

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of January on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in 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., Kathy Kunkel, Mary Linkevich, and Ritchie Linkhorst. Officials present were Mayor Nathan Gerace, Chief of Police Michael Hobbs, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Solicitor Anthony Odorizzi, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Trainee Tonia Collevechio and Director of Community Development Ann Marie Calabrese.

President Connely called for a moment of silence for Jeffrey Post, who had worked for the Borough of Tamaqua for 27 years, as a water treatment plant operator, unexpectedly passed away this weekend. Our thoughts and prayer are with him and his family.

The meeting was called to order by President Connely. The invocation was given by Councilwoman Linkevich. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Amentler. The roll was called with all councilmembers present.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on January 3, 2022 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Bowman, second by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Dave Mace, of Tamaqua, asking to accept his correspondence to indicate his willingness to fulfill the opening on the Tamaqua Zoning Board. 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 Kunkel, to appoint Dave Mace to the vacant seat on the zoning board and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Diane S. Harlow, of Nesquehoning, showing interest in supporting the Board of Health Committee as a member and would value the opportunity to learn more about the committee and how she can support our community. Ms. Harlow described her background in detail and noted her and her husband split their time equally between two homes, one in Lake Hauto and one in Lebanon. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. President Connely made a suggestion to Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt to forward his to the Health Enforcement and have them contact her to discuss what we do on the Board of Health; the letter read more like an inquiry instead of "place me on the board". There was a brief discussion; no further action was made by council.

Manager Steigerwalt gave an update on some vacancies on other boards; Rich Stianche does not wish to be reappointed on the HARC commission so there will be another vacancy to fill; and on the Non-Uniformed Employee Pension Committee an employee from the water department, John Comisac, would like to stay on the committee until his actual retirement date. There was a brief discussion. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkhorst, to reappoint John Comisac to the Non-Uniformed Employee Pension Committee and unanimously approved with no question from the floor.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on a Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau Repository Sale for a property located at 536 Pine Street, tax parcel number 65-02-0017.001. Manager Steigerwalt stated that there are no issues with the bidder and no cause to deny the request from Yazen Jaber.

A recommendation was made to approve the Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau Repository Sale of the property at 536 Pine Street, tax parcel number 65-02-0017.001, to Yazen Jaber. 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 Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on a Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau Private Sale for a bid by Advanced Consulting, Inc. in the amount of \$6,803.01 for the property located at 333 Washington Street, tax parcel number 65-07-0185.000. There was a discussion regarding the manner. A recommendation was made to approve the Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau Private Sale of the property at 333 Washington Street, tax parcel number 65-07-0185.000, to Advanced Consulting, Inc. 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 Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt updated the Council about the request for line painting that was brought up at the last meeting as follows: our PennDot representative is recommending a double-yellow line; PennDot does not recommend a single-yellow line; if a double-yellow line is painted liquid fuels funds can be used to pay for it; and an update will be provided to Council after a quote is provided.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: the garbage contract is set to expire at the end of June and bid results should be available at the March or April meeting; will be working on some projects on the demolition list with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds and grants; will also be working with the code officers and county on some of the projects to get bids out in the spring; a reminder was provided about snow removal and clearing of sidewalks; and Christmas trees will be collected until the end of January. President Connely discussed a track list for projects to keep of completed items that Borough Manager Steigerwalt was asked to compile. Manager Steigerwalt reported that the light at the flag pole is fixed and will be removed from the list.

Director of Community Development Calabrese had a Closing Out the Feasibility Study Resolution to present for council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-1**  
**BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA**  
**CLOSING OUT COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS GRANT**  
**PROJECT (BRC-TAG-23-190)**

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution. There was no one from floor wishing to address council about this manner. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Under Chief of Police, Chief Hobbs had nothing to report.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a request to send patrolman Karl Harig to a three-day "Institute for Law Enforcement Education" in Berks County at no cost. 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 Public Safety Committee Report, a recommendation was made to set the hourly pay rate for part-time police officers at \$20.00 per hour to start, \$22.00 per hour for officers with over 1,000 hours of service and \$25.00 per hour for officers with over 5,000 hours of service. 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. Mayor Gerace thanked Council for helping the police department and hoping to get more police officers; President Connely discussed what the rates were based on due to incentives of hours of service.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to hire Robert J. Filloy as a full-time Street Maintenance worker at a pay rate of \$24.00 per hour. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to hire Stephen J. Surotchak as a full-time Water Distribution worker at a pay rate of \$24.00 per hour. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee Report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to approve renovation of the façade at 209 West Broad Street. 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 unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee Report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for replacement of an existing sign at 41 North Railroad Street. 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 unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee Report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for installation of business signs at 301 West Broad Street. 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 unanimously approved.

Chairperson Linkevich of the Recreation and Youth Committee reported that in November she submitted two proposals to the John E. Morgan Foundation for much needed improvements to the HD Buehler Memorial Pool and improvements to the North and Middle Ward Playground and is submitting two resolutions for the council's consideration.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-2****RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL, TAMAQUA, PENNSYLVANIA  
REGARDING GRANTS FROM THE JOHN E. MORGAN FOUNDATION, INC.**

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution accepting a grant from the John E. Morgan, Inc. in the amount of \$1,650,000.00 for the pool. 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 by a roll call vote.

Councilwoman Kunkel had a question about the grant which lead to a discussion regarding donations from the community that will strengthen the grant application and it is a five-year grant.

Under Recreation and Youth Report, Councilwoman Linkevich presented a second resolution for consideration.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-3****RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL, TAMAQUA, PENNSYLVANIA  
REGARDING GRANTS FROM THE JOHN E. MORGAN FOUNDATION, INC.**

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution accepting a grant from the John E. Morgan Foundation, Inc. in the amount of \$85,250.00 for the North and Middle Ward Playground improvements. Councilman Bowman asked if it's totally separate from the one for the fence, correct. Councilwoman Linkevich would like to work with the recreation committee and borough manager for the improvements by reallocating some Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money for tree trimming, signs, mulch, fencing etc. 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 Hollenbach, and unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Under Mayor's Report, Mayor Gerace had nothing to report.

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 real estate matters.

A recommendation was made to accept and file the various reports of the borough officials. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Amentler, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved. Councilwoman Kunkel asked about the end of year report and wanted to say kudos to the volunteer firefighters for their volunteer hours to every firefighter in town.

No unfinished business.

Under New Business, President Connely reported on a letter received from Christine A. Holman, Esquire, regarding a request for waiving administrative fees for a permit, usually waivers are reserved for any type of civic organization, not private individuals. No further action made by council.

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 real estate 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 7:26 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 7:58 p.m.

President Connely announced that an executive session was held to discuss real estate and personnel matters.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:59 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

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Tonia Collevechio, Borough Secretary/Treasurer (Trainee)