

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of April on Tuesday, April 19, 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 and Ritchie Linkhorst. Absent was Councilwoman Mary Linkevich. Officials present were Chief of Police Michael Hobbs, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Solicitor Anthony Odorizzi and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Tonia Collevchio. Absent was Mayor Nathan Gerace.

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

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on March 15, 2022 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Bowman, second by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Dan Evans, CRIZ Authority Chairman, requesting Mary Linkevich be appointed to fill the vacancy created by Paul Fridirici's resignation. 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, to appoint Mary Linkevich to the CRIZ Authority and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Cathy Miorelli, on behalf of Tamaqua Y Not and Raiders STEP Up, updating council on their organizations participating in playground clean ups throughout Tamaqua in April; in addition to East End, North/Middleward and Southward playgrounds, they'd like to clean up the Bungalow on April 23, 2022 and the Willing Park on April 30, 2022 with all clean ups from 12-2 pm. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. There was no action from council in this matter. Borough Manager Steigerwalt will make sure they have everything they need.

Communication was received from Brian Connely, Tamaqua Borough Authority Chairman, recommending to council for John Comisac to be appointed to fill the vacancy of Paul Fridirici. 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, to appoint John Comisac to the Tamaqua Borough Authority and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from John R. Handler requesting to be considered for the Tamaqua Borough Authority as a member. Mr. Handler was a former council member and has over 35 years as a financial advisor and feels he has the proper qualifications. There was no action from council in this matter.

Communication was received from Judy A. Hoppes, Festival Chairperson, wanted to update council on their plans to hold a "Christmas in July" Festival this year and focusing on Saturday, July 23rd, 2022. Ms. Hoppes would like to hold a "Santa Parade" on Saturday beginning at 11 am; parade will assemble on East Broad Street in the vicinity of Kistler Transportation and proceed west on Broad Street to South Railroad Street and disband in the area of the library and St Luke's parking lot. Santa will be the "Grand Finale" and will be disembarking at Depot Square Park and greet children in the Gazebo. They are requesting that

parking be banned along the parade route; would appreciate having the Tamaqua Police Department escort the parade and the Fire Police to provide protection at the intersections and other areas where needed to provide a safe environment for the spectators; will have completed PA Department of Transportation Special Events Permit (TE-300) and submit it as soon as Borough approves this “First-Time” Christmas in July Santa Parade. 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 approve the requests for the “First-Time” Christmas in July Santa Parade and unanimously approved. Council President Connely questioned the no parking request and will work out the details with them.

Communication was received from Pastor Steven Gintz c.o. Revive Community Fellowship, requesting the use of the Tamaqua Borough Park to hold summer activities for the town’s children. Events will have games, crafts, stories, snow cones, etc.; it is a free event for all kids in the community and would also request to be able to close Race and Oak Streets for the family fun night at the playground. Dates and locations are as follows: Southward Park – June 6-9, 2022 from 12-1:30 pm and Family Fun Night June 8, 2022 from 4-8 pm. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Hollenbach, to get in touch with Pastor Gintz and recommend the use of another park due to safety concerns; will also close the park, send a letter to the Southward Park committee to reorganize for council’s review and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Tom Banditelli Jr., President of the Owl Creek Reservoir, updating council about their continued operations of the OCRC from the state of COVID-19 to present time. The mission is still to keep the reservoir and its natural environment clean and safe for all residents and visitors of the Borough of Tamaqua to enjoy. The reservoir operations have been self-sustaining with rentals, donations and management by Tom Jr. with the help of a few loyal volunteers. Moving forward there will not be any open meetings or plans for big events (hayrides, Christmas, etc.) and Tom Jr. will continue to be OCR Commissioner as volunteer without pay. There is a Google form created and shared on the Owl Creek Reservoir Facebook page for any person wanting to make suggestions, comments, donations, offers to volunteer, or facility rentals. There was no action from council in this matter.

Communication was received from Heather Kerestus reporting multiple safety concerns regarding stop sign violations and speeding. Council referred Ms. Kerestus’ letter to Chief Hobbs for review.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the following: the status of the street sweeping program, discussion of towing parking violation vehicles that don’t move on posted streets; demo at 252 W. Cottage Ave is progressing and down to the first floor; currently accepting applications for season pool passes, etc.; Councilwoman Linkevich submitted a grant application for the pool to DCNR and will update when notified of status; 226 Owl Creek Road violations were corrected from the last meeting; community litter cleanup is this weekend and anyone interested can come along; second meeting in May garbage bid results will be available and requested an executive session for personnel matters.

Under Chief of Police, Chief Hobbs reported the borough police department will participate in the National Drug Take Back Day on April 30, 2022.

Under Parking and Traffic Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 324 Hazle Street. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Under Parking and Traffic Committee Report, a recommendation was made for the solicitor to prepare and advertise an ordinance prohibiting parking on South Street between Coal Street and Bowe Street. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Under Parking and Traffic Committee Report, a recommendation was made for the solicitor to prepare and advertise an ordinance prohibiting parking on Glenwood Avenue between Market Street and Clark Street. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion by Kunkel, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to advertise for bids for the sale of tax parcel #65-15-0061.000 along West Cottage Avenue. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered by Bowman, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to advertise for part-time maintenance workers at a pay rate of \$12.50 per hour. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered by Bowman, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved. Councilman Bowman added to the conversation his hopes to have a great response to our advertisement and updated council of Lansford Borough offering \$16.00 per hour.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to appoint Austin Fogel to the Water Treatment Plant Work Leader position effective immediately. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered by Bowman, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve the permanent transfer of Aaron Coggiano to the Water Treatment Plant Operator position. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered by Bowman, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve the permanent transfer of Todd Macalush to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Work Leader position. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered by Bowman, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to retain Tyson Nalesnik as a full-time Chief Mechanic effective May 3, 2022 provided he successfully completes the probation period. There was no one from the floor wishing to address

council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered by Bowman, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to advertise for a part-time utility clerk and a water treatment plant operator. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered by Bowman, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Under Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve the following five Certificates of Appropriateness: 201 East Broad Street to install all new windows; 541 Arlington Street due to emergency removal of the brick chimney and a new cement block chimney was erected in its place; 330 Mahanoy Street for permission to replace four windows; 25-33 Mauch Chunk Street and the single home at 10 Pine Street to demolish the three blighted rental properties and the single home to cleanup and redevelop as the new police station and community center; and 417 East Broad Street known as the Borough Garage proposes to construct a pole building addition to house the aerial ladder fire truck. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about these matters. The recommendations were so ordered on motion of Hollenbach, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to hire Emma Coccio as assistant pool manager at a pay rate of \$15.00 per hour. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to hire Tori Seiger as pool clerk at a pay rate of \$9.00 per hour plus \$0.25 per hour for each year of service. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to hire Emily Breslin, MaKayla Kester, Emily Newton, Alex Porambo, Josie Shickram, Brynn Gigli and Edward Zukovich as lifeguards at a pay rate of \$10.00 per hour plus \$0.25 per hour for each year of service. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve the Willing Park Eagle Scout Project. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this manner. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Mark Bower, Southward Fire Chief, spoke about the fire station signs on Spruce Street; there was much discussion on signage due to safety concerns for fire trucks trying to get through traffic. Chief Bower also spoke about having trouble with the traffic control system that provides the green light for emergency vehicles at Hunter and Spruce Streets. He is requesting adjusting

the emergency sensor position due to the sensor is changing the traffic lights prior to trucks completely driving through the intersection; this issue will be looked into and fixed.

Tyson Nalesnik asked the council about the status of a lift for the garage; the inquiry will be handed over to Robert Jones, Public Works Director, to look into the matter.

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

Solicitor Odorizzi asked for a recommendation to amend the agenda to include a motion to approve and adopt a resolution amending the Tamaqua Police Department's Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) emergency firearms policy.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-7

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING THE TAMAQUA POLICE DEPARTMENT'S FIREARMS POLICY TO INCLUDE PROVISIONS DEFINING AND DESIGNATING RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS RELATED TO THE ELECTRONIC MOUNTED PISTOL OPTIC EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF SUCH EQUIPMENT

There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The motion to amend the agenda, as well as the recommendation to approve and adopt a resolution amending the Tamaqua Police Department's Standard Operating Procedures emergency firearms policy were so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

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 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 Bowman, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

No unfinished business.

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 Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, a recommendation was made to authorize borough solicitor and borough zoning and code officials to work with other municipalities on required revisions and any desired revisions to the Eastern Schuylkill Regional Planning Zoning Ordinance. 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.

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 Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 7:44 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 9:06 p.m.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:06 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Hollenbach, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Tonia Collevecchio, Borough Secretary/Treasurer