

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of December on Tuesday, December 18, 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 Councilman Linkhorst. The roll was called with all councilmembers present.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on November 20, 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.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the 2019 Street Materials bid results. Manager Steigerwalt stated that there were a total of seven bidders and that he provided council with a bid results worksheet. Manager Steigerwalt discussed a comparison of material hauling cost calculations for pickup of materials at the plant or quarry. The hauling costs were calculated using the PennDOT recommended method. Manager Steigerwalt stated that due to the difference in mileage and travel time to each plant or quarry, the lowest per ton bid is not always the lowest price. Manager Steigerwalt’s recommendations for contract awards are as follows:

400 tons Superpave Warm/Hot Mix Wearing Coarse (pickup)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 22,980.00
400 tons Superpave Warm/Hot Mix Wearing Coarse (delivery)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 26,180.00
30 tons Superpave Warm/Hot Mix Any Wearing Coarse (pickup)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 1,723.50
3,000 tons Superpave Warm/Hot Mix Binder Coarse (delivery)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 169,500.00
100 tons Superpave Warm/Hot Mix Base Coarse (pickup)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 4,930.00
100 tons Superpave Warm/Hot Mix Base Coarse (delivery)	Pottsville Materials, Pottsville, PA	\$ 5,700.00
100 tons PaDOT OK Cold Patch (pickup)	Glenn O. Hawbaker, Bellfonte, PA	\$ 12,900.00
100 tons PaDOT OK Cold Patch (delivery)	Hei-Way LLC, Sarver, PA	\$ 11,300.00
500 tons 2A stone (pickup)	R.E. Pierson, Middleport, PA	\$ 4,000.00
500 tons 2A stone (delivery)	Glenn O. Hawbaker, Bellfonte, PA	\$ 6,700.00
100 gallons PG 64-22 (pickup)	Pottsville Materials, Pottsville, PA	\$ 450.00
750 tons Anti-skid AS3 (pickup)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 9,000.00
750 tons Anti-skid AS3 (delivery)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 12,150.00
200 tons #57 stone (pickup)	R.E. Pierson, Middleport, PA	\$ 2,100.00
200 tons #57 stone (delivery)	Glenn O. Hawbaker, Bellfonte, PA	\$ 3,090.00
100 tons #8 stone (pickup)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 1,500.00
100 tons #8 stone (delivery)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 1,920.00

A motion was made by Connely and seconded by Cara to award the 2019 Street Materials based on the recommendations of the Borough Manager. Manager Steigerwalt stated that last year there were concerns about the quality of the 2A stone from R.E. Pierson and he is recommending looking into the COSTARS program again this year. Manager Steigerwalt stated that he is recommending all awards with the exception of the 500 tons 2A stone (pickup) from R.E. Pierson. The motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to award the 2019 Street Materials based on the recommendations of the Borough Manager with the exception of the 500 tons 2A stone (pickup) from R.E. Pierson Materials. 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 Cara, and approved by a 6-0-1 vote with Councilman Bowman abstaining.

Manager Steigerwalt discussed a resolution approving a price adjustment for bituminous materials for 2019. The following resolution was presented for council’s consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-13  
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 Linkevich, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: the Schuylkill County Commissioners will be voting on a bid for the demolition project at 241 Lafayette Street at their meeting on December 19<sup>th</sup>; the Street Project at Swatara and Lafayette streets is completed and the project came under the contract price by \$34,800.00; changes to the garbage schedule; gave an update on the Street Lighting Project; and Christmas trees will be collected in January as time permits.

Director of Community Development Calabrese extended a thank you to the East End Market for donating a Christmas tree to the borough.

Director of Community Development Calabrese reported that she had a resolution modifying the CDBG Program for fiscal year 2015 transferring \$60.00 from Administration to cover a cost overrun on the municipal building sidewalk project to present for council’s consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-14  
RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF  
TAMAQUA MODIFYING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT  
PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015.**

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 Linkevich, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Director of Community Development Calabrese reported that she had a resolution modifying the CDBG Program for fiscal year 2017 returning \$33,991.00 in funds to the municipal building bathroom accessibility project to present for council’s consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-15  
RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF  
TAMAQUA MODIFYING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT  
PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017.**

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 Linkevich, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Director of Community Development Calabrese also reported that she had a resolution modifying the CDBG Program for fiscal year 2018 by allocating fiscal year 2018 funds to a street improvement project to present for council’s consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-16  
RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF  
TAMAQUA MODIFYING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT  
PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018.**

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 Linkevich, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Chief Woods reported that he was contacted by Rocky Geppert who is submitting the name of fallen Patrolman Benjamin Yost to the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington, D.C. Patrolman Yost is Tamaqua's only police officer to die in the line of duty on July 6, 1875.

President Mace commended the Police Department for the recent traffic stop that resulted in a drug arrest.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Ryan Oldt as a part-time police officer, effective immediately. 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 Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Fred Lahovski as a part-time police officer, effective immediately. 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 Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve the certified eligibility list prepared by the Tamaqua Civil Service Commission for the position of Police Patrolman and the list is valid for a two-year period. 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.

Chairman Linkhorst of the Parking and Traffic Committee reported that he had an ordinance prohibiting parking between signs in the 200 block of High Street and the 200 block of Van Gelder Street at the Lehigh Carbon Community College driveways to present for council's consideration:

**ORDINANCE NO. 700**  
**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 Connely, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to retain Zachary Lakitsky as a full-time Water Treatment Plant Operator. 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 Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to retain Austin Fogel as a full-time Water Treatment Plant Operator. 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 Finance Wage and Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a proposal from ADP for the lease of five new biometric time clocks at an annual cost of \$6,435.00. 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 Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to adopt the 2019 Budget. The summary of the proposed budget is as follows:

Proposed 2019 Budget Summary

Estimated balance January 1, 2019	\$ 3,864,900
Estimated revenues	\$ 8,044,230
Estimated expenditures	\$ (8,473,292)
Estimated balance December 31, 2019	\$ 3,435,838

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 Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, the 2019 Tax Ordinance setting the real estate tax rate at 22.25 mills with 20.75 mills for General Purposes, 1.0 mill for the Building and Equipment Fund and 0.50 mill for the Wabash Capital Improvement Fund was presented for council’s consideration:

**ORDINANCE NO. 701  
AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA,  
COUNTY OF SCHUYLKILL, COMMONWEALTH OF  
PENNSYLVANIA, FIXING THE TAX RATE  
FOR THE YEAR 2019.**

	Mills on Each Dollar of Assessed Valuation
Tax Rate for General Purposes	20.75 Mills
Tax Rate for Building and Equipment Purposes	1.00 Mill
Tax Rate for Wabash Improvement Fund Purposes	0.50 Mill
Total	22.25 Mills

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing 2019 tax ordinance. 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 approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Chairman Cara of the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee reported that a meeting was held to discuss the sewer and refuse penalty rates. A motion was made by Cara and seconded by Bowman to increase the penalty to \$10.00 per quarter for delinquent sewer and garbage bills. After some discussion, the motion and second were amended as follows: a recommendation was made to advertise an ordinance to increase the penalty to \$10.00 per quarter for delinquent sewer and garbage bills or to advertise an ordinance authorizing that the penalty for delinquent sewer and garbage bills be changed by resolution. 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 Cara discussed the recommendations of Maillie LLP of Oaks, PA, the borough’s appointed auditors, as of the audit for the year ended December 31, 2017. The recommendations included the following: segregation of duties to maintain proper internal controls over the water, sewer and garbage cash receipts; monthly cash reconciliations to the electronic general ledger; and the monthly investor statements received from the various banks for the Community Development Block Grant Program income should be reconciled in a timely manner.

Chairman Cara of the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee gave an update on the revised flood hazard information that was received from the Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and stated that he is planning on having a demonstration in January.

Chairman Cara of the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee reported that Solicitor Greek prepared a draft ordinance addressing chronic nuisance property complaints and a three-strike policy. A motion was made by Cara, and seconded by Bowman, to adopt an ordinance amending the code of ordinances regarding rental properties by addressing chronic nuisance property complaints and adding a three-strike policy. President Mace stated that council just received the draft copy of this ordinance and that council is only able to advertise the ordinance. The motion and second were amended as follows: a motion was made by Cara, and seconded by Bowman, to advertise an ordinance amending the code of ordinances regarding rental properties by addressing chronic nuisance property complaints and adding a three-strike policy. Solicitor Greek explained the draft ordinance and possible enforcement issues. There was some discussion about modifications to the ordinance and a review by Chief Woods and Code Enforcement Officer Esposito. Council recognized Tom Hartz of 322 Market Street who asked why the fire department is not being used to review the ordinance. Council recognized Dan Poncavage of 235 High Street who asked Councilman Cara to explain what the ordinance does in non-legal terms. Councilman Cara explained the ordinance. Council recognized George Haldeman of 247 Van Gelder Street who asked who will be doing the evictions. President Mace stated that the property owner would be doing the evictions. After some discussion, the motion and second were rescinded.

Mayor Gerace commended Manager Steigerwalt for getting the information that he needed.

Mayor Gerace recommended that a committee be established that works towards a goal to gain control of landlords and the committee should include Manager Steigerwalt, Public Works Director Jones, Councilman Cara, Code Enforcement Officer Esposito and himself. Councilman Cara and President Mace stated that these matters already come under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Dan Poncavage thanked council for their exemplary service and meeting attendance. Mr. Poncavage discussed a fee schedule structure proposal to be presented by Code Enforcement Officer Esposito, appropriate costs and the members of the Board of Appeals.

Tom Hartz asked for updates on the following: tax breaks for volunteer fire fighters; allowing alcohol on borough property; and borough liability issues. Mr. Hartz stated that he is not against the American Hose block party but he is concerned about borough liability issues. There was some discussion about this matter. Councilman Connely asked Solicitor Greek to look into the specifics of the fire company and borough liability.

Mr. Hartz also asked for an update on the illegal parking and the dumpster on West Cottage Avenue from Hunter Street to South Railroad Street in the area behind DiMaggio's La Dolce Casa. There was some discussion about this matter.

Liz Pinkey of West Broad Street asked if something can be done about the timing of garbage pickups in the area of Yetten Circle during the hours when the school buses are transporting students.

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 Connely, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Under Unfinished Business, Councilman Evans discussed the Housing Rehabilitation Program. The discussion included, but was not limited to, the following: the loan program dates back to the 1980's; the money invested into the community from the program has positively impacted the housing in Tamaqua; the program was suspended in 2016; an increase in the loan collection efforts during that time; the history of the program; loans, repayment and delinquency; refocusing the program; recommending that the maximum loan amount should be \$7,500.00 and maximum term should be 60 months; a fixed annual percentage rate of four percent; eligibility requirements; the purpose of loans; consider loans to elderly residents to help provide handicapped accessibility; a loan review by the Citizen's Advisory Committee; obtaining a credit report of the applicant; and using funds from the New Revolving account and maintaining fund sustainability. Councilman Evans stated that he and Director of Community Development Calabrese would be working together to develop a draft of guidelines by the end of the year. Director of Community Development Calabrese discussed the review of credit reports, credit scores and the creation of an application. There was much discussion about this matter.

President Mace thanked Councilman Evans for his years of service on council. Councilman Cara commended Councilman Evans for his service to the community.

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, a recommendation was made to hire Ernie Shilko as a Street Department Maintenance Worker at an hourly rate in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the borough and the United Autoworkers Local 1612. 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, a schedule of regular meetings of Council, Boards, Commissions, Authorities and special committees for 2019 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 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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, President Mace announced that tonight is Councilman Evans last meeting as he is resigning his seat on borough council effective December 31, 2018. President Mace presented Councilman Evans with a card and a retired street light fixture as a gift.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:38 p.m. on motion of Connely, seconded by Bowman, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

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Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer