

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of July on Tuesday, July 21, 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/82967580577> and by entering Meeting ID 829 6758 0577. Individuals who did not have internet access were able to participate by telephone by dialing 1-929-436-2866 and entering Meeting ID 829 6758 0577#.

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, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Public Works Director Robert Jones, Solicitor Anthony Odorizzi, Assistant Borough Secretary/Treasurer Amy Macalush, Director of Community Development Ann Marie Calabrese and Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Gregory Kurtz Jr.

The meeting was called to order by President Mace. Councilman Cara was not present to offer the invocation. 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.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on July 7, 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 there were errors in the advertisement for the last council meeting which contributed to problems people had logging on in the beginning. Manager Steigerwalt stated that he and Solicitor Odorizzi felt it would be wise to do a resolution to re-approve or ratify all actions taken at the last meeting. Manager Steigerwalt had a resolution ratifying, re-affirming and re-approving all motions, resolutions and official actions of the council meeting held on July 7, 2020 to present for council's consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-7
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, RATIFYING, RE-AFFIRMING AND RE-APPROVING ALL MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND OFFICIAL ACTIONS OF THE TAMAQUA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON JULY 7, 2020

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 had a resolution extending the Mayor's Declaration of Disaster Emergency of March 20, 2020 for an additional thirty (30) day period to terminate on August 25, 2020 to present for council's consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-8
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 10A06 OF THE PENNSYLVANIA BOROUGH CODE, AND SECTION 7501 OF THE PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES CODE, EXTENDING THE MAYOR OF TAMAQUA'S DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY OF MARCH 20, 2020 FOR AN ADDITIONAL PERIOD OF THIRTY (30) DAYS.

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 Connely, seconded by Bowman, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Manager Steigerwalt had a resolution requesting a Blight Remediation Program grant in the amount of \$250,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) to be used for demolition of blighted properties to present for council's consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-9
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, REQUESTING A BLIGHT REMEDIATION PROGRAM GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250,000 FROM THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY TO BE USED FOR THE DEMOLITION OF BLIGHTED PROPERTIES IN THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA.

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 Connely, seconded by Bowman, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Manager Steigerwalt had a proposal from Alfred Benesch & Company in the amount of \$4,500 for Professional Engineering Services for the annual inspection of Upper Owl Creek and Lower Owl Creek Dams. A recommendation was made to approve a proposal from Alfred Benesch & Company in the amount of \$4,500 for Professional Engineering Services for the annual inspection of Upper Owl Creek and Lower Owl Creek Dams. 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 reported on the following; PennDOT will be doing patching work on Pine Street between Mauch Chunk Street and the bridge starting next week and that motorists traveling that area can expect a work zone setup and traffic delays; we are working with Alfred Benesch and Company on the next round of street resurfacing, which would include a section of Elm Street and Market Street and some other streets in North Ward, specifically Pitt and Nescopeck streets; a wall supporting Lincoln Street (at the rear of 524 Washington Street) is in poor condition, and due to the site conditions, requested a cost estimate and proposal from Alfred & Benesch to replace the wall; and the recommendation of a DJI Phantom 3 starter drone for use by the borough, specifically the Code Enforcement Department, that can be purchased for under \$1,000. Councilman Connely added that the Building and Equipment Committee is also gathering information and setting up demos for different types of drones based on the borough's needs.

Director of Community Development Calabrese reported on the following: a CRIZ filing reminder was sent to the contractors of the Wheel Restaurant for work done in 2019; the Schuylkill County COVID-19 County Relief Block Grant application will be filed this week for potential reimbursement of COVID-19 related expenses incurred by the borough; she would like to help with getting donations for mulch for the playgrounds; she is waiting for a response from Highwood USA regarding volunteers, furniture and other in-kind donations to the parks via their Community Stewardship Program; Brent of Aquatic Facility Design still has work to do to in making the borough compliant with the Pool Feasibility Study Grant; Tamaqua Dines Out Program information was submitted to several local restaurants and some have asked if the program will be extended beyond August 31, 2020; a meeting next week with the forester and Penn State Master Gardener to discuss clean up and trimming of the trees planted at the Bungalow; and she is still promoting 2020 census completion.

Under the Building and Equipment Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a proposal from High Mountain Hardware Inc. for renovations to the municipal building

entrance at a cost of \$3,000. Councilman Bowman asked if the proposal from High Mountain Hardware Inc. for renovations to the municipal building can be submitted for reimbursement with the COVID-19 County Relief Block Grant application. President Mace stated that the proposal should be included with the COVID-19 County Relief Block Grant application. 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, Chairwoman Linkevich had a resolution, which was read by Manager Steigerwalt, regarding the request for a debt referendum question to be placed on the general election ballot for financing of an amount not to exceed 2.5 million dollars for the rehabilitation and repair of the Bungalow Pool to present for council's consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-10
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, REQUESTING A DEBT REFERENDUM QUESTION BE SUBMITTED TO THE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO BE PLACED ON THE GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT ON NOVEMBER 3, 2020, TO BE PHRASED AS FOLLOWS: "SHOULD DEBT IN A SUM NOT TO EXCEED 2.5 MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING THE REHABILITATION AND REPAIR OF THE BUNGALOW POOL BE AUTHORIZED TO BE INCURRED AS DEBT APPROVED BY THE ELECTORS?"

Solicitor Odorizzi stated that he would like to add the date of election being November 3, 2020 somewhere in the Now Therefore, Be it Resolved paragraph. Council added that this is not an exact number or definite 2.5 million dollar expenditure, but that the votes would help with decision making when the time comes. A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution with the addition of the date of election as indicated by Solicitor Odorizzi. 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 approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, Chairwoman Linkevich stated that she asked the community for donations via Facebook to cover the cost of mulch for the Dutch Hill playground and was overwhelmed by the response. Chairwoman Linkevich stated that people have been very generous and that there is almost enough money to cover the cost of mulch for all of the playgrounds that need it.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

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

Solicitor Odorizzi reported that we are still waiting for bonding from the Tamarak Square developer.

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 Bowman, 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 Bowman, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Amentler, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Amy Macalush, Assistant Borough Secretary/Treasurer