

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of November on Wednesday, November 7, 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 Chief of Police Henry Woods, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Solicitor Michael S. Greek and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire. Mayor Nathan Gerace arrived later in the meeting.

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 Linkhorst. The roll was called with all councilmembers present.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on October 16, 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 Paul H. Fridirici, secretary of the Tamaqua Borough Authority, recommending the reappointment of Phil Houm to a five-year term on the Tamaqua Borough Authority effective January 1, 2019. A recommendation was made to reappoint Phil Houm to a five-year term on the Tamaqua Borough 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 Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Paul H. Fridirici, secretary of the Tamaqua Community Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ) Authority, recommending the reappointment of Phil Houm to a five-year term on the CRIZ Authority effective January 1, 2019. A recommendation was made to reappoint Phil Houm to a five-year term on the CRIZ 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 Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Joshua Esposito, Code Enforcement Officer, recommending the reappointment of Rich Stianche to a three-year term on the Historic Architectural Review Commission (HARC). A recommendation was made to reappoint Rich Stianche to a three-year term on HARC 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 Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Joshua Esposito, Code Enforcement Officer, recommending the reappointment of Mark Conville to a three-year term on the Historic Architectural Review Commission (HARC). A recommendation was made to reappoint Mark Conville to a three-year term on HARC 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 Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Joshua Esposito, Zoning Officer, recommending the reappointment of Andrew Kane to a four-year term on the Tamaqua Planning Commission, effective January 1, 2019. A recommendation was made to reappoint Andrew Kane to a four-year term on the Tamaqua Planning Commission, 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 Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Joshua Esposito, Zoning Officer, recommending the reappointment of Frank Kane to a five-year term on the Tamaqua Zoning/Hearing Board. A recommendation was made to reappoint Frank Kane to a five-year term on the Tamaqua Zoning/Hearing Board 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 Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Georgia DeWire, secretary of the Police Pension Fund Commission, stating that the commission is recommending the appointment of Robert C. Orbin Jr., an Investment Advisor Representative for Mauch Chunk Trust, to fill a vacancy on the commission effective January 1, 2019. A recommendation was made to appoint Robert C. Orbin Jr. to the Police Pension Fund Commission to fill a vacancy on the commission effective January 1, 2019. 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 Evans, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Paul Dodson, walk coordinator of the Tamaqua Area Faith Fellowship Network (TAFFN) requesting permission to have a "Tamaqua Walk for Hunger" at 2:00 p.m. on May 5, 2019. The purpose of the walk is to help the needy of Tamaqua Area by donating what is collected to the Tamaqua Salvation Army, Trinity Church and Primitive Methodist Church food banks. The route would begin at the Tamaqua Community Art Center, walk south from the Art Center, cross Broad Street and turn left, walk east on Broad Street to the end of the seventh block, turn left and cross Broad Street, walk west on Broad Street to Pine Street, turn right and walk north on Pine Street to the Art Center. The communication also requested the assistance of the Tamaqua Fire Police for this event. A recommendation was made to grant the request, and to authorize the use of the Tamaqua Fire Police. 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Megan McGeehan of 200 High Street expressing her concerns about a stop sign on Van Gelder Street and the intersection with High Street. The communication is requesting that the stop sign be more visible by refreshing the sign as it is faded, add the words stop onto the street blacktop, relocate the stop sign closer to the end of the block or propose a four-way stop for the intersection. A recommendation was made to refer the matter to the Parking and Traffic Committee. 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 Robert A. Amentler expressing an interest in serving as a member of Tamaqua Borough Council, to fill the vacancy that will be left by Councilman Evans effective January 1, 2019. A motion was made by Bowman and seconded by Evans to appoint Robert A. Amentler effective January 1, 2019 to fill the vacancy that will be left by Councilman Evans. There was some discussion about this matter. A motion was made by Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved to table the pending motion.

Communication was received from The Tamaqua Salvation Army and Safer Streets For Tamaqua's Little Feet stating that they are teaming up to collect and to give hats and gloves on a "Giving Tree". The communication is requesting permission to place a "Giving Tree" in Depot Square Park from November 16, 2018 to March 1, 2019 and to place a temporary sign at the "Giving Tree". A recommendation was made to grant the request to place a "Giving Tree" in Depot Square Park from November 16, 2018 to March 1, 2019 and to approve the placement of a temporary sign at the "Giving Tree". 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Secretary/Treasurer DeWire reported that she had a resolution adding the titles of Assistant Borough Secretary/Treasurer and Borough Manager to the Berkheimer Tax system to access records and the client portal to present for council's consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-12
A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE BOROUGH OF
TAMAQUA, SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING,
EMPOWERING AND DIRECTING THE PROPER OFFICERS OF THE GOVERNING
BOARD TO APPOINT A LIAISON BETWEEN IT AND BERKHEIMER, THE DULY
APPOINTED COLLECTOR OF LOCAL TAXES FOR THE DISTRICT, FOR THE
EXPRESS PURPOSE OF SHARING CONFIDENTIAL TAX INFORMATION WITH THE
DISTRICT FOR OFFICIAL PURPOSES.

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 reported on the Heating Oil Contract bid opening results from November 5, 2018. Three bids were received for the No. 2 Heating Oil to be delivered to various borough facilities, and the lowest bidder was Fegley Oil Company with a fixed price of \$2.50 per gallon.

Mayor Gerace arrived at approximately 7:16 p.m.

A recommendation was made to award the contract for No. 2 Heating Oil to the lowest bidder, Fegley Oil Company of 551 West Penn Pike, Tamaqua, PA at the fixed price of \$2.50 per gallon. 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.

Borough Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: the 2019 preliminary budget has been distributed to council for their review; the paving project at Swatara and Lafayette streets is underway; the LED street lights have arrived and the work should start on Monday; the Street Light Project is under budget; retrofitting the decorative lights downtown; the 2018 Community Development Budget Grant application was submitted to the State by Schuylkill County; and the CRIZ fund received approximately \$450,000.00.

Chief Woods reported on the following: Officer Rodgers attended a three-day Interview and Interrogation Class; the department received Drug Task Force funds in the amount of \$500.00 from the office of District Attorney Michael O'Pake; and the Civil Service Commission has completed the police officer promotional testing process for corporal and the results were distributed to councilmembers.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 209 Pine Street. 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.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to advertise an ordinance for a no parking area fifteen feet on each side of the entrance to the Lehigh Carbon Community College driveway on the north side of Van Gelder Street and the south side of High Street. 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.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for the installation of pole mounted solar panels and new sidewalks at 235 High 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 Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for the installation of two overhang structures, replacement windows and doors with contingent conditions, as noted in the HARC minutes, at 254 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 Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for the installation of windows, blocking up windows labeled as F, G and K on the submitted application and for the brick work repair at 27 Pine 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.

Chairperson Linkevich of the Recreation and Youth Committee reported that she had a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Treatment Agreement for the Spotted Lanternfly. A recommendation was made to authorize the Borough Manager to complete any paperwork necessary to treat borough properties for the Spotted Lanternfly by the USDA. There was some discussion about this matter. Council recognized Joseph Salla of 204 Owl Creek Road who asked if this insect is going after the ash trees. Councilwoman Linkevich stated that it does not. 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 Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve the permanent transfer of Mark D. Leiby to the Water Distribution Department. 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.

Chairman Connely of the Public Safety Committee reported that a meeting was held with Walker Township to discuss part-time police coverage.

Mayor Gerace stated that he was attending tonight's school board meeting and that is why he arrived late to the council meeting. Mayor Gerace reported on the following: traffic issues on Cottage Avenue; the Owl Creek Road speeding issues have been addressed; reoccurring issues with police vehicle #176; and vehicle #176 may need to be replaced in the near future. There was some discussion about police vehicles #176 and #179. Manager Steigerwalt stated that a new police SUV would be arriving at month end to replace vehicle #177.

Mayor Gerace discussed a Community Watch program. There was some discussion about the Tamaqua School District meeting and if there would be any borough involvement in the future.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Joseph Salla of 204 Owl Creek Road discussed the following: donating the old street lights to the Owl Creek Reservoir Commission (OCRC) to put up at the parking lots; if a resident complained to the Police Department about an officer sitting on their property; if there is money in the budget to have the Owl Creek entrance pressure washed; asking the county for some of the registration money they are collecting; and ash trees that are coming down on utility right-of-ways along Owl Creek Road because of the Emerald Ash Beetle. There was some discussion about these matters.

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

Under Unfinished Business, there was some discussion about council participation in the Veteran's Day Parade.

Under Unfinished Business, Councilman Cara stated that Graver's Landscape Design would be donating a Christmas tree to be placed at the north end of town. There was some discussion about this matter.

Under Unfinished Business, Councilman Cara discussed the revised flood hazard information that was received from the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and insurance coverage. There was some discussion about this matter.

Under New Business, Mayor Gerace stated that he toured the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Water Treatment Plant.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:17 p.m. on motion of Connely, seconded by Linkevich, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer