

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of December on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Tamaqua Area High School cafeteria located at 500 Penn Street, Tamaqua, PA.

Present were Councilmembers Robert Amentler, Ronald Bowman, Thomas Cara, Brian Connely, Mary Linkevich, Ritchie Linkhorst and David Mace. Officials present were Mayor Nathan Gerace, Chief of Police Henry Woods, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire and Director of Community Development Ann Marie Calabrese. Absent was Solicitor Michael S. Greek.

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

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on November 19, 2019 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Connely, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Under Special Business, President Mace recognized the 2019 Tamaqua Area Blue Raiders Football Team who captured the PIAA District XI Class AAA Championship and competed in the state quarter and semi-finals. President Mace turned the meeting over to Pennsylvania State Senator Dave Argall who congratulated the football team and presented the team with a State citation honoring their achievements. Senator Argall stated that Pennsylvania State Representative Jerry Knowles was unable to attend tonight's meeting but on behalf of Representative Knowles, he presented the football team with a House of Representative citation.

Mayor Gerace stated that on behalf of Pennsylvania Congressman Dan Meuser, he is presenting the 2019 Tamaqua Area Blue Raiders Football Team with a Proclamation honoring the team.

President Mace stated that in recognition of 2019 Tamaqua Area Blue Raiders Football Team's historic 12-3 football season that set several new school records, including the first District XI playoff win, the first District XI Championship and the first state playoff win, elevated pride in the school and community, captured the PIAA District XI Class AAA Championship and competed in the state quarter and semi-finals, he is presenting Certificates of Achievement to: Casey Akins; Jake Barron; Nicko Bollentino; Nate Boyle; Gabe Coleman; Parker Coleman; Isaac Curvey; Nate Curvey; Bryce DeAngelo; Pierce Demetriades; Nick DiMarco; Nate Fannock; Lucas Gregoire; Cody Hamm; Tyler Hazlett; Braydan Hess; Logan Hess; Bobby Hollenbach; Matt Kistler; John Klein; Brayden Knoblauch; Steven Kosticky; Hector Laracuenta; Sean Lavine; Adam Linkhorst; Zach McGlinchey; Nate Milkovits; Trevor O'Brien; Austin Oncay; Love Ortiz; Jared Reed; Lucas Schickram; Cam Schilling; Gavin Semko; Warren Stewart; Bronson Strouse; Harry Swinehart; Carl Valentine; Jacob Wasserleben; Nate Wickersham; Alex Zeigler; and Zeno Zukovich. The Tamaqua Borough Council commends the 2019 Tamaqua Area Blue Raiders Football Team for this exceptional achievement.

Communication was received from Rosemarie Noftz, secretary, stating that the Board of Health is recommending the reappointment of Rosemarie Noftz to a five-year term on the Board of Health. A recommendation was made to appoint Rosemarie Noftz to a five-year term on the Board of Health. 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 George V. Boyle III of 405 Pitt Street expressing an interest in serving on the Zoning Hearing Board to fill a vacancy on the board left by the passing of Alfred Hadesty. A recommendation was made to appoint George V. Boyle III to fill a vacancy on the Zoning Hearing Board. 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.

Communication was received from Pat Freeh Stefanek, affiliate director of the ABC Tamaqua Hi-Rise, requesting permission to close East Broad Street from Pine Street to Greenwood Street between the hours of 11 p.m. on December 31, 2019 and 1 a.m. on January 1, 2020 during the Tamaqua New Year’s Eve Eagle Rise at the ABC Tamaqua Hi-Rise. The communication also requested police presence for this event. 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.

Communication was received from Jay Woodford, coordinator of the Schuylkill County Animal Response Team, stating that the team chooses to recognize individuals and/or organizations that have assisted them in some way on a response during the year. This year, one of those individuals is Officer Aaron Koehler. At a structure fire earlier this year, Officer Koehler was invaluable in assisting the team with the handling and preparing for transport of numerous animals to be relocated to another residence.

Communication was received from Michael S. Greek stating that he is the newly elected district attorney for Carbon County and cannot continue to serve as solicitor of the Borough of Tamaqua. Mr. Greek stated that he is resigning effective December 31, 2019. President Mace stated that Solicitor Greek is attending a zoning meeting and is unable to attend tonight’s meeting. President Mace commended Solicitor Greek for his work with the Borough of Tamaqua. A recommendation was made to accept the resignation of Michael S. Greek as the borough solicitor effective December 31, 2019. 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 2020 Street Materials bid results. Manager Steigerwalt stated that there were a total of six bidders and that he provided council with a bid results worksheet. Manager Steigerwalt discussed a comparison of material hauling cost calculations for pickup of materials at the plant or quarry. The hauling costs were calculated using the PennDOT recommended method. Manager Steigerwalt stated that due to the difference in mileage and travel time to each plant or quarry, the lowest per ton bid is not always the lowest price. Manager Steigerwalt’s recommendations for contract awards are as follows:

400 tons Superpave Warm/Hot Mix Wearing Coarse (pickup)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 23,140.00
400 tons Superpave Warm/Hot Mix Wearing Coarse (delivery)	Pottsville Materials, Pottsville, PA	\$ 25,000.00
30 tons Superpave Warm/Hot Mix Any Wearing Coarse (pickup)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 1,735.50
100 tons Superpave Warm/Hot Mix Base Coarse (pickup)	Pottsville Materials, Pottsville, PA	\$ 4,325.00
100 tons Superpave Warm/Hot Mix Base Coarse (delivery)	Pottsville Materials, Pottsville, PA	\$ 5,325.00
100 tons PaDOT OK Cold Patch (pickup)	Pottsville Materials, Pottsville, PA	\$ 12,800.00
100 tons PaDOT OK Cold Patch (delivery)	Hei-Way LLC, Sarver, PA	\$ 11,300.00
500 tons 2A stone (pickup)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 5,375.00
500 tons 2A stone (delivery)	Glenn O. Hawbaker, Bellfonte, PA	\$ 6,425.00

100 gallons PG 64-22 (pickup)	Pottsville Materials, Pottsville, PA	\$ 450.00
750 tons Anti-skid AS3 (pickup)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 9,562.50
750 tons Anti-skid AS3 (delivery)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 12,712.50
200 tons #57 stone (pickup)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 2,550.00
200 tons #57 stone (delivery)	Glenn O. Hawbacker, Bellfonte, PA	\$ 3,010.00
100 tons #8 stone (pickup)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 1,600.00
100 tons #8 stone (delivery)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 2,020.00

A recommendation was made to award the 2020 Street Materials based on the lowest bid in each category and recommendations of the Borough Manager. 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt discussed a resolution approving a price adjustment for bituminous materials for 2020. The following resolution was presented for council’s consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2019-12
PRICE ADJUSTMENT OF BITUMINOUS MATERIALS
FOR SMALL QUANTITIES**

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 Linkhorst, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: an updated list of Elected and Appointed Borough Officials; a winter press release; Christmas trees will be collected in January as time and weather permits or can be dropped off behind the borough garage; snow removal; sidewalks and property maintenance during the winter months; a parking meter that was damaged; and the turnaround area at South Railroad Street is done.

President Mace stated that the next council meeting is a reorganization meeting and would be held on Monday, January 6, 2020.

Director of Community Development Calabrese reported on the following: a Times News newspaper news article about the Tamaqua City Revitalization and Improvement Zone Program receiving more money for revitalization; a Times News newspaper news article about Megan Heckman who completed a 400-hour, 12-credit internship with the borough; the pool feasibility study; and Commuter Services of Pennsylvania, an organization that provides employer services.

Chief Woods requested that council consider hiring Derrek Koch as a part-time police officer.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Derrek Koch as a part-time police office. 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 Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 545 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 Linkhorst, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 625 Arlington Street. There was some discussion about the number of handicapped parking spaces in that block. 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to deny a handicapped parking space application for 432 Hazle Street. There was some discussion that the block already has the limit for the number of handicapped parking spaces allowed. The applicant would be put on a waiting list. 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 Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, Mayor Gerace discussed a request for a stop sign at the intersection of Elm and Nescopeck streets. The matter was referred to the Parking and Traffic Committee.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to adopt the 2020 Budget. The summary of the proposed budget is as follows:

Proposed 2020 Budget Summary

Estimated balance January 1, 2020	\$ 3,689,200
Estimated revenues	\$ 8,663,935
Estimated expenditures	<u>\$ (8,678,906)</u>
Estimated balance December 31, 2020	\$ 3,674,229

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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, the 2020 Tax Ordinance setting the real estate tax rate at 22.50 mills with 21.00 mills for General Purposes, 1.0 mill for the Building and Equipment Fund and 0.50 mill for the Wabash Capital Improvement Fund was presented for council’s consideration:

**ORDINANCE NO. 712
AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA,
COUNTY OF SCHUYLKILL, COMMONWEALTH OF
PENNSYLVANIA, FIXING THE TAX RATE
FOR THE YEAR 2020.**

	Mills on Each Dollar of Assessed Valuation
Tax Rate for General Purposes	21.00 Mills
Tax Rate for Building and Equipment Purposes	1.00 Mill
Tax Rate for Wabash Improvement Fund Purposes	0.50 Mill
Total	22.50 Mills

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing 2020 tax ordinance. 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 Bowman, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a sign, awning and lighting at 50 Mauch Chunk Street. 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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Chairwoman Linkevich of the Recreation and Youth Committee extended a thank you to the pool staff for their donation to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in the amount of \$500.00. The money was collected by the pool staff from Floaty Friday.

Mayor Gerace stated that another Coffee with a Cop event would be held in the first quarter of 2020, typically on a Saturday morning. Mayor Gerace would like input from council regarding the event.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

With no one 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 Cara, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under Unfinished Business, Councilman Connely reported on the Solar Project as follows: the Tamaqua Area Water Authority (TAWA) and Tamaqua Borough Authority (TBA) proposals; the TAWA again reviewed the information and the lack of information and voted not to go through with the Solar Project; a potential loss of approximately \$90,000 after 25 years; the TBA would need approximately \$250,000 to get the equipment that is needed for the electrical service; the TBA has issues with obtaining the different variances with Walker Township that are needed; and it is not economical for the TBA to go through with the project.

Under Unfinished Business, a recommendation was made to advertise an ordinance changing the billing cycle due date from 30 days to 25 days for the sewer and garbage bills. Manager Steigerwalt stated that the change applies to the sewer and garbage only and that the TAWA approves the change by resolution and took action at its meeting last night. 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 Cara, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, Secretary/Treasurer DeWire presented a schedule of regular meetings of Council, Boards, Commissions, Authorities and special committees for 2020 that has been prepared for advertisement. A recommendation was made to advertise the schedule of regular meetings of Council, Boards, Commissions, Authorities and special committees for 2020. 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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

It was noted that Schuylkill County Commissioner Chairman George F. Halcovage Jr., representing The Board of Schuylkill County Commissioners Frank J. Staudenmeier and Gary J. Hess, would also be presenting the 2019 Tamaqua Area Blue Raiders Football Team with a Proclamation honoring the team.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:43 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