

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of December on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Tamaqua Municipal Building, 320 East Broad Street, Tamaqua, PA.

Present were Councilmembers Thomas Cara, Brian Connely, R. Daniel Evans, Kerry Lasky and David Mace. Absent were Councilmembers Micah Gursky and Justin Startzel. Officials present were Chief of Police Richard Weaver, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Solicitor Michael S. Greek and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Connely. The invocation was given by Councilman Cara followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Evans. The roll was called with five councilmembers present and two absent.

The reading of the minutes of the last Regular Council Meeting held on December 1, 2015 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Mace, seconded by Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Ann Ostergaard, secretary of the Tamaqua Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, requesting permission to close East Broad Street from Pine Street to Greenwood Street during the 18th Annual New Year's Eve Ball Drop at the ABC Tamaqua Hi-Rise. The event would be held between the hours of 10 p.m. on December 31, 2015 to 1 a.m. on January 1, 2016. The communication also requested that the street should be posted no parking and closed between the hours of 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. The communication also requested police protection 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 Mace, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Ricky Johnson of 248 Cottage Avenue requesting to have one block of Cottage Avenue be open to local traffic only, to accommodate a public auction at this address on Friday, December 17, 2015. The communication also requested that signage be put in place at 9:30 a.m. and remain in place until the conclusion of the sale. A recommendation was made to grant the requests. Councilman Mace stated that Mr. Johnson's dates are off as December 17th is a Thursday not a Friday. Manager Steigerwalt would contact Mr. Johnson regarding this matter. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Mace, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Shirley L. Becker, secretary of the Board of Health, recommending the appointments of Judith A. Hadesty R.N. as Health Officer to a one-year term effective January 1, 2016 and Christine Zizelmann R.N. to a five-year term on the Board of Health effective January 1, 2016.

A recommendation was made to appoint Judith A. Hadesty R.N. as Health Officer to a one-year term effective January 1, 2016. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Mace, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to appoint Christine Zizelmann R.N. to a five-year term on the Board of Health effective January 1, 2016. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Mace, seconded by Lasky, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the following: the street sweeper has stopped running for the winter season; the used equipment that went out for bid has been sold and ownership has been transferred; the three pieces of used equipment that were not sold were scrapped; the two new pick-ups were delivered to the borough; the new dump trucks have not been delivered to the borough yet; a bid opening for Street Materials would be held on December 29, 2015 at 2 p.m.; a list of Elected and Appointed Borough Officials and Boards and Commissions, reappointments and vacancies on the list; and a schedule of regular meetings of Council, Boards, Commissions, Authorities and special committees for 2016 has been prepared for advertisement by Secretary/Treasurer DeWire.

Under the Borough Manager's report, a recommendation was made to reappoint Dave Mace as a borough representative to the Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission (ESRC). 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 Borough Manager's report, a motion was made by Mace and seconded by Lasky to appoint Councilman Thomas Cara to the Employee Pension Committee. Vice President Connely stated that committee assignments for 2016 have not been made and would be determined after the reorganization meeting. The motion and second were rescinded.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau Repository Sales as follows: Edgar Nelson Inc., the bidder for the property located at 241 Lafayette Street, was not registered to do business in Pennsylvania; and Sean J.B. Hegarty, the bidder for the property located at 20 East Spruce Street has no outstanding code violations. There was some discussion about code violations at the property located at 241 Lafayette Street and that the bidder is a foreign corporation that is not registered to do business in Pennsylvania.

A recommendation was made to disapprove the Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau Repository Sale of 241 Lafayette Street, tax parcel number 65-11-0120.000, to Edgar Nelson Inc. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Mace, seconded by Evans, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to approve the Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau Repository Sale of 20 East Spruce Street, tax parcel number 65-16-307.000, to Sean J.B. Hegarty. There was some discussion regarding this matter. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Mace, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on another Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau Repository Sale for a property located at 153 ½ Penn Street for which he received notice of yesterday. The matter was referred to the Code Enforcement Department for review. The borough must respond to the Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau on or before January 15, 2016.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on a proposal for telephone and internet services from Service Electric Telephone. There was some discussion about the following: a review of the summary of savings over the present service; waiting for information from Service Electric Telephone as to whether they can provide service to all office locations; voice mail service is to be provided; the upgrades were budgeted; the reasons associated with the high cost for the Water Treatment Plant; and the proposal includes an additional internet connection for police use only.

Under the Borough Manager's report, a recommendation was made to respond to PPL stating that the borough is interested in purchasing the streetlights. 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 Mace, and unanimously approved.

Chairman Mace of the Website Committee reported on the following: the price of \$600 includes the designing of the website, the domain name and hosting for one year; the maintenance service agreement will cost \$40 per month with three updates per month; and a renewal cost of \$100 per year starting at the second year. A recommendation was made to approve an agreement with Bobby O’Gurek’s Web Design and Services of Summit Hill, PA for design and maintenance of a borough website. There was some discussion about the following: Mr. O’Gurek’s other websites; the possibility of making utility payments on the website; and having the Building and Equipment Committee look into utility payments and other items. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Mace, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Chairwoman Lasky of the Parking and Traffic Committee reported on a request from the Tamaqua Public Library Board of Directors requesting that parking signs be placed along the library building. There was some discussion about the following: the number of signs requested; “Parking for Library Patrons Only” signs; the number of library parking spaces; and the placement of the signs. A recommendation was made to install “Parking for Library Patrons Only” signs. There was some discussion about installing the signs on library property and to discuss the location with the Library Director. 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.

Chairman Mace of the Recreation and Youth Committee reported that he had a resolution accepting a \$60,000 grant for operation and maintenance of the H.D. Buehler Memorial Pool to present for council’s consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-13
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 no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Mace, seconded by Lasky, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Chairman Mace of the Recreation and Youth Committee reported that he had a resolution accepting a \$10,000 grant for the purpose of maintenance and improvements designated for the East End Playground to present for council’s consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-14
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 no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Mace, seconded by Lasky, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Under Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for GDP Ventures to attach exterior wooden stairways to the property at 301 West Broad Street. There was no one from the

floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Mace, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Herbert Curvey of 118 Clay Street thanked Manager Steigerwalt and councilmembers for taking care of the matter on West Street where a person dumped the remnants of a wall that was blocking the street.

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

Solicitor Greek reported on an Intergovernmental Agreement for the use of the Tamaqua Borough Uniform Construction Code Board of Appeals and an Ordinance approving the adoption of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Borough of Lansford and the Borough of Tamaqua.

Solicitor Greek also reported on an ordinance amending a pension ordinance which provides for a defined contribution benefit structure for newly hired full-time non-uniformed employees. A motion was made by Mace to refer the amended pension ordinance to the pension board for review. There was some discussion about having the pension board, Uninvest, and the UAW review the amended ordinance. Councilman Mace rescinded his motion and the motion died for lack of a second.

Under the Solicitor's report, a recommendation was made to advertise an Intergovernmental Agreement for the use of the Tamaqua Borough Uniform Construction Code Board of Appeals and an Ordinance approving the adoption of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Borough of Lansford and the Borough of Tamaqua. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Mace, seconded by Evans, and unanimously approved. Solicitor Greek stated that he would prepare the advertisement for both the Borough of Lansford and the Borough of Tamaqua at the same time. Solicitor Greek also stated that the Borough of Lansford should incur the cost since they are requesting the use of the Tamaqua Borough Uniform Construction Code Board of Appeals.

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 Mace, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under Unfinished Business, Councilman Cara stated that a structural inspection report of the Wabash Creek Culvert Upper and Lower Sections prepared by Alfred Benesch and Company did not include some of the issues in the area of the Tamaqua Public Library. There was some discussion about this matter. Manager Steigerwalt would bring this matter to the attention of Alfred Benesch and Company.

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, Vice President Connely stated that a Reorganization meeting would be held on Monday, January 4, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. followed by a regular council meeting.

Under New Business, Vice President Connely wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

A recommendation was made to hold an executive session to discuss real estate matters. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Mace, seconded by Evans, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 7:35 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 7:55 p.m.

Vice President Connely announced that an executive session was held to discuss real estate matters.

Under New Business, Councilman Cara asked about the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Rehabilitation loans payable report and why we are in the program if we have all these delinquent rehabilitation loans. Councilman Mace asked what we are doing about the delinquent loans. Manager Steigerwalt stated that letters are sent to the borrower, then to the Solicitor, and the worst loan delinquencies go into foreclosure. Vice President Connely stated that the next council would look into the future of the program. There was some discussion about the loan collections and the program.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:58 p.m. on motion of Mace, seconded by Lasky, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer