

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of October on Tuesday, October 2, 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, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire and Director of Community Development Ann Marie Calabrese. Absent was Solicitor Michael S. Greek.

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 September 18, 2018 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Connely, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Stephen Ulicny, Tamaqua Area Student Government Association (TASGA) Advisor, stating that the Tamaqua High School Homecoming Committee and TASGA are requesting to have a parade through the South Ward section of the borough in honor of the 2018 Tamaqua Area Homecoming Celebration on October 5, 2018 beginning at 6:00 p.m. In case of rain, the parade would be held at the same time whenever the football game would be made-up. The parade route is as follows: begins at Lehigh Carbon Community College (LCCC) on High Street to Swatara Street to Oak Street to Spruce Street to Coal Street to Penn Street to Lehigh Street to 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 Bowman, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Dale Freudenberger, president of the Tamaqua Historical Society, stating that the 34th Annual Tamaqua Heritage Festival would be held on October 14, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The communication is requesting permission for the following: the Borough and Police Department's help with street closure and postings; a list of streets that should be posted No Parking on Sunday; a list of streets that would be closed to all traffic; barricades for various street intersections; and the use of a borough dump truck and wooden stairs to load trash. The Tamaqua Historical Society would pay for the tipping fee at the Tamaqua Transfer Station. A recommendation was made to grant the requests. 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 Connely, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the 2018-2019 insurance policy renewal with The Seltzer Group. Manager Steigerwalt stated that the total premium increased approximately 2.5% from last renewal. The total premium for the 2018-2019 insurance policy renewal is \$319,372.00. A recommendation was made to approve the borough's 2018-2019 insurance policy renewal in the amount of \$319,372.00. There was some discussion about the experience modification factor. 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.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: the bid opening for the heating oil contract will take place on October 11, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.; the next advertisement would be for a bid opening for Street Materials; he started working on the 2019 budget; a proposed ordinance prohibiting parking between signs on the east side of the 200 block of Washington Street along the stone wall would be presented at the next meeting; an in-house employee transfer from the Street Department to the Water Department was approved at the last meeting and the applicant must complete a 30-day trial period; and the application period for in-house applicants to fill a job vacancy for a Street Maintenance Worker Position in the Street Department ended today and there were no in-house applicants. A recommendation was made to advertise in the newspaper for a full-time Street Maintenance Worker Position in the Street Department. 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 Bowman, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Under the Borough Manager's report, Councilman Evans asked about a letter from Alfred Benesch and Company addressing the noise complaints from local residents when flow overtops the Upper Owl Creek Spillway. The letter provided four options for the borough to consider addressing the acoustic energy as follows: Option 1. Do nothing; Option 2. Lower the reservoir level; Option 3. Increase spillway roughness; and Option 4. Add nappe splitters. There was some discussion about this matter.

Under the Borough Manager's report, Councilman Bowman reported that he drove Owl Creek Road numerous times since the last meeting. The road approaching the Carbon County line is the worst section of the road and needs paving. The road starting at Route 309 to the Carbon County line should be milled and a base put down to repair it, and then oil and chip it. Councilman Bowman stated that the borough needs to give some serious thought to this as Manager Steigerwalt is working on the 2019 budget. He recommended milling the road next year, then oil and chip to seal it in the following year. Councilman Bowman would discuss getting a cost estimate with Public Works Director Jones. There was some discussion about this matter.

Under the Borough Manager's report, President Mace expressed his concerns regarding the railroad crossings at Center Street, West Broad Street and Spruce Street. Manager Steigerwalt stated that he has been in contact with the railroad representative. There was some discussion about this matter.

Director of Community Development Calabrese reported on the following: a second public Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) hearing is scheduled for October 17, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. at the Schuylkill County Courthouse; and she did not receive any comments from councilmembers regarding the draft Sidewalk Repair Loan Program that was distributed to councilmembers at the last meeting. A motion was made by Evans and seconded by Linkevich to approve the updated Sidewalk Repair Loan Program. Councilman Evans stated that the program should be coordinated with code enforcement. Councilman Connely expressed his concerns about loan repayment since there are no stipulations addressing applicant qualifications, obtaining credit reports, income limits, and a committee review. After much discussion, the motion and second were rescinded. A recommendation was made to pass a Sidewalk Repair Loan Program that includes modifications to the program by adding that the applications be reviewed by the Citizen's

Advisory Committee (CAC), the applicant must have up-to-date tax records, the applicant cannot have any unpaid outstanding code violations, all utilities must be paid up-to-date by the applicant, the applicant must provide proof of ownership of the property, the applicant must have an up-to-date homeowner insurance policy and the applicant's mortgage payments must be paid up-to-date. 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.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to deny a handicapped parking space application for 325 Spruce Street since it would exceed the number of handicapped spaces allowed in that block. 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Chairman Evans of the Street Light Committee reported that there was a material change in the proposal for the LED light fixtures manufactured by Current by GE. The borough approved the purchase of LED light fixtures manufactured by Current by GE for the Street Light Replacement Project. GE informed the borough that the price does not include photocells. The borough bid specifications did include photocells. It was noted that GE would honor the price given to us to include photocells. There are differences between the GE and Acuity product brands. The differences are as follows: an eight-year GE warranty versus a ten-year Acuity warranty; a GE delivery timeframe of seven weeks versus an Acuity delivery timeframe of two to three weeks; and the borough employees felt that the Acuity brand was easier to install. There was much discussion about this matter. A recommendation was made to change the manufacturer and approve the purchase of LED street light fixtures manufactured by Acuity Brands AEL Autobahn Series. It was noted that the warranty covers the photocell. Councilwoman Linkevich commended Councilman Evans for doing a great job on the Street Light Replacement Project. 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 Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to purchase a used air cascade system at a cost of \$5,000.00 with funds designated from the Equipment Fund. Chairman Connely discussed the equipment and purchase. 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.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to advertise for the sale of a 1991 model air compressor system located at the aerial building on the Municibid online government auction website and to deposit the funds from the sale into the Equipment Fund. 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.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to purchase four taser guns from Axon Enterprise, Inc. of Scottsdale, Arizona at a cost not to exceed \$7,124.00 from funds designated from the police budget in the General Fund. 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.

Mayor Gerace announced that Trick or Treat night would be held on October 27, 2018 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Mayor Gerace stated that a thank you note was received from the Tamaqua Seniors thanking the borough for the appropriation. Councilman Connely stated that this was a budgeted item.

Mayor Gerace reported that the Civil Service interviews have been completed.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Mark Bower of 213 Spruce Street stated that the Lehigh Carbon Community College Morgan Center Campus does not have trash receptacles at the rear of their property. Mr. Bower expressed his concerns about students littering and disposing of cigarette butts on his property across the street. Manager Steigerwalt would contact administration personnel at LCCC to discuss a resolution to this matter.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:13 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Connely, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer