

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of July on Tuesday, July 15, 2014 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, R. Daniel Evans, Micah Gursky, Kerry Lasky, David Mace and Justin Startzel. Absent was Councilman Brian Connely. Officials present were Mayor Christian Morrison, Chief of Police Richard Weaver, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire, Assistant Borough Secretary/Treasurer Amy Macalush and Fire Chief Thomas Hartz. Absent was Solicitor Michael S. Greek.

The meeting was called to order by President Gursky. The invocation was given by Councilman Cara followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Evans. The roll was called with six councilmembers present and one absent.

The reading of the minutes of the last Regular Council Meeting held on July 1, 2014 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Mace, seconded by Startzel, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Land of the Running Water Chair Lisa Mace, Tamaqua Band Director Mark Beltz and Tamaqua Area Band Booster President Dave Hadesty requesting permission to prohibit parking on both sides of Coal Street from Orwigsburg to Spruce streets on October 11, 2014 for a fall Marching Band Adjudication Festival to be held at the Tamaqua Area Sports Stadium. A recommendation was made to grant the request. 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 Startzel, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Raymond R. Woodring Sr. stating his intent to retire from his position in the Tamaqua Water Department as of July 15, 2014. A recommendation was made to accept the letter of retirement from Raymond R. Woodring Sr. 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.

Communication was received from Kevin A. Steigerwalt of Boy Scout Troop 777 requesting permission to camp overnight at the Owl Creek Dams the weekend of August 8-10, 2014. A recommendation was made to grant the request. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Startzel, seconded by Mace, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Rose Mary Cannon, chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee of the Borough of Lansford, thanking council for the use of the facilities at the Buehler Memorial Pool to the residents of the Panther Valley on July 7th during repairs to their Lansford Pool.

Communication was received from Brian Rogers, Community Accessibility Coordinator for the Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living, offering a program that allows them to reach out to local municipalities to offer services and trainings on a wide range of disability issues.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that he had a resolution certifying that the Borough of Tamaqua has a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Plan, a Women Business Enterprise (WBE) Plan and a Socially/Economically Restricted Business (SERB) Plan. The following resolution was presented for council's consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-11
BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA
MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (MBE) PLAN
WOMEN BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (WBE) PLAN
SOCIALLY/ECONOMICALLY RESTRICTED BUSINESS (SERB) PLAN

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 Evans, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Under the Borough Manager report, a recommendation was made to adopt a revised Affirmative Action Policy. 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 the Borough Manager report, there was some discussion about a request by No. 1 Emergency and Rescue, which has provided emergency response services for the borough, to apply for a loan to purchase a rescue truck. There was some discussion about this matter. A recommendation was made to approve a request by No. 1 Emergency and Rescue, for the entering into by No. 1 Emergency and Rescue of an Agreement in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$189,538.00 to finance equipment consisting of One (1) Spartan ERV Light Duty 4x4 Rescue Truck which will be located at the fire house of the No. 1 Emergency and Rescue and that this approval does not in any way constitute any financial involvement or obligation of the Municipality. Council recognized Kathy Kunkel of The Times News Newspaper stating that a public notice was placed in The Times News newspaper for the purpose of holding a public hearing on the proposed financing by the No. 1 Emergency and Rescue. There was no one else from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Mace, seconded by Startzel, and approved by a 5-0-1 with Councilman Evans abstaining.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on an upcoming Judicial Sale to be held by the Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau. There are twelve borough properties on the list. President Gursky suggested that the public visit the county's website to view a list of properties up for judicial sale. President Gursky read the list of judicial sale properties: 537 East Elm Street; 104 Pitt Street; 335 Rowe Street; 421 West Broad Street; 13 Market Street; 310 East Broad Street; 256 Cottage Avenue; 266 Van Gelder Street; 214 Race Street; 160 West Spruce Street; 63 ½ Bowe Street; and 750 East Broad Street.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the number of job vacancies that need to be posted both in-house and advertised. Manager Steigerwalt stated that the job postings in-house include the Street Maintenance Work Leader position, the Street Sweeper Operator position, the Water Distribution Work Leader position and the Water Distribution Worker position. Manager Steigerwalt stated that there were no in-house applicants interested in applying for the vacant position of Street Worker/Assistant Mechanic. There was some discussion about these matters.

A recommendation was made to advertise for a Street Worker/Assistant Mechanic position. 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 Startzel, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to post an in-house job vacancy notice for the Street Maintenance Work Leader position, the Street Sweeper Operator position, the Water Distribution

Work Leader position and the Water Distribution Worker position. 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.

Chief Weaver reported that he provided council with additional reports for the Police Department.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to remove a Handicapped Parking sign at 210 Orwigsburg Street. 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.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to deny a handicapped parking space application for Karen M. Stahler of 315 Washington Street. 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 Evans of the Parking and Traffic Committee reported that his committee would be holding a meeting within the next two weeks.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to build a 17 foot by 14 foot deck on to the rear of the property facing Van Gelder Street at 228 High Street. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Startzel, seconded by Mace, and unanimously approved.

Chairman Startzel of the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee reported that a meeting of the Tamaqua Borough Council, Tamaqua Planning Commission, Tamaqua Zoning Hearing Board and Eastern Schuylkill Planning Commission would be held on July 22, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers for the purpose of discussing proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.

Mayor Morrison reported that the Schuylkill County Communication Center is converting to digital radios. There was much discussion about the following: Green's Communications in Pottsville are requesting that the loaner radios provided to the police department be returned; a total cost of approximately \$33,735 to purchase digital hand-held radios and radios for the police cars; grants are not available to purchase the radios; where to purchase the radios; COSTARS vendors; and a proposal should be presented at the next meeting. Fire Chief Hartz stated that the fire department conversion of its portable radios to digital is just around the corner and more radios are needed for the fire departments.

Mayor Morrison read a Dear Tamaqua letter from Isabella Ligenza and Erica Goho submitted a drawing of Rabbit Run.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Donna Hill of 65 Bowe Street expressed her concerns about the condition of a house at 63½ Bowe Street as follows: the property has not been maintained since the owners moved out; presented photos of the property; the roof and ceiling are falling down; water damage to her property and her son's property; code violations and code enforcement issues.

Carol Wargo of 61 Bowe Street also expressed her concerns about the condition of 63½ Bowe Street adding that damage is spreading and it is a fire hazard. There was much discussion about this matter.

Samantha Leiby of 4 Black Bear Lane also expressed her concerns about the issues that the residents are dealing with regarding the condition of 63½ Bowe Street.

Tony Rodrigue of 28 South Railroad Street expressed his concerns about recurring problems with derelict properties. Mr. Rodrigue recommended contacting state Senator David Argall and state Representative Jerry Knowles to create new legislation and to help put teeth in the laws.

Mr. Rodrigue recommended that the meeting of the Tamaqua Borough Council, Tamaqua Planning Commission, Tamaqua Zoning Hearing Board and Eastern Schuylkill Planning Commission, that Councilman Startzel would be holding, should be advertised as a joint workshop meeting. Mr. Rodrigue also recommended that a representative from the Tamaqua Chamber of Commerce be invited to discuss how the zoning ordinance impacts businesses. There was some discussion about this matter.

Guo Cheng Wu of the Hunan House Restaurant, located at 119-123 West Broad Street, expressed his concerns about issues with Code Enforcement Officer Josh Esposito, HVAC plans and fire damper, and his costs, as it pertains to his restaurant expansion project that is already one year in the process. There was some discussion about this matter.

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 Mace, seconded by Cara, 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, President Gursky discussed a proposal from The Seltzer Group of Schuylkill Haven to provide Diversity and Discrimination Employee Training. A motion was made by Mace and seconded by Startzel to approve an agreement with The Seltzer Group to provide Diversity and Discrimination Employee Training. After some discussion, the motion and seconded were amended as follows: A recommendation was made to approve an agreement with The Seltzer Group to provide Diversity and Discrimination Employee Training and to make the training mandatory for all employees. 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 Startzel, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, President Gursky announced that the National Night Out Event would be held on August 5, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. President Gursky stated that if council has business to discuss, a council meeting would be held on August 5, 2014; however if there is no business to discuss, the council meeting would be cancelled.

A recommendation was made to hold an executive session to discuss personnel matters. 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 Mace, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 8:10 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:40 p.m.

President Gursky stated that an executive session was held to discuss personnel matters and litigation issues.

A recommendation was made to hire Mark Leiby, Richard Miller and Aaron Coggiano for the positions of Street Maintenance Workers. There was some discussion about setting different starting dates for each employee in order to attain seniority rights. It was noted that the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Borough of Tamaqua and the United Autoworkers Local 1612 states that should the seniority of any two or more employees be equal, the seniority rights of such employees shall be determined by the last four numbers of the employee's social security number, with the employee having the higher number being deemed the senior employee. 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 Startzel, and unanimously approved.

There was some discussion about advertising for the joint workshop meeting and that a 24 hour notice is needed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m. on motion of Mace, seconded by Startzel, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer