

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its Reorganization Meeting followed by a Regular Council Meeting on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 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., Kathy Kunkel, Mary Linkevich, and Ritchie Linkhorst. Officials present were Mayor Nathan Gerace, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Public Works Director Jay Stidham, Solicitor Anthony Odorizzi, and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Trainee Timothy M. Ziegler. Absent was Chief of Police Michael Hobbs.

Stephen J. Bayer, Magisterial District Judge of District Court 21-3-06, administered the Oath of Office to Councilmembers Robert Amentler, Ronald Bowman, Brian Connely and Jay Hollenbach Jr.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gerace. The invocation was given by Councilwoman Linkevich. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Linkhorst. The roll was called with all councilmembers present.

Mayor Gerace called for nominations for President of Council. Brian Connely was nominated for President by Bowman and seconded by Kunkel. With no other nominations, the nominations for President were declared closed and Brian Connely was elected President by a unanimous vote.

Mayor Gerace called for nominations for Vice President of Council. Ronald Bowman was nominated for Vice President by Linkevich and seconded by Kunkel. With no other nominations, the nominations for Vice President were declared closed and Ronald Bowman was elected Vice President by a unanimous vote.

Mayor Gerace relinquished the chair to President Connely.

President Connely called for nominations for President Pro Tem to preside at the meetings in the absence of the President and Vice President. Mary Linkevich was nominated for President Pro Tem by Hollenbach and seconded by Bowman. With no other nominations, the nominations for President Pro Tem were declared closed and Mary Linkevich was elected President Pro Tem by a unanimous vote.

A Tamaqua Borough Council 2024 photograph was taken.

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order by President Connely.

President Connely called for nominations for Chairman of the Tamaqua Vacancy Board. Mark Bower was nominated for Chairman of the Tamaqua Vacancy Board by motion of Bowman and seconded by Linkevich. With no other nominations, the nominations for Chairman of the Tamaqua Vacancy Board were declared closed. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. Mark Bower was elected Chairman of the Tamaqua Vacancy Board by unanimous vote.

A recommendation was made to appoint the Appointed Borough Officials to their respective positions. The Appointed Borough Officials for 2024 are as follows:

Vacancy Board Chairman	Mark Bower
Borough Solicitor	Anthony S. Odorizzi
Chief of Police	Michael Hobbs
Borough Manager	Kevin A. Steigerwalt
Public Works Director	Jay Stidham

Borough Secretary/Treasurer Trainee	Timothy M. Ziegler
Assistant Borough Secretary/Treasurer	Amy Macalush
Borough Engineer	Alfred Benesch & Company, Pottsville, PA
Zoning Officer/Code Official	James Connely
Code Official	Thomas Nelson
Sewage Enforcement Officer	Barry Isett & Associates, Hazleton, PA
Appointed Auditors	Maillie LLP, Limerick, PA
Appointed Tax Collector	Berkheimer Associates, Bangor, PA
Appointed Tax Collector	Schuylkill Co. Tax Claim Bureau, Pottsville, PA
Fire Chief	James Connely
Emergency Management Coordinator	Robert D. Jones

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 Appointed Authorities, Boards and Commissions for 2024 are as follows:

Board of Health

(Vacant)
Wayne Schickram
James Frie
Hans Shinton

Board of Health (continued)

Dr. Joanne Calabrese, D.O.
(Vacant), Health Officer
James Connely, Health Enf. Officer
Anthony Odorizzi, Borough Solicitor

Citizens Advisory Committee

John R. Handler, Chairperson
Benjamin Turrano
Barbara Morgans
Paul Wandzilak
Steve Gintz
Anthony Odorizzi, Borough Solicitor

Civil Service Commission

Janene M. Holter, Chairperson
Charles Rodgers, Vice Chairperson
Kathy Kunkel, Secretary
Anthony Odorizzi, Borough Solicitor

Historic Architectural Review Commission

Dale Freudenberger, Chairperson
William Kennedy
Tammy Swinburne
Bill Harleman
Wayne Schickram
Mark Conville, AIA, RA
Thomas Nelson, Code Official
Anthony Odorizzi, Borough Solicitor

Zoning Hearing Board

Richard Clemson, Chairperson
Dave Mace, Vice Chairperson
(Vacant)
George Boyle III
Karl Smulligan
James Connely, Zoning Officer
Robert Fryklund, Solicitor

Planning Commission

Timothy Stahl, Chairperson
Dan Evans, Vice Chairperson
Mark Conville
Jonathan Hadesty
Brian Klusman
Thomas Nelson, Code Official
Anthony Odorizzi, Borough Solicitor

Board of Appeals

David E. Mace, P.E. (Electrical)
Jay Hollenbach Jr. (Plumbing & Heating)
Frank Kane (Building Supply)
Daniel Poncavage, R.A. (Architect)
Herman Zeller (Electrical)
Thomas Nelson, Code Official

Tamaqua Borough Authority

Brian Connely, Chairperson
John Comisac, Secretary
Jack Kulp, Treasurer
Richard Hadesty Sr.
Philip Houm
Anthony Odorizzi, Solicitor
Gannett Fleming Inc., Authority Engineer

Tamaqua Area Water Authority

Brian Connely, Chairperson
John Comisac, Secretary
Jack Kulp, Treasurer
David Ceci
Philip Houm
Anthony Odorizzi, Solicitor
Gannett Fleming Inc., Authority Engineer

Tamaqua Community Revitalization and Improvement Zone Contracting Authority

Dan Evans, Chairperson
 Mary Linkevich, Secretary
 Daniel Yelito, Treasurer
 Richard Hadesty Sr.

Jack Kulp
 Phil Houm
 Anthony Odorizzi, Solicitor

Employee Pension Committee

George Herring (Street Dept.)
 Robert Jones (Office)
 Jay Stidham (Water Dept.)
 Brian Connely, Councilperson
 Mary Linkevich, Councilperson
 Anthony Odorizzi, Borough Solicitor

Police Pension Fund Committee

Nathan Gerace, Chairman
 Brian Keich
 Larry Wittig
 Patrolman Karl Harig
 Patrolman Doug Springer
 Brian Connely (Public Safety)
 Ronald Bowman, (Finance)
 Kevin Steigerwalt, Borough Manager
 Timothy M. Ziegler, Sec./Treas. Trainee
 Anthony Odorizzi, Borough Solicitor

Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission

Borough of Tamaqua representatives
 John Handler
 Ritchie Linkhorst

Schuylkill Tax Collection Committee

Kevin Steigerwalt, Delegate
 Dave Mace, First Alternate
 Nathan Gerace, Second Alternate

Eastern Schuylkill Planning Commission

Borough of Tamaqua representative
 Karl Smulligan

Tamaqua Public Library Board

Borough of Tamaqua representative
 Mary Linkevich

Communication was received from Nate MacDonald, executive director of the Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Committee (ESRC), recommending the reappointment of John Handler to a three-year term on the ESRC. A recommendation was made to reappoint John Handler to a three-year term on the Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission effective January 1, 2024. 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 Brian Ouly of 103 Gay Street expressing interest in the vacant position on the Tamaqua Zoning Hearing Board. A recommendation was made to appoint Brian Ouly to a five-year term on the Tamaqua Zoning Hearing Board effective January 1, 2024. 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.

President Connely read a schedule of regular meetings of council, boards, commissions, authorities and special committees for 2024. President Connely reported that the Regular Council Meetings for 2024 would be held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month except for holidays and election days when the meeting would be held the following day. It was noted that Secretary/Treasurer Trainee Timothy M. Ziegler advertised the schedule of regular meetings of council, boards, commissions, authorities and special committees for 2024 in The Times News newspaper in December 2023.

A recommendation was made to approve the schedule of regular meetings for 2024. 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.

President Connely stated that he would provide councilmembers with a list of the Borough Council Committees for 2024 before the next regular council meeting.

The reading of the minutes of the last Regular Council Meeting held on December 19, 2023 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Bowman, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

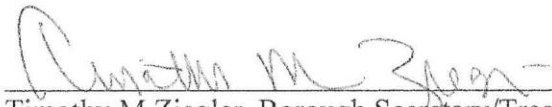
The meeting was opened to the floor.

Arthur Connely Jr. of 633 Arlington Street informed council of a parking problem at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 101 North Greenwood Street. Mr. Connely stated that a resident is parking a U-Haul type truck near the church entrance, taking parking spaces away from parishioners. The truck is frequently parked at the church during services and other events. Pastor Cindy White of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church was also in attendance and asked about prohibiting parking for commercial vehicles near the church. President Connely referred the matter to the Parking and Traffic Committee for a recommendation.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:18 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Kunkel, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:



Timothy M Ziegler, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Trainee