for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2014-12
BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA
REVISING ITS 2009 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
ENTITLEMENT PROGRAM**

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 Startzel, seconded by Mace, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2014-13
BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA
REVISING ITS 2010 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
ENTITLEMENT PROGRAM**

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 Startzel, seconded by Mace, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2014-14
BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA
REVISING ITS 2011 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
ENTITLEMENT PROGRAM**

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 Startzel, seconded by Mace, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Chairman Mace of the Recreation and Youth Committee reported on the Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission and that the commission received a notice of resignation from Jason Boris. Mr. Boris was employed for 14 years as the Executive Director and was instrumental in securing grant funding for all municipalities and the school district. Chairman Mace thanked Mr. Boris for his years of service and stated that he will be missed. The Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission would be advertising to fill the Executive Director position. Councilman Startzel recommended sending Mr. Boris a letter of thanks and appreciation for his years of service.

Mayor Morrison announced that Halloween Trick or Treat Night would be held on October 31, 2014.

Mayor Morrison reported that the Schuylkill County Boroughs' Association held its fall dinner on September 18, 2014 at the Trinity Church in Tamaqua.

Mayor Morrison presented Certificates of Appreciation, from the Tamaqua Safety Initiative, to Herb Curvey for the Tamaqua Fire Police for their support and participation in the Tamaqua National Night Out Event.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Bobbi Johnson of 534 East Union Street stated that her parents who live at 321 North Columbia Street are experiencing issues with a neighbor who lives at 319 North Columbia Street. Ms. Johnson expressed her concerns about her parents' neighbor and the police department.

Yolanda Dopatricinio of 116 Clay Street expressed her concerns about the police department and if the borough had an ordinance in place for repeat offenses by renters if police are called to a property.

Jamie Miller of 326 North Columbia also expressed her concerns about neighborhood problems.

Andy Leibenguth of 429 Rear Mauch Chunk Street also expressed his concerns about these matters.

There was much discussion about these matters with various audience members participating in the discussion.

William Vakula of 319 Pine Street expressed his concerns about the approval of a handicapped application and space for a resident of 316 Columbia Street as follows: why was the sign placed at 318 Columbia Street; people in the spot do not have a handicapped plate or placard and is not in accordance with the handicapped policy; Section F Standards of Handicapped Policy says that if off street parking is available a handicapped space should not be granted and these people have their own garage; if someone parks at the handicapped space and falls on his pavement, he is liable and he will be talking to his lawyer and insurance carrier regarding this liability matter.

Jamie Kunkle of 318 Columbia Street expressed her concerns about the handicapped parking space for her neighbors who live at 316 Columbia and that their car is not parked in the handicapped space but in their garage.

Chairman Evans of the Parking and Traffic Committee responded to the matter as follows: the handicapped application for 316 Columbia Street was received in May; the application was reviewed; he did several drive bys of the neighborhood; the application was complete; and a recommendation was made to approve the handicapped application. President Gursky provided some answers to Mr. Vakula's questions as follows: the applicant lives on a corner and there is a law that a vehicle must park a certain distance from a corner; if a violation occurs the police should be contacted; the committee must review Section F of the policy; and the area is public parking and a public right of way. There was much discussion about this matter. President Gursky stated that the committee should review the Handicapped Parking Policy.

Herbert Curvey of 118 Clay Street asked when the borough would be fixing Swatara Street between West Broad and Rowe Streets. Manager Steigerwalt stated that it is on the schedule to be fixed.

Kathy Kunkel of 420 Spruce Street asked what the Parking and Traffic Committee is planning to do regarding the parking concerns and issues on Race Street. There was much discussion about the following: the street is heavily parked on, predominantly during school hours and events, making it difficult for residents to move their vehicles parked in their driveways; off street parking issues; she has issues getting out of her off street parking because of a No Parking Between Signs sign that was placed on the street years ago.

A motion was made by Connely, and seconded by Startzel, to prohibit parking at any time on either side of Race Street from Coal Street to Lehigh Street. After some discussion, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to advertise an ordinance prohibiting parking on either side of Race Street from Coal Street to Lehigh Street. Council recognized Andy Leibenguth who asked about an effective date. The ordinance must be advertised before adoption. 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 Startzel, and unanimously approved.

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

Solicitor Greek reported that he has litigation matters to discuss later.

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 Mace, seconded by Startzel, and unanimously approved.

Under Unfinished Business, Councilman Startzel recommended setting up a meeting to discuss the snow removal policy. President Gursky created a Special Committee to address this matter. The Special Committee members are Councilmembers Startzel, Evans and Mace, and the committee would also meet with Borough Manager Steigerwalt and Public Works Director Jones.

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 Startzel, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to hold an executive session to discuss personnel matters and litigation issues. 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 Evans, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 8:50 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 9:30 p.m.

A recommendation was made to increase the hourly rate of Michelle Barron to \$17.00 per hour as she moves from Billing and Utility Clerk to Donna White's job which would take effect October 1, 2014. 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.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:32 p.m. on motion of Mace, seconded by Connely, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer