

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of November on Tuesday, November 16, 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, Jay Hollenbach Jr., Mary Linkevich, Ritchie Linkhorst and David Mace. Absent was Councilman Brian Connely. Officials present were Mayor Nathan Gerace, Chief of Police Michael Hobbs, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Solicitor Anthony Odorizzi, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Trainee Tonia Collevchio and Director of Community Development Ann Marie Calabrese.

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

President Mace announced that an executive session was held on November 3, 2021 to discuss real estate and personnel matters. President Mace also announced that an executive session was held on November 9, 2021 to discuss real estate matters.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on October 19, 2021 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Bowman, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Judy A. Hoppes, festival chairperson, stating that the Tamaqua Spirit of Christmas Festival Committee has been meeting and are planning to hold the 2021 Festival from December 2<sup>nd</sup> through December 5<sup>th</sup>. Events are being planned with safety and social distancing taken into consideration. There will not be a Santa Parade this year. The communication is requesting permission to use Depot Square Park on December 3<sup>rd</sup> for the Light the Park and “Meet and Greet with Santa” events and on December 5<sup>th</sup> for a Christmas Tree Lighting event. The communication also requested assistance of the fire police for the “Meet and Greet with Santa” event. A recommendation was made to grant the request, and to authorize the use of the Tamaqua Fire Police. 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 Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Paul H. Fridirici, secretary of the Tamaqua Community Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ) Authority, recommending the reappointment of Dan Evans to a five-year term on the CRIZ Authority effective January 1, 2022. A recommendation was made to reappoint Dan Evans to a five-year term on the CRIZ Authority effective January 1, 2022. President Mace commended Mr. Evans for doing an excellent job since he has been serving on the committee. 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.

Communication was received from Paul H. Fridirici, secretary of the Tamaqua Borough Authority, recommending the reappointment of Brian Connely to a five-year term on the Tamaqua Borough Authority effective January 1, 2022. A recommendation was made to reappoint Brian Connely to a five-year term on the Tamaqua Borough Authority effective January 1, 2022. 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.

Communication was received from Timothy M. Ziegler, secretary of the Tamaqua Water Authority, recommending the reappointment of Brian Connely to a five-year term on the Tamaqua Water Authority effective January 1, 2022. A recommendation was made to reappoint Brian Connely to a five-year term on the Tamaqua Water Authority effective January 1, 2022. 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.

Communication was received from Rosemarie Noftz, secretary, stating that she is resigning her position from the Board of Health effective December 10, 2021. A recommendation was made to accept the resignation of Rosemarie Noftz from the Board of Health effective December 10, 2021. President Mace requested that a letter thanking her for her service be sent to Mrs. Noftz. 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.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the Heating Oil Contract bid opening results from November 15, 2021 as follows: two bids were received for the No. 2 Heating Oil to be delivered to various borough facilities and volunteer fire companies; the lowest bidder for the fixed price at \$2.5957 per gallon was Papco of Aston, PA; and the lowest bidder for the floating price at \$0.165 per gallon was Fegley Oil Company of Tamaqua, PA. There was some discussion about this matter. A recommendation was made to award the contract for No. 2 Heating Oil to Papco of 2 New Road, Suite 311, Aston, PA at the fixed price of \$2.5957 per gallon. 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.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: a bid opening for Street Materials would be held on December 16<sup>th</sup>; stopping the street sweeper this week but residents should still pay attention to the No Parking signs due to the borough putting up the Christmas decorations; and there are several department openings as there were no letters of interest internally.

Under the Borough Manager's report, a recommendation was made to advertise outside for the positions of Head Mechanic, Street Maintenance Worker and Water Distribution Worker. Councilman Bowman stated that the second person that was previously interviewed was contacted for the Head Mechanic position, but the person is no longer interested in the position. There was 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.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: work on the Lincoln Street wall continues; the demolition of 252 Cottage Avenue continues; there are two vacancies on the Citizen's Advisory Committee and two vacancies on the Board of Health; anyone interested in filling a vacancy should send a letter of interest; and the Tamaqua Library Board is looking for board representatives.

Chairman Linkhorst of the Parking and Traffic Committee reported that he had an ordinance prohibiting parking on the west side of the 200 block of Rolling Mill Avenue and the

north side of East Union Street from Rolling Mill Avenue to 70 feet east of the intersection to present for council's consideration:

**ORDINANCE NO. 728**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, REVISING AND AMENDING SECTION 326-26 OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA CODE OF ORDINANCES ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, ARTICLE III PARKING, SECTION 326-26 – PARKING PROHIBITED IN CERTAIN LOCATIONS.**

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing ordinance. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkhorst, seconded by Hollenbach, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to move a handicapped parking sign from 244 Mauch Chunk Street to 11 North Lehigh Street. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkhorst, seconded by Hollenbach and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to tentatively adopt and advertise the 2022 Budget. 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.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to advertise the 2022 Tax Ordinance setting the real estate tax rate at 23.50 mills with 21.90 mills for General Purposes, 1 mill for the Building and Equipment Fund, 0.50 mill for the Wabash Capital Improvement Fund and 0.10 mill for the Street Light Fund. 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.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve the permanent transfer of Frank Morris to the Meter Reader 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 Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve the permanent transfers of George Herring to Street Department Work Leader, Aaron Coggiano to Street Maintenance/Sweeper Operator and Jeff Hartz to Water Distribution Worker provided they successfully complete the trial period. It was noted that the trial periods end before the next meeting. 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.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace the stoop, brick sidewalk, gutters and downspouts on the main brick building at 320 Lafayette Street known historically as the Bischoff Furniture and Undertaking complex. President Mace explained Phase One of the overall project. The applicant would like to start exterior work which shall consist of restoration of the main stoop for code compliance using salvaged stone and brick materials, restoration of existing brick sidewalk using salvaged materials, restoration of all windows in the main building in place,

restoration and upgrade of two door openings on the front, temporary enclosure of one rear door opening for a future project, demolition of non-historic rear stairs and CMU connector building, minor masonry cleaning and removal of organics from the site damaging the building including invasive vines, new utilities to the site as needed to support rehabilitation use, single outside light fixture restoration, new gutters and downspouts, and replacement of the fascia, soffit and rakes. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Hollenbach, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to remove the existing, dilapidated third floor rear deck and stairway connection between the second and third floor at 14 West Broad Street. The stairway between the second and third floor and the third floor deck will be replaced with all new code compliant stairs and a smaller deck using pressure treated lumber. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Hollenbach, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Chairman Hollenbach of the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District reported that he had a Fee Schedule Resolution revising the Rental Property Inspection fees to present for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-14  
BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA  
FEE SCHEDULE RESOLUTION**

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution. 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 Hollenbach, seconded by Linkevich, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Gerace requested an executive session prior to adjournment to discuss personnel matters.

Mayor Gerace recommended establishing a parking authority for 2022 for the purpose of expanding parking and with having a parking garage as an end goal. There was some discussion about this matter. Solicitor Odorizzi stated that he would be willing to work with the Mayor regarding this matter. There was no one opposed to the idea.

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 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 Bowman, seconded by Linkhorst, 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.

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

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 7:29 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:25 p.m.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:26 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkhorst, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

---

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer