

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of October on Tuesday, October 3, 2017 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, Micah Gursky, Kerry Lasky and David Mace. Officials present were Mayor Christian Morrison, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, 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 Councilman Evans. The roll was called with all councilmembers present.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on September 19, 2017 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 Dale Freudenberger, president of the Tamaqua Historical Society, stating that the 33rd Annual Tamaqua Heritage Festival would be held on October 8, 2017 from 10 a.m. to 5 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 Connely, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from George Taylor, outreach team of Zion Lutheran Church, requesting permission to close Mauch Chunk Street from Greenwood Street to Market Street on October 29, 2017 from noon to 5 p.m. for a "Trunk or Treat" 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 Lasky, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Shannon Boyer of 19 Archery Lane stating that she is resigning from her position as a Utility Billing Clerk and her last day of employment would be October 13, 2017. A recommendation was made to accept the resignation of Shannon Boyer as Utility Billing Clerk. 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 Connely, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Dale W. Freudenberger, president of the Tamaqua Historical Society, thanking council for approving their Historical Architectural Review Commission application to demolish the blighted single house that stands in front of the 1801 Burkhardt Moser log home at 307 East Broad Street. Mr. Freudenberger is seeking help getting the front house demolished and back filled through the use of the extra county demolition funds. Mr. Freudenberger spoke with Manager Steigerwalt about how the process might work and how the property would be returned to the Historical Society's ownership following the demolition.

Communication was received from Betteann Kopp, practice manager at St. Luke's Internal Medicine, 120 Pine Street, Suite 1, stating that Dr. Calabrese would be holding another Walk with a Doc pink light walk for breast cancer awareness event on October 12, 2017. The communication is requesting the assistance of the Fire Police to assist in the safety of the walkers crossing at the various intersections along the walk route. A recommendation was made to authorize the Fire Police to assist with the Walk with a Doc event. 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.

President Mace announced that the Borough of Tamaqua would be featured on Exploring Pennsylvania Boroughs, which will air this Thursday at 7:30 p.m., on the Pennsylvania Cable Network.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the following: the Wabash Culvert Repair Project; the Center Street Project started today; a pre-construction meeting was held with PPL for the Streetlight Project; a rebate meeting was held with PPL; a bid opening for heating oil would be held on October 12th; received the deed for 252 Cottage Avenue and the property would be included in the county's next round of demolition projects; there is no start date for the demolition of the Penn Street property; a deed for the Pitt Street property would be received in approximately 30 days and then the borough would be the owner; the borough is trying to acquire the property next door to the Pitt Street property.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that he received the articles of incorporation for On The Grind Association, the nonprofit organization interested in renovating, maintaining and managing the Willing Skate Park. Manager Steigerwalt provided them with a Use and Maintenance Agreement to review. Solicitor Greek stated that there are a few more changes he wants to put into the Use and Maintenance Agreement.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that the Building and Equipment Committee would like to relist the used equipment items that were not sold on the Municibid online government auction website. A recommendation was made to relist a vintage Coca-Cola cooler, a commercial refrigerator and a 2004 Dodge Intrepid Police car on the Municibid online government auction website. Council recognized Charlotte Miller of 400 Pine Street, Apartment 1, who asked what happens if the original bidder bids again. Manager Steigerwalt explained the bidding process. 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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the 2017 Community Development Block Grant application and deadline.

Under the Building and Equipment Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a one-time municipal contribution in the amount of \$5,000.00 to the Schuylkill County Firefighters' Association Burn Building Capital Campaign. 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 Gursky, and unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a recommendation was made to increase the Tamaqua Public Library appropriation from \$5,000.00 to \$6,000.00. There was some discussion about this matter. Council recognized Eric Knadler, a member of the Tamaqua Public Library Board of Directors, who thanked council for the increase to the appropriation. 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 Connely, and unanimously approved.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Michael Weaver as a part-time police officer. Mayor Morrison noted that there is no relation to Chief Weaver. 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 Recreation and Youth Committee report, Councilman Evans stated that Solicitor Greek needs to be updated as to the equipment being used for the skate park.

Mayor Morrison announced that Trick or Treat night would be held on October 31, 2017 from 6-8 p.m. and there is no rain date.

Mayor Morrison reported that the Schuylkill County Boroughs' Association would be holding its fall dinner on October 19, 2017 at the Trinity Church's Founder's Hall in Tamaqua.

Mayor Morrison read a letter from Anthony Andrews of 240 West Broad Street who complained about parking meter issues. There was some discussion about this matter.

Mayor Morrison stated that it is budget season. He expressed his concerns about last year's shortfall and that pension costs are increasing. Mayor Morrison is recommending to council to hold back on filling any vacancies until next year in order to help offset budget deficits.

Mayor Morrison requested an executive session prior to adjournment to discuss personnel matters.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Cheryl Nice of 125 Penn Street and Charlotte Miller of 400 Pine Street expressed their concerns about getting aid to the victims of the hurricane that hit Puerto Rico. They asked if Tamaqua could start leading in collection efforts. President Mace stated that he is supportive of their efforts but the borough does not have the resources to assist with transportation and distribution. It was recommended that they contact local organizations such as The Salvation Army and the American Red Cross for collection issues and local Senators and Congressmen to spearhead their cause. There was some discussion about this matter.

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

Under Unfinished Business, Councilman Gursky stated that the Bargaining Committee has met with representatives of the United Autoworkers Local 1612 and proposals are being discussed.

Under Unfinished Business, Councilman Cara asked about the District Justice lease renewal. Manager Steigerwalt stated that the lease for the Magisterial Judge's Office expires on December 31, 2017 and the County would like to commence with renegotiating the lease.

Under Unfinished Business, Councilman Cara reported that the borough has 10 police retirees with estimated pension payments of \$229,023.48 and 27 non-uniformed retirees with

estimated pension payments of \$266,041.56 for the year 2017. He stated that the information was provided to him by Secretary/Treasurer DeWire.

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

A recommendation was made to hold an executive session to discuss personnel, real estate and litigation 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 7:45 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:43 p.m.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:43 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Evans, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer