

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of October on Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Tamaqua Municipal Building, 320 East Broad Street, Tamaqua, PA.

Present were Councilmembers Robert Amentler, Ronald Bowman, Brian Connely, Jay Hollenbach Jr., Mary Linkevich, Ritchie Linkhorst and David Mace. Officials present were Mayor Nathan Gerace, Chief of Police Michael Hobbs, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Solicitor Anthony Odorizzi, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire and Director of Community Development Ann Marie Calabrese.

The meeting was called to order by President Mace. The invocation was given by Councilman Connely followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Linkhorst. The roll was called with all councilmembers present.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on September 21, 2021 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Bowman, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from George Taylor, outreach team of Zion Lutheran Church, requesting permission to close Mauch Chunk Street from Greenwood Street to Market Street on October 24, 2021 from noon to 5:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. for a “Trunk or Treat” event. 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 Bowman, seconded by Connely, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Dale Freudenberger, president of the Tamaqua Historical Society, stating that the 37th Annual Tamaqua Heritage Festival would be held on October 10, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The communication is requesting permission for the following: the Borough and Police Department’s help with street closures and postings; a list of streets that should be posted No Parking on Sunday; a list of streets that would be closed to all traffic; barricades for various street intersections; and the use of a borough dump truck and wooden stairs to load trash. The Tamaqua Historical Society would pay for the tipping fee at the Tamaqua Transfer Station. 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 Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the 2021-2022 insurance policy renewal with The Seltzer Group and a summary of the insurance premiums compared to last year was provided for council. Manager Steigerwalt stated that all of the insurances renew on October 1st, which includes Property, General Liability, Inland Marine, Crime, Auto, Excess, Public Officials and Employment Practices Liability, Police Professional Liability, and Pollution Liability. There was an increase of approximately \$9,700 and the annual total cost is \$167,692. The Worker’s Compensation also increased approximately \$14,000. There was no change in coverage and deductibles.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: the Heating Oil Contract bid opening is scheduled for October 18th at 2:00 p.m.; a Civil Service Examination for the full-time position of Police Officer would be conducted on October 30th at 9:00 a.m.; and he will be working on the 2022 budget shortly.

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

Under the Borough Manager's report, President Mace discussed the street lights and stated that council should consider and prepare a fund similar to the Wabash Fund in anticipation of future expenses. Manager Steigerwalt stated that the street lights are covered by insurance and the borough received 30 utility poles and associated wiring with the purchase.

Director of Community Development Calabrese reported on the following: the Tamaqua Community Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ) certification of local taxes; and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Small Business Assistance Program to help small businesses recover from COVID-19.

Chief Hobbs reported that Schuylkill County Sheriff Joe Groody, Schuylkill County Drug and Alcohol and local Law Enforcement announced they are participating in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on October 26th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and the Tamaqua Police Station is a drop off location.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to accept a letter of resignation from part-time police officer Aaron Koehler. 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.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Jesse Zimmerman as a part-time police officer effective immediately. 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.

Mayor Gerace asked if the borough would be placing the public garbage cans back out on West Broad Street. Manager Steigerwalt addressed some issues with people putting their personal garbage in these containers.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

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

Solicitor Odorizzi requested an executive session prior to adjournment to discuss legal matters.

A recommendation was made to hold an executive session to discuss legal and 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 7:15 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 7:57 p.m.

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

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include a motion to appoint Frank Morris to the open position of Water Distribution Worker/Meter Reader. There was 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 Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to appoint Frank Morris to the open position of Water Distribution Worker/Meter Reader. President Mace stated that Mr. Morris was the only applicant to bid into the position. 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 Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 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