

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of June on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. through the Zoom video conference system. The public was able to participate in the council meeting using a computer, tablet or smart phone with an internet connection using the link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84492944766> and by entering Meeting ID 844 9294 4766. Individuals who did not have internet access were able to participate by telephone by dialing 1-929-436-2866 and entering Meeting ID 844 9294 4766 #.

Present were Councilmembers Robert Amentler, Ronald Bowman, Brian Connely, Mary Linkevich, Ritchie Linkhorst and David Mace. Absent was Councilmember Thomas Cara. Officials present were Mayor Nathan Gerace, Chief of Police Henry Woods, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Public Works Director Robert Jones, Solicitor Anthony Odorizzi, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire and Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Gregory Kurtz Jr.

The meeting was called to order by President Mace. The invocation was given by President Mace. President Mace stated that since the borough is using a video conferencing platform, the Pledge of Allegiance was waived. The roll was called with six councilmembers present and one absent.

President Mace announced that an executive session was held on May 29, 2020 for personnel issues.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on May 19, 2020 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that the pool is being prepared for opening and discussed the following: the pool was cleaned; the sale of pool passes are being limited to Tamaqua Area School District and Panther Valley School District residents only; pool pass applications would be available throughout the community; the passes would be distributed at the pool; approximately 70 patrons have already been entered by Christine Zamudio, secretary to the Borough Manager; pool personnel would have a laptop and hotspot; pool personnel would be able to sell season passes at the pool and have the ability to enter patron information into a program that is accessible by pool personnel and borough office staff; mechanical issues are being taken care of by Public Works Director Jones and Water Department Work Leader Stidham; and looking into methods of decontaminating and cleaning the pool area. Manager Steigerwalt stated that Ty Weaver of Rx Shield decontaminated the police station and two police vehicles free of charge. Manager Steigerwalt also stated that the borough looked into other prices that ranged from approximately \$850.00 to \$1,200.00 and Rx Shield was the least expensive. Manager Steigerwalt also stated that Rx Shield was hired to decontaminate the borough building before and after Election Day voting for a cost of \$400.00. Manager Steigerwalt stated that Rx Shield also sells equipment for a mobile decontamination station and he is recommending the purchase of this equipment. It is a hydrogen based sanitizer, non-toxic and biodegradable.

A motion was made by Bowman and seconded by Linkevich to purchase a Decon 7 mobile Decon station from Rx Shield of Annville, PA at a cost of \$4,495.00. There was some discussion about the following: how often it would be used; Mr. Weaver gave recommendations for its use; guidance to sanitize the pool facilities twice per day; the possibility that the equipment will not be ready for set up for pool opening day; and asking Mr. Weaver if Rx Shield would be able to

sanitizing the pool facilities, if needed, as a courtesy from the vendor. The motion and second were amended as follows: a motion was made by Bowman and seconded by Linkevich to purchase a Decon 7 mobile Decon station from Rx Shield of Annville, PA at a cost of \$4,495.00 and having Rx Shield come in, if needed, to sanitize the pool facilities until we get this unit. President Mace lost his connection to the Zoom meeting at approximately 7:09 p.m. Vice-President Connely took charge of the Zoom meeting and continued the discussion which also included tracking COVID-19 related expenses for reimbursement. Manager Steigerwalt stated that there is currently approximately \$7,400.00 in COVID-19 related expenses. President Mace's connection to the Zoom meeting was restored at approximately 7:11 p.m. The amendment to the motion was rescinded by Bowman and Linkevich. The original motion made was to purchase a Decon 7 mobile Decon station from Rx Shield of Annville, PA at a cost of \$4,495.00. President Mace asked if the equipment would be purchased with funds from the Equipment Fund. Manager Steigerwalt stated that his recommendation is to split the cost of the equipment among the General, Water and Sewer Funds. 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 unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to have Rx Shield sanitize the pool facilities in the event the borough does not have the decontamination equipment in time for the pool opening. 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that the Street Department is working on the preparation of Owl Creek Road for the Oil and Chip Project. There was some discussion about the following: placing appropriate signage there now; Uneven Pavement signs; additional signage; Work Area Ahead signs; and obtaining Road Under Construction signs. Councilman Bowman would look into obtaining Road Under Construction signs that would be placed permanently from now to the end of the project.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: the Tamaqua Area School District Solar Array project is wrapping up and Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Kurtz will be ready to issue permits soon; the office space in the borough building to be utilized by the Tamaqua Area Chamber of Commerce was painted and the Chamber will be moving in on July 1st; and gave an update on the refinancing of our 2012 General Obligation Bonds.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that Director of Community Development Calabrese was not able to participate in tonight's council meeting, but she asked that he report the following: the Tamaqua Community Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ) annual reporting for businesses and tenants with businesses is due as soon as possible; and a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) public hearing will be held on June 16, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. prior to the regular council meeting to discuss the use of CARES Act CDBG funds to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and to prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Manager Steigerwalt requested an executive session prior to adjournment to discuss personnel matters.

Under the Borough Manager report, Councilwoman Linkevich asked that PennDOT be notified about the potholes in the area of the Rite Aid Pharmacy and Murphy's Beer Distributor;

and President Mace added and all areas in-between on Route 309. Public Works Director Jones stated that he has already passed this information on to PennDOT.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that the HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) unit in the Council Chambers is beyond repair. Manager Steigerwalt stated that he has a quote from Larry McCullion and Son Electrical Construction Services in the amount of \$9,750.00 to remove and install a new heat pump unit. A recommendation was made to approve the purchase and installation of a new heat pump unit for the Council Chambers from Larry McCullion and Son Electrical Construction Services in the amount of \$9,750.00. There was some discussion about other replacements and repairs. 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 unanimously approved.

Chief Woods reported that the Police Executive Development (POLEX) training program through Penn State's Justice and Safety Institute has been rescheduled to September and Corporal Michael Hobbs would be attending that training.

Chief Woods also reported that firearms qualifications were held a few weeks ago and that the firearms instructor stated that the departments AR-15 rifles need to be replaced. Chief Woods stated that he would be obtaining costs to replace the AR-15s. There was some discussion about this matter.

Chief Woods also reported that the Tamaqua Police Department, along with Jeanine Holter from the Attorney General's Office, Schuylkill County District Attorney Michael O'Pake and the Schuylkill County Drug Task Force, will be participating in a free Narcan Distribution Drive Thru Event on June 8th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Tamaqua Area High School Administration Building. There was much discussion about the borough's liability, Narcan training and the distribution.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace the structures windows, guard rails and light fixtures, and to construct a wood fire escape at 41 Market Street. Public Works Director Jones asked about the construction of a wooden fire escape and if it is permitted under the Building Code. Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Kurtz stated that it would be more so a deck and stairs where you can exit a building. 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a wooden fence and a stone driveway at 265 West Rowe Street. 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 unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace front porch stairs at 45 Market Street. 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 unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to change the face of an existing sign at 238 East

Broad Street. 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 unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace the existing above ground swimming pool and deck at 741 East Broad Street. 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 unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to change the faces of existing signs at 234 High Street. 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 unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to demolish a garage and grade landscaping into the yard at 528 Arlington Street. 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 unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a wooden fence at 424 Arlington Street. 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 unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to make repairs to the existing deck, stairs and landing at 311 East Broad Street. 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 unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to open the Howard D. Buehler Memorial Pool following state approval to open public pools during yellow phase and at an undetermined date in June when procedures and protocols are in order. President Mace stated that the opening date is to be determined, possibly mid-June. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve the season and daily pass fees for the Howard D. Buehler Memorial Pool for the 2020 season. It was noted that the fee schedule is the same as previous years and that there will be no out-of-district season or daily passes per the new protocol to reduce user load. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Ben Turrano and Jacob Rudy as assistant pool managers for the 2020 season at a pay rate of \$15.00 per hour. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The

recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Kailyn Erbe and Ethan Turrano as head lifeguards for the 2020 season at a pay rate of \$11.00 per hour and \$12.00 per hour when acting as pool managers. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire part-time lifeguards at a pay rate of \$10.00 per hour plus \$0.25 per hour for each year of service. The part-time life guards are as follows: Nicole Agüero-Ramirez, Casey Akins, James Akins, Caroline Balogach, Emily Breslin, Makenna Carroll, Emma Coccio, Kailyn Erbe, Brynn Gigli, Logan Hess, Rachel Hinkle, Ashley Jones, Kirstin Jones, Olivia Jones, Serena Jones, Emily Newton, Kaitlyn Shlanta, Sophia Susarchick, Hailey Toth, Megan Toth, Ethan Turrano and Rylee Wenzel. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire part-time pool clerks at a pay rate of \$9.00 per hour plus \$0.25 per hour for each year of service. The part-time pool clerks are as follows: Kailee Carroll, Christine Dover, Olivia Lattanzi and Haley Macalush. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Chairwoman Linkevich of the Recreation and Youth Committee extended a thank you to Manager Steigerwalt, Public Works Director Jones and the borough staff for all the pool preparations.

Mayor Gerace stated that he and Chief Woods would be going over July 4th patrols. There was some discussion about the following: fireworks; permits for fireworks; and a fireworks ordinance.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

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

Under New Business, Councilwoman Linkevich discussed selling the old street sign to interested parties. There was some discussion about this matter and selling the signs on the Municibid online government auction website or similar electronic platform with a minimum purchase price and auction period. A motion was made by Linkevich and seconded by Bowman to permit the sale of any old unused street signs and any other items on the Municibid online government auction website or some other equivalent platform with minimum prices and length of auction periods to be set by the Borough Manager. There was some discussion about the following: have someone reliable go through the signs to determine which are feasible for sale and remove the signs from behind the borough garage building; do not sell the signs below scrap value; anybody who is eligible as an individual can go to the Municibid website and bid on items; local residents would be interested in buying these signs; posting on Municibid would open up the sale to anyone from across the country; having a grace period that could be offered to our residents to bid and buy the signs and then open it up to Municibid; and not putting it on Municibid and only sell to people who live in the area. The motion and second were amended as follows: a motion was made by Linkevich and seconded by Bowman to permit the sale of any old unused street signs and any other items with minimum prices and length of auction periods to be set by the Borough Manager and administered by the borough staff. Manager Steigerwalt stated that the borough has a policy in

place that items valued at less than \$1,000.00 could be sold outright by the Building and Equipment Committee, so that committee could oversee the process. There was some discussion about depositing the funds from the sale of the signs into the Equipment Fund. The motion and second were amended again as follows: a motion was made by Linkevich and seconded by Bowman to permit the sale of any old unused street signs and any other items with minimum prices and length of auction periods to be set by the Borough Manager and administered by the borough staff with the funds from the sale of the signs to be deposited into the Equipment Fund. There was some discussion about the following: the price per pound of aluminum would help determine the price tag for the sale of the signs; have Director of Community Development Calabrese post the sale of the borough's Facebook page; an auction period for the sale; selling a sign for \$20.00; selling a sign on a first come first served basis versus an auction; and possibly limiting the sale of the signs to Tamaqua residents. There was some discussion about having Director of Community Development Calabrese determine a program for the sale of the signs. The motion and second were amended a third time as follows: a recommendation was made to approve the sale of old street signs under a program as to be determined by Director of Community Development Calabrese and presented to council at a future meeting. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

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 Bowman, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 8:04 p.m. while council met in executive session.

Councilman Connely left the Zoom video conference system meeting at approximately 8:30 p.m.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:39 p.m.

President Mace announced that an executive session was held to discuss personnel matters.

A recommendation was made to authorize the Borough Manager to advertise for Requests For Proposals (RFP's) for cleaning services for the borough buildings. 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 Linkhorst, and approved by a 5-0 vote.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:40 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer