

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of November on Tuesday, November 20, 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, Assistant Borough Secretary/Treasurer Amy Macalush 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.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on November 7, 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 Kathy Kunkel, secretary of the Tamaqua Civil Service Commission, recommending the reappointment of Kathleen Kunkel to the Tamaqua Civil Service Commission for a six-year term, effective January 1, 2019. A recommendation was made to reappoint Kathleen Kunkel to a six-year term on the Tamaqua Civil Service 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 Nate MacDonald, Executive Director of the Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission (ESRC), recommending the reappointment of Mary Linkevich to a six-year term on ESRC, effective January 1, 2019. A motion was made by Bowman and seconded by Linkhorst to reappoint Mary Linkevich to a six-year term on ESRC, effective January 1, 2019. After some discussion regarding the member terms, the motion and second were amended as follows: a recommendation was made to reappoint Mary Linkevich to a three-year term on ESRC, 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 Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Rosemarie Noftz, secretary of the Tamaqua Board of Health, recommending the reappointment of James Frie to a five-year term on the Tamaqua Board of Health, effective January 1, 2019. A recommendation was made to reappoint James Frie to a five-year term on the Tamaqua Board of Health, 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 Jean Ann Towle, chair of the Tamaqua Spirit of Christmas Committee, stating that the annual Santa Claus Parade is planned for November 30, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. The parade will assemble at the Borough Garage on East Broad Street and travel west on Broad Street to Depot Square Park where Mr. & Mrs. Claus will turn on the lights. Santa and Mrs. Claus will then proceed to the Tamaqua Community Arts Center on Pine Street where they will greet the children. The parade will continue over the railroad tracks and turn left onto South

Railroad Street and disband. The communication requested police and fire police assistance during the parade. 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 Mr. Paige Hess of 602 East Elm Street expressing an interest in serving as a member of Tamaqua Borough Council. Councilman Connely stated that Council received two applications to fill the vacancy that will be left by Councilman Evans at the end of the year.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the following: the streetlight replacement project is well underway; the streetlights are being replaced throughout the borough based on model type; retrofitting the downtown decorative streetlights with LED lamps; the paving and ramp project at Swatara and Lafayette streets is complete; the demolition project at 241 Lafayette Street was submitted to the county and should be going out for bid soon; engineering plans were received from Alfred and Benesch Company for ADA upgrades to the bathrooms in the borough office; preparing bid documents for the annual street materials; 3,000 tons of superpave will be added to the street materials list for the proposed paving project in Owl Creek; and the garbage collection schedule was changed due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Manager Steigerwalt also reminded residents to keep sidewalks clear of snow and ice.

Under the Borough Manager's report, Councilman Evans asked if funding for the demolition of 241 Lafayette Street is coming from the county. Manager Steigerwalt stated that Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds will be used for the demolition. There was some discussion regarding demolition plans for 645 Arlington Street, 517 Washington Street and 202 Pitt Street.

Under the Borough Manager's Report, Councilman Evans asked who owns the flag holders on the parking meters downtown. Councilman Linkhorst stated he believes the flag holders are owned by the American Legion.

Under the Borough Manager's Report, Councilman Linkhorst reported that three notice of violation tickets were issued to 253 Brown Street for junk vehicles and rubbish.

Under the Borough Manager's Report, Councilman Cara stated that the property on South Railroad Street will be surveyed and that the cost would be split with the owner. There was some discussion about this matter.

Director of Community Development Calabrese reported on the following: sidewalk repair loan program information can be found on the borough's website and Facebook page; NEPA's ceremonial check presentation to Stoker's Brewing Company will take place on Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup> and Council is invited to attend; the quote for the decorative street lighting lamp replacement will be revised to reflect a cost of \$20,036.10 for the retrofit of 87 lights; and retrofitting the downtown decorative streetlights could potentially qualify for a CRIZ project as infrastructure.

Director of Community Development Calabrese also recognized Councilman Connely for his ten years of service on Tamaqua Borough Council.

Chief Woods reported on the following: the department received new tasers and all officers have been re-certified; asked council to consider advertising for part-time police officers; and a

letter was received from Tamaqua Boyer's Food Market commending Officer Sborz for his personable and professional work ethic and also thanking Officer Sborz and the entire Police Department for their hard work and positive demeanor with the public.

A recommendation was made to advertise for part-time police officers. 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 Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to tentatively adopt and advertise the 2019 Budget and to advertise the 2019 Tax Ordinance setting the real estate tax rate at 22.25 mills with 20.75 mills for General Purposes, 1 mill for the Building and Equipment Fund, and 0.50 mill for the Wabash Capital Improvement Fund. Councilman Bowman stated that no one is in favor of a tax increase and it will not fix all the problems, but it will slowly help address some concerns. There was some discussion regarding changes made to the 2019 budget. 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.

Mayor Gerace commended the borough's street department for their snow removal efforts during the recent snow storm. Mayor Gerace stated that he received comments regarding snow removal from the community, including Owl Creek, and the people were very pleased.

Mayor Gerace asked Council for an update on the firework ordinance. Councilman Connely stated that an ordinance is being prepared by Solicitor Greek and is still in development.

Mayor Gerace asked Council for an update on plans to hire a full-time officer. Councilman Bowman stated that when an officer retires, another full-time officer will be hired.

Mayor Gerace also asked Council to reconsider hiring a meter maid, especially with the new meters coming in. There was some discussion about the qualifications of a meter maid.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Mark Bower of 213 Spruce Street expressed his concern regarding Carriage Street, a borough owned street that runs in front of his house. Mr. Bower stated that during snow storms, emergency vehicles would have a difficult time getting through and requested that the street be included in the plow rotation during snow storms.

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

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 Cara reported that the time and attendance webinar demonstration meeting scheduled for November 6<sup>th</sup> was cancelled by ADP due to an emergency and has been rescheduled to December 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

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, Councilman Evans reported that repairs need to be made to the street department garage doors. A recommendation was made to accept a proposal from F & L Doors

Inc., for repairs to the main street garage door at a cost of \$463.00 with funds designated from the Building and Equipment Fund. 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 Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to accept a proposal from F & L Doors Inc. for repairs to the salt garage door at a cost of \$1,600.00 with funds designated from the Building and Equipment Fund. 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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, Councilman Cara asked if lights can be placed on the new sign in front of the Municipal Building. Manager Steigerwalt said he would look into it.

Under New Business, Councilwoman Linkevich stated that the basketball court in Dutch Hill will be tested for a possible ice skating rink and Nate MacDonald of ESRC will be coordinating this effort.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Connely, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

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Amy Macalush, Assistant Borough Secretary/Treasurer