

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of October on Tuesday, October 16, 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 Councilwoman Linkevich. The roll was called with all councilmembers present.

President Mace announced that an executive session was held at 6:30 p.m. prior to the meeting to discuss personnel matters.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on October 2, 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 F. Patrick Davison, secretary of the Tamaqua Water Authority, recommending the reappointment of Phil Houm to a five-year term on the Tamaqua Water Authority effective January 1, 2019. A recommendation was made to reappoint Phil Houm to a five-year term on the Tamaqua Water Authority effective January 1, 2019. 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.

Communication was received from R. Daniel Evans stating that as a result of his recent appointment to the City Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ) Authority and his increased involvement in his business interest in New Jersey, he is resigning his seat on borough council effective December 31, 2018. President Mace commended Councilman Evans for his accomplishments as a councilmember. A recommendation was made to accept his letter of resignation. 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 approved by a 6-1 vote with Councilman Connely opposed.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the Heating Oil Contract bid opening results from October 11, 2018. Only one bid was received. There was some discussion about this matter. A recommendation was made to reject the bid and to rebid the heating oil procurement. 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.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: the LED street light fixtures were ordered; gave an update on the railroad crossings at Center Street, West Broad Street and Spruce Street; and the street project is underway in the North Ward.

Director of Community Development Calabrese reported on the following: a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) public hearing; a Schuylkill County Fair Housing Activity: Meet the Service Dogs event to be held on November 2, 2018 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Fairlane Village Mall Center Court in Pottsville; a brochure rack now located in the Borough Hall

office area that works in conjunction with the welcome basket to a new business in town; the CRIZ baseline figures were submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue; and the baseline figures decreased.

Director of Community Development Calabrese also reported on additional revisions to the Sidewalk Repair Loan Program as follows: two quotes from contractors on the Borough list will need to be submitted for consideration; and under the program eligibility guidelines, a copy of the deed must be provided. A recommendation was made to approve the revisions to the Sidewalk Repair Loan Program as presented by Director of Community Development Calabrese. 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.

Director of Community Development Calabrese also reported that she has two prospects for the sidewalk repair loan program.

Chief Woods reported that e-citation readers were installed in the police vehicles and Officer Hobbs would receive training, and then he would train other officers. There was some discussion about the training.

Chairman Linkhorst of the Parking and Traffic Committee discussed the removal of signage by the former Saint Jerome Regional School and two signs that were missed in the area of Ed's Sport Shop.

Chairman Linkhorst of the Parking and Traffic Committee reported that he had an ordinance prohibiting parking between signs on the east side of the 200 block of Washington Street along the stone wall to present for council's consideration:

ORDINANCE NO. 699
AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA,
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING CHAPTER XVII, PART 1,
TRAFFIC AND PARKING REGULATIONS, SECTION 33, PARKING PROHIBITED IN
CERTAIN LOCATIONS.

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing ordinance. 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 approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, there was some discussion about the following: removing the no parking zone painted lines in front of Saint Jerome Church and the double yellow lines at Hunter Street; there will be no metering in the area of Saint Jerome Church; and permit parking. Council recognized Liz Pinkey of West Broad Street who discussed the availability of parking in that area. President Mace asked the Parking and Traffic Committee to look into the matter.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District report, a recommendation was made to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for window changes and stair replacement at 622-624 East Broad 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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a Grant Acknowledgement and Agreement from the John E. Morgan Foundation, Inc for the maintenance or improvement of public recreation facilities for the Owl Creek Reservoir

Commission projects in the amount of \$25,000.00. 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.

Mayor Gerace reported on the following: the Police Department has been a visible presence at the football games; a study regarding speeding along Owl Creek Road was done by Officer Bekesy; and asked if the borough has heard anything from the new skate park group. Councilwoman Linkevich stated that she has reached out to the group but there is a lag time in their response.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Tom Hartz of 322 Market Street expressed his concerns about the following: illegal parking on West Cottage Avenue from Hunter Street to South Railroad Street in the area behind DiMaggio's La Dolce Casa; welcomed new Councilmembers Linkhorst and Linkevich; and tax breaks for volunteer fire fighters as suggested in his letter of resignation. Solicitor Greek stated that the tax breaks would be from the per capita and local services taxes (LST). President Mace stated that no action was taken on the tax breaks issue and referred the matter to the Public Safety Committee. Mr. Hartz's additional concerns included, but was not limited to, the following: the flushing of hydrants caused damage to his property this year and last year; wasting taxpayer money; equipment that is purchased then sold; employees that are not qualified to perform their job functions; subcontracting concrete work; the fire siren is still blowing; the borough is paying the electric bill for the American Hose block party and other times; allowing alcohol on borough property; the cost of a third party for code enforcement; Fire Chiefs as borough employees; and nepotism. There was some discussion about these matters.

Liz Pinkey of West Broad Street asked if anyone from the school district approached borough council about a joint effort to make schools safer. Mayor Gerace stated that he and Officer in Charge Corporal Hacker met with the Tamaqua Area School District (TASD) Superintendent and Vice Superintendent to discuss what a full-time police officer costs the borough, but there was no other contact. Chief Woods stated that he was never contacted by the school district but that whatever decision is made by the TASD will be coordinated with the Tamaqua Police Department. Chief Woods stated that the TASD is planning another drill with the Police Department and the Tamaqua Fire Department. Ms. Pinkey also asked if anyone from West Penn was in that meeting. Mayor Gerace stated that no one from West Penn was in the meeting.

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

Solicitor Greek reported that he and Kevin attended an assessment appeals hearing last Friday. There are five borough owned properties that will be tax exempt. The five properties are: 13 South Lehigh Street; 15 South Lehigh Street; 241 Lafayette Street; 202 Pitt Street; and 252 Cottage Avenue.

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 Bowman discussed a handout of the estimated costs for paving or tar and chipping Owl Creek Road. The estimated cost to finish paving Owl Creek Road is approximately \$164,500.00 with labor to be supplied by the Borough work force.

The estimated cost to tar and chip the entire length is approximately \$86,856.00. There was some discussion about this matter.

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, Councilwoman Linkevich discussed the distribution and spread of the spotted lanternfly which is primarily known to affect tree of heaven. It has been detected on many host plants and if allowed to spread in the United States, this pest is a significant threat to agriculture. Councilwoman Linkevich encouraged employees to be able to identify the spotted lanternfly.

Under New Business, Councilman Linkhorst discussed the purchase of a vacant lot behind the old Anchor Deep building to create a turnaround. It is a matter of public safety. A motion was made by Linkhorst and seconded by Cara to purchase parcel 65-16-0280.002 at a cost of \$3,000.00 and to lease back the parking area on Cherry Street. After some discussion, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to purchase parcel 65-16-0280.002 at a cost of \$3,000.00. There was some discussion about accessibility, subdivision, leasing, parking, a turnaround and cost. Council recognized South Ward Fire Chief Mark Bower who asked where the area is located. There was some discussion about the location. With no one else wishing to address council about this matter, the recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkhorst, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, a recommendation was made to hire Joshua Esposito as a full-time Zoning/Code/Health Officer at a salary of \$82,500.00. Council recognized South Ward Fire Chief Mark Bower who asked if the new Zoning Officer would be working full-time, if the fire department would have access to him and if he could be contacted on weekends. Mr. Esposito is being hired as a full-time employee, and the Fire Department would have access to him. President Mace stated that his starting date is to be determined with a tentative date to be sometime in November. There was no one else from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Connely, second by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, Manager Steigerwalt introduced the new Tamaqua Drop-Off Electronic Recycling Program. Electronics will be accepted Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Residents must come to the Tamaqua Municipal Building, 320 East Broad Street, and they will be directed to the drop-off site. Disposal fees are \$5 for one item, \$8 for two items and \$10 for three items and there is a limit of 3 items per household per month. The program is only available to borough residents and proof of residency will be required. Electronic devices that will be accepted include desktop computers, laptops, monitors, televisions and computer peripherals (keyboard, printer, mouse or other device connected to a computer). The Pennsylvania Covered Devices Recycling Act (CDRA) requires that these devices be recycled. They may not be thrown out with household garbage and the borough's garbage collector will not pick them up. Devices that will not be accepted include telephones, mobile phones, calculators, GPS devices, appliances,

motor vehicle parts, and other devices whether or not they include electronic components. These devices are not regulated under the CDRA and may be put out with household garbage.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:18 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer