

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of December on Tuesday, December 5, 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, R. Daniel Evans, Micah Gursky, Kerry Lasky and David Mace. Absent was Councilman Brian Connely. Officials present were Chief of Police Richard Weaver, Solicitor Michael S. Greek, 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 Councilman Gursky. The roll was called with six councilmembers present and one absent.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on November 21, 2017 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Evans, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under Special Business, President Mace stated that he was informed that the presentation by Tamaqua Remembers had to be postponed. The presentation would be held at the council meeting of December 19, 2017.

Communication was received from Rosemarie Noftz, secretary, stating that the Board of Health is recommending the reappointment of Dr. Joanne Calabrese to a five-year term on the Board of Health. A recommendation was made to appoint Dr. Joanne Calabrese to a five-year term on the Board of Health. 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Pat Freeh Stefanek, affiliate director of the Alliance for Building Communities, Inc. (ABC) Hi-Rise, requesting permission to close East Broad Street from Pine Street to Greenwood Street during the 20th Annual Tamaqua New Year's Eve Eagle Rise at the ABC Tamaqua Hi-Rise. The event would be held between the hours of 11 p.m. on December 31, 2017 and 1 a.m. on January 1, 2018. The communication also requested police presence for this event. 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 Bowman, seconded by Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Dave Mace, president of the Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission (ESRC), reintroducing the ESRC and providing an update on current happenings. A goal of the ESRC is to revitalize the commission with a new Executive Director. President Mace stated that the commission is hopeful to have the Executive Director position filled by January 2018.

Under Communications, President Mace presented a letter from James E. Hull. Communication was received from James E. Hull of 801 West Market Street, Apartment 2F, Pottsville, PA 17901 stating that he is writing the letter to resign as a four-year term Tamaqua Borough Councilmember. Mr. Hull stated that he was voted in during the November election but has recently relocated to Pottsville. A motion was made by Bowman and seconded by Cara to accept his letter of resignation. Solicitor Greek stated that the letter should be acknowledged at the reorganization meeting of January 2, 2018. The borough council has thirty days to fill the vacancy

by appointing a registered elector of the borough to hold the office. After some discussion, the motion and second were rescinded.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that a bid opening for Street Materials would be held on December 15, 2017 at 1 p.m. Manager Steigerwalt discussed the PennDOT warm asphalt mix and provision to switch to a hot mix for pothole patching.

Manager Steigerwalt discussed a resolution approving a price adjustment for bituminous materials for 2018. The following resolution was presented for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-26
PRICE ADJUSTMENT OF BITUMINOUS MATERIALS
FOR SMALL QUANTITIES**

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 Gursky, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the Wabash Monitor and Repair Planning Table which provides 2017 Wabash Final Inspection Report recommendations organized by priority for planning future expenses and work. The 2017 price for projects in the first five years, 2018 through 2023, is approximately \$148,000.00 and for the second five years, 2024 through 2029 is approximately \$272,000.00. There was some discussion about this matter.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the Spruce Street sewer odor complaint as follows: spoke to neighbors and Ken Dunkelberger of the Tamaqua Area School District; toured the area; the problem can be located by using a smoke test; a company in Shenandoah has the ability to do this test at a cost not to exceed \$1,000.00; and the test could be done during the school's Christmas holiday break. President Mace stated that Elm Street, east of Schuylkill Avenue is also experiencing the issues. Manager Steigerwalt would contact those residents. Councilman Bowman recommends testing the 300-400 blocks of Elm Street.

Manager Steigerwalt also gave updates on the following: tree trimming has been completed on Railroad Street and was funded by the J.E. Morgan Foundation; the Street Light Project make-ready work is completed and the Public Utility Commission submission would be done this week; the demolition of a property at 216 Penn Street is close to being done; and received notification that the borough was awarded two grants which were applied for by the former Director of Community Development Mary Linkevich. The borough received two grants from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, one for the H.D. Buehler Memorial Pool Feasibility Study Planning in the amount of \$18,000.00 and one for a TreeVitalize Grant in the amount of \$6,482.50.

Under the Borough Manager's report, a schedule of regular meetings of Council, Boards, Commissions, Authorities and special committees for 2018 has been prepared for advertisement by Secretary/Treasurer DeWire. A recommendation was made to advertise the schedule of regular meetings of Council, Boards, Commissions, Authorities and special committees for 2018. 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 Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 313 East Broad Street. Councilwoman Lasky noted that the signage is already there and that it is a transfer of ownership. 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 Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, President Mace read a letter from Santa who is requesting to allow signage at Depot Square for his visits on December 15th from 6-8 p.m. and December 16th from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. A recommendation was made to allow signs to be placed at Depot Square Park announcing visits from Santa at the gazebo on December 15th and 16th. 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.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

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

Solicitor Greek reported that the codification changes were completed and would be emailed to Manager Steigerwalt.

Under New Business, Councilman Cara stated that some of the Christmas decorations that the borough workers are putting up need to be repainted.

Under New Business, President Mace announced that council met in executive session prior to the council meeting to discuss personnel issues.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:31 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