

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of November on Wednesday, November 8, 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, Micah Gursky, Kerry Lasky and David Mace. Absent was Councilman R. Daniel Evans. Officials present were Mayor Christian Morrison, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt 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 Councilwoman Lasky. The roll was called with six councilmembers present and one absent.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on October 17, 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 The Tamaqua Salvation Army and Safer Streets For Tamaqua's Little Feet stating that they are teaming up to collect and to give winter necessities, such as coats, hats, gloves, scarves, mittens and boots, on a "Giving Tree". The communication is requesting permission to place a "Giving Tree" in Depot Square Park from November 9, 2017 to February 28, 2018 that would be maintained by both organizations. A recommendation was made to grant the request. After some discussion about this matter, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to grant the request to place a "Giving Tree" in Depot Square Park from November 9, 2017 to February 28, 2018 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 Connely, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from members of Brownie Troop 33101 stating that they have been learning the values of the Girl Scout Law and one of those values is to make the world a better place. The communication is requesting the borough's help with identifying a location to create a Dog Park. The troop would work to raise the money necessary to get the park started, and with the help of other scout troops they would ensure that the park stays clean and in good repair. A recommendation was made to help the Brownie Troop with identifying a location to create a Dog Park. 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 Cara, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire asking council to consider a motion to open an escrow account for fire loss insurance proceeds received from Allstate Insurance Company for the property at 500 North Railroad Street. A recommendation was made to open a new account for the fire insurance proceeds for the property at 500 North Railroad Street. 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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Ken Fenstermacher, Code Enforcement Officer, recommending the reappointment of Bill Harleman to a three-year term on the Historic Architectural Review Commission (HARC).

Communication was received from Camille Yamrich McArdle of 47 Mill Drive, Tamaqua expressing an interest in serving on the Historic Architectural Review Commission (HARC).

A recommendation was made to reappoint Bill Harleman to a three-year term on HARC effective January 1, 2018. 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 Ken Fenstermacher, Zoning Officer, recommending the reappointment of Alfred Hadesty to a five-year term on the Tamaqua Zoning/Hearing Board. A recommendation was made to reappoint Alfred Hadesty to a five-year term on the Tamaqua Zoning/Hearing Board effective January 1, 2018. 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.

Borough Manager Steigerwalt reported on the 2018 preliminary budget as follows: the 2018 preliminary budget has been distributed to council; he made a few assumptions; council and the UAW are in contract negotiations; and making recommended changes to the preliminary budget before final adoption.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: a new lease agreement with Schuylkill County for the District Magistrate office; the Wabash Culvert Repair Project, final inspection report and a list of recommendations for the future; PennDOT's West Broad Street Bridge Replacement Project bid opening is scheduled for December 7th; the proposed traffic pattern changes for the West Broad Street Bridge Replacement Project would be presented for council's review; the PPL make-ready work should be completed by the end of November; the 2018 Street Materials; and the last day for street sweeping before the winter season. There was some discussion about these matters.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to deny a request from Mountain Tobacco of 34 Mauch Chunk Street for business parking signs. There was some discussion about the following: the request for business parking signs; a loading/unloading zone; a fire zone; and parking availability. 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 Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to install a No Parking Here to Corner sign at 100 Orwigsburg Street. There was some discussion about the following: the enforcement of parking at various intersections; possibly getting more requests for signs at intersections; the placement of the sign; fire trucks and school buses have difficulty turning in that area; where the measurement for enforcement starts; a violation for idling a diesel vehicle; and parking in that area. 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 Lasky, and approved by a 4-2 vote with Councilmembers Connely and Bowman opposed.

A recommendation was made to have the Parking and Traffic Committee evaluate the problematic intersections and streets in town for placement of No Parking Here to Corner signs.

After some discussion about a street and intersection problem list prepared by the Fire Department many years ago, and the condition of the signs and street signs, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to have the Parking and Traffic Committee evaluate the problematic intersections and streets in town for placement of No Parking Here to Corner signs and to review the condition of the street signs. After additional discussion about the matter, the motion and second were amended again as follows: A recommendation was made to have the Parking and Traffic Committee evaluate the problematic intersections and streets in town for placement of No Parking Here to Corner signs and to review the condition of the street signs and the stop signs. 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 Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to purchase two double meters and associated hardware for the Hunter Street Parking Lot. 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, Councilman Gursky recommended having community service groups paint the black poles that are getting chipped.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a Use and Maintenance Agreement with On The Grind Association for the Willing Memorial Park. 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.

Mayor Morrison reported that he attended the Fire Police banquet and presented them with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the Borough of Tamaqua.

Under the Mayor's report, President Mace congratulated the new Mayor, Nathan Gerace, whose term begins in 2018.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

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

Under Unfinished Business, there was some discussion about the following: an update on upgrading the welcome sign coming into Tamaqua and landscaping the area; the triangle area coming into town from Pottsville; upgrading the Flood Plain Map; the borough received the Tamaqua Community Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ) Authority funds; and the Codification Project.

Under New Business, Councilman Bowman expressed safety concerns about a utility pole on Spruce Street near the former Anchor Deep building. Manager Steigerwalt would contact PPL.

Under New Business, Manager Steigerwalt reported that he had a resolution for a \$9,000.00 grant from the John E. Morgan Foundation Inc. for tree trimming to present for council's consideration:

RESOLUTION 2017-24
RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL, TAMAQUA, PENNSYLVANIA
REGARDING GRANTS FROM THE JOHN E. MORGAN FOUNDATION, INC.

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution. 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 Bowman, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Under New Business, Councilman Cara discussed obtaining a dehumidifier for the Municipal Building basement. Manager Steigerwalt or Public Works Director Jones would look into the matter.

Under New Business, Councilman Cara discussed tax free fuel and a letter concerning new casinos.

Under New Business, Councilman Gursky stated that council increased the 2018 allocation to the Tamaqua Public Library. Councilman Gursky noted the 2017 contributions from other municipalities, Schuylkill County and the Tamaqua Area School District (TASD) as follows: \$5,000.00 from Tamaqua Borough, and would be increased to \$6,000.00 for 2018; \$5,092.00 from Schuylkill County; \$3,500.00 from the TASD; \$500.00 was budgeted for Rush Township but the library did not receive any funds; nothing was budgeted or contributed by Schuylkill Township; \$400.00 from Walker Township; and \$1,000.00 was budgeted for West Penn Township but only \$500.00 was received.

President Mace requested an executive session prior to adjournment to discuss personnel matters.

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

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 7:57 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:39 p.m.

President Mace announced that an executive session was held to discuss personnel and legal matters.

Councilman Connely stated that the ISO (Insurance Service Offices) rating is down from four to two. The ISO is determined by performing a study of the Fire Departments, water supply, fire services, equipment, training, communications, etc. A lower rating helps to lower insurance premiums for residents.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 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