

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of December on Tuesday, December 19, 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, R. Daniel Evans, Micah Gursky, Kerry Lasky and David Mace. Officials present were Mayor Christian Morrison, 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. A moment of silence was held for Donald Matalavage, who served as a borough worker for 36 years, 25 of them as the Borough Manager. President Mace stated that Mr. Matalavage was still referred to regularly among borough staff and his impact on the borough is still felt daily. The invocation was given by Councilman Cara followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Morrison. The roll was called with all councilmembers present.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on December 5, 2017 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Connely, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under Special Business, President Mace introduced Eric Zizelmann who is a member of the Tamaqua Remembers Committee. Mr. Zizelmann stated that Tamaqua Remembers is a month-long series of events to honor the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Memorial Day in 2018. The opening event will be on May 1, 2018 at the Tamaqua American Legion Parking Lot and would include the unveiling of a mural and the renaming of a section of South Nescopec Street by the American Legion. He stated that there is a retaining wall in the area and members of the committee are seeking council's approval to create a mural on the wall which would incorporate the names of Tamaqua residents who have been killed in action since the Civil War. Mr. Zizelmann introduced artists Eric Shalles and Chris Brink who presented the proposal to council. Mr. Zizelmann also asked council to consider renaming the section of South Nescopec Street where the memorial will be located. President Mace, who is also a member of the committee, stated that there are no addresses along that section of the street and asked Solicitor Greek to look into what needs to be done to rename the street.

A recommendation was made to approve the continuation of artwork creating a mural on the retaining wall located at South Nescopec Street and Cottage Avenue. 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 Gursky, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Ken Fenstermacher, Code Enforcement Officer, recommending the reappointment of Dale Freudenberger to a three-year term on the Historic Architectural Review Commission (HARC). A recommendation was made to reappoint Dale Freudenberger 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 Bowman, seconded by Lasky, 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 6, 2018 with a rain-date of May 20, 2018. The purpose of the walk is to help

the needy of Tamaqua Area by donating any canned goods/monies 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 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 Connely, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the 2018 Street Materials bid results. Manager Steigerwalt stated that there were a total of five 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	\$ 20,800.00
400 tons Superpave Warm/Hot Mix Wearing Coarse (delivery)	Pottsville Materials, Pottsville, PA	\$ 23,092.00
30 tons Superpave Warm/Hot Mix Any Wearing Coarse (pickup)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 1,530.00
100 tons Superpave Warm/Hot Mix Base Coarse (pickup)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 4,500.00
100 tons Superpave Warm/Hot Mix Base Coarse (delivery)	Pottsville Materials, Pottsville, PA	\$ 5,066.00
100 tons PaDOT OK Cold Patch (pickup)	Pottsville Materials, Pottsville, PA	\$ 12,500.00
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	\$ 3,750.00
500 tons 2A stone (delivery)	R.E. Pierson, Middleport, PA	\$ 6,250.00
100 gallons PG 64-22 (pickup)	Pottsville Materials, Pottsville, PA	\$ 450.00
750 tons Anti-skid AS3 (pickup)	R.E. Pierson, Middleport, PA	\$ 8,625.00
750 tons Anti-skid AS3 (delivery)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 11,025.00
200 tons #57 stone (pickup)	R.E. Pierson, Middleport, PA	\$ 1,900.00
200 tons #57 stone (delivery)	R.E. Pierson, Middleport, PA	\$ 3,000.00
100 tons #8 stone (pickup)	R.E. Pierson, Middleport, PA	\$ 1,150.00
100 tons #8 stone (delivery)	R.E. Pierson, Middleport, PA	\$ 1,700.00

A motion was made by Connely and seconded by Cara to award the 2018 Street Materials based on the recommendations of the Borough Manager. Councilman Evans expressed his concerns about the following: items 8 and 9 on the bid results worksheet which are for the 500 tons 2A stone and the use of 2A stone from R.E. Pierson; the quality of the materials from R.E. Pierson; the 2A stone may not be a true limestone; compaction issues; rejecting the awards for the 500 tons 2A stone and to look into alternatives. After some discussion about this matter, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to award the 2018 Street Materials based on the recommendations of the Borough Manager with the exception of the 500 tons 2A stone from R.E. Pierson Materials until this item is reviewed further. 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 unanimously approved. Manager Steigerwalt stated that he must discuss the 500 tons 2A stone issue with the PennDOT representative. Councilman Bowman stated that the stone is mined from two different quarries, one quarry is limestone and the other quarry is sandstone, and limestone is better than sandstone. There was some discussion about this matter.

Manager Steigerwalt also discussed the Center Street Welcome Sign Improvements as follows: PennDOT approved extending the conduit at the Center Street Bridge to light the Welcome to Tamaqua sign; the engineer, Alfred Benesch and Company, estimates an additional cost of \$2,400.00 for conduit, wiring, sidewalk and trenching; light fixtures and electric connection, controls, and switches would be extra; and the borough employees would be able to install the light fixture. A recommendation was made to approve an additional cost of \$2,400.00 for conduit, wiring, sidewalk and trenching at the Center Street Bridge to light the Welcome to Tamaqua sign. 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 Gursky, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that letters went out to residents of the 200, 300 and 400 blocks of Spruce Street notifying them that smoke tests on the sanitary sewer mains would be performed on December 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Connely commended Public Works Director Jones for the package of information that he sent out to the residents.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: the demolition of a property at 216 Penn Street has been completed; the demolition of a fire loss property at 500-502 North Railroad Street has also be completed; PennDOT has notified the borough that J.D. Eckman Inc. has been awarded the contract for the West Broad Street Bridge Replacement Project; a list of parking and traffic changes for the project; a letter from Alfred Benesch and Company providing the borough with a preliminary floodplain analysis of the Wabash Creek.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 357 East Union Street. 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.

President Mace thanked Councilwoman Lasky for her service on council as this would be her last meeting.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to adopt the 2018 Budget. The summary of the proposed budget is as follows:

Proposed 2018 Budget Summary

Estimated balance January 1, 2018	\$ 2,823,700
Estimated revenues	\$ 8,439,637
Estimated expenditures	<u>\$ (8,449,946)</u>
Estimated balance December 31, 2018	\$ 2,813,391

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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, the 2018 Tax Ordinance setting the real estate tax rate at 21.75 mills with 20.25 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. 693  
 AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA,  
 COUNTY OF SCHUYLKILL, COMMONWEALTH OF  
 PENNSYLVANIA, FIXING THE TAX RATE  
 FOR THE YEAR 2018.

	Mills on Each Dollar of Assessed Valuation
Tax Rate for General Purposes	20.25 Mills
Tax Rate for Building and Equipment Purposes	1.00 Mill
Tax Rate for Wabash Improvement Fund Purposes	0.50 Mill
Total	21.75 Mills

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing 2018 tax ordinance. 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 Evans, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

President Mace thanked Councilman Gursky for his 16 years of service on council, his contributions as a councilmember and his years of service in the community.

Mayor Morrison extended best wishes to Nathan Gerace as he serves his term as Mayor, and also thanked Chief Weaver, Councilmembers, Manager Steigerwalt, Secretary/Treasurer DeWire and Solicitor Greek for their assistance during his time as Mayor. Mayor Morrison stated that he looks forward to seeing how the borough progresses and hopes that the corner of Hunter and Spruce streets becomes a project for future completion.

President Mace thanked Mayor Morrison for his 12 years of service and stated that Mayor Morrison had become a visible presence in Tamaqua, and his commitment and dedication to the community comes from his heart.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

With no one 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 Evans, and unanimously approved.

Under Unfinished Business, a recommendation was made to hire Ann Marie Calabrese as Director of Community Development at an annual salary of \$36,000.00 effective January 8, 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 Lasky, and unanimously approved.

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 Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, a recommendation was made to retroactively approve a letter of support for the proposed Berks-Lebanon-Schuylkill Engage Business Calling Program proposal. 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, Councilman Gursky stated that the Pennsylvania General Assembly recently passed a new gambling expansion law legalizing a number of new gambling forms and venues. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania enacted Act No. 42 of 2017 which authorized ten new Category 4 licensed facilities defined as Mini-Casinos, each of which may operate up to 750 slot machines and up to 40 table games. There was some discussion about this matter. Councilman Gursky stated that he had a resolution stating that the Borough of Tamaqua will amend its zoning ordinance to permit wagering in its Highway Commercial and General Industrial Zones if the Borough is selected as a site for a Pennsylvania Mini-Casino to present for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION 2017-27**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA APPROVING A ZONING**  
**ORDINANCE AMENDMENT TO PERMIT WAGERING FACILITIES IN THE**  
**BOROUGH'S HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL AND GENERAL INDUSTRIAL ZONES**

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 Gursky, seconded by Cara, and approved by a 6-1 roll call vote with Councilman Evans opposed.

Under New Business, a motion was made by Cara and seconded by Bowman to relocate a directional sign for the Magistrate Building. After some discussion about this matter, the motion and second were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to remove a directional sign for the Magistrate Building and to provide appropriate signage. 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 Cara read a letter from Robert C. Folwell, Trails Project Manager of the Schuylkill River Heritage Area organization, regarding the welcome sign coming into Tamaqua and landscaping project.

Under New Business, Councilman Evans expressed his concerns about safety issues regarding the retaining wall behind the American Legion. There was some discussion about this matter. Manager Steigerwalt would look into the matter.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:57 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Gursky, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

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Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer