

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of August on Tuesday, August 16, 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, Brian Connely, Ronald Bowman, Jay Hollenbach Jr., Kathy Kunkel, Ritchie Linkhorst and Mary Linkevich. Officials present were Chief of Police Michael Hobbs, Borough Solicitor Tony Odorizzi, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Tonia Collevich. Excused was Mayor Nathan Gerace.

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 seven councilmembers present.

The reading of the minutes of the first Regular Council Meeting held on July 19, 2022 was ordered suspended; and with no additions or corrections; the minutes were approved as written on motion of Bowman, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from the Brian Keich President of the Tamaqua Lions Club updating Council on their process of planning the Annual Halloween Parade scheduled for Tuesday October 25, 2022 at 7 pm with a rain date of Wednesday October 26, 2022. The parade will assemble on the East Broad Street and proceed west on Broad Street and continue to the former St. Jerome's Church. The Tamaqua Lions Club is requesting that parking be banned along the parade route and would appreciate having the Tamaqua Police Department escort the parade and the Fire Police provide protection and the intersections; also requesting that the East End Avenue be made a one way going west from Laurel to Columbia Streets so traffic is going in one direction for drop off of the Tamaqua Band and soccer teams at the M & M Storage Lot. 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 approve the requests for the Halloween Parade and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Paul Dodson, TAFN & TACP are requesting permission to hold an in-person Hunger Walk to help the food banks at the American Primitive Methodist Church and Trinity United Church of Christ, each walker will collect nonperishable food or funds for the food banks, the walk will be held on Sunday October 30, 2022 at 2 pm with registration at the Art Center at 1:30 pm. The route is from the Art Center south on Pine to Broad Street, cross Broad Street and east to Federal Street, cross Broad Street and west back to Pine Street, turn north and continue back to the Art Center. TACP will provide insurance for the walk and are also asking that the Fire Police provide protection for the walkers. 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, to accept approve the requests for the Hunger Walk for the food banks and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Nathaniel Kovalchick, confirming his resignation as a part-time maintenance worker effective August 8, 2022; Mr. Kovalchick thanked Council for giving him the opportunity to work for the Tamaqua Borough this past year and enjoyed the time spent here. Mr. Kovalchick will be attending the Pennsylvania School of Technology for landscaping. 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, to accept his resignation, and unanimously approved. Council will send a letter to Nathaniel Kovalchick thanking him for his service.

Communication was received from Matthew A. Johnson, VP Asset Management & Community Relations of the Reading Blue Mountain & Northern Railroad, informing Council of an important grant funded opportunity to improve the safety of the roadways and the railroad grade crossings in our community; if interested to learn more about the program Mr. Johnson provided a website with an application deadline of Tuesday October 4, 2022. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. Council President Connely had a brief discussion at this time regarding the opportunity and appointed a committee with Councilman Linkhorst as Chair, Councilwoman Linkevich and Councilman Hollenbach.

Communication was received from Benjamin Shafer, Shafer's Pharmacy, requesting a change in the "No Parking" signs in front of their property at 408 East Broad Street to a "5 Minute Parking" sign; also as they prepare to move into the former Santander Bank building they noticed cars park in the block for short periods of time to use the ATM but there is a "No Parking" sign in front of the building; also noticed many vehicles using the vacant parking lot. Shafer's Pharmacy intends to use the parking lot for staff and customers and is concerned that they will run into congestion problems once they open due to the building being vacant. 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, to turn the matter over to the Parking and Traffic Committee, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on a proposal received by Alfred Benesch & Company for the annual inspection of the Owl Creek dams that is required by PADEP. The cost of the inspection of both dams is \$4,700. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation to accept the proposal of the annual inspections was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that he has a couple resolutions to present to council. The first one was provided for the budget of the CDBG program, this year we are expecting \$126,979.00 for this year's appropriation setting aside 18% for administration which is \$22,856.00, allocated money to Cedar Street and Clay Street in the amounts of \$43,192.00 & \$32,348.00 and the remaining was placed into demolition line item because we typically do need funds budgeted for that and it comes out to \$28,583.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-13

APPROVING BUDGET FOR CDBG PROGRAM FOR FY 2022

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution accepting the CDBG funding. 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 approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Steigerwalt reported on the next resolution to be presented to council, the annual fair housing resolution which is usually submitted along with the CDBG resolution; this resolution promotes and encourages individuals not to discriminate in housing, etc.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-14
FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution for the fair housing. 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 approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Steigerwalt also reported that the community pool is closing Sunday for the season, working on insurance renewal applications and submittals due to them set to expire on October 1, 2022, requested an executive session for personnel matters, updated council that the demolition at 252 Cottage Avenue is completed and approved with reimbursement from the county, has submitted four properties to the county for demolition, and presented a resolution for a demolition request.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-15
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA APPROVING
SUBMISSION OF A DEMOLITION REQUEST TO THE COUNTY OF SCHUYLKILL

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution for a possible demolition at 37 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 Bowman, seconded by Hollenbach, and approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Under Chief of Police report, Chief Hobbs was thanked for a letter he sent out that was helpful for the borough.

Under Public Safety Committee Report, a recommendation was made to hire Nicole Deliz as a part-time police officer effective August 2, 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 Kunkel, and unanimously approved. At this time Chief Hobbs presented Officer Deliz with her badge.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Residents residing in the ABC Tamaqua Hi-Rise at 222 E. Broad Street requested meter parking permits; this request was turned over to the Parking and Traffic Committee.

Linda Miller, 447 Willing Street, had a brief discussion on her neighbor's fencing and other concerns regarding said neighbor, concerns about speeding and stop sign violations to which Chief Hobbs asked her to get a description of the vehicle(s) and report it.

Tom Schlorf, 224 Orwigsburg Street, brought to Council's attention the main building at the South Ward Playground is in need of repairs and is afraid it will cave in. There was a lengthy discussion regarding ways to help; borough manager will look into emergency allocation

if possible. There was a recommendation made by Bowman, seconded by Kunkel, to turn this issue over to the Park and Recreation Committee and unanimously approved.

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

Borough Solicitor Odorizzi reported that the ESRP ordinance is ready to be approved.

**ORDINANCE NO. 732
TAMAQUA BOROUGH, SCHUYLKILL COUNTY
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**THE MUNICIPALITIES OF RUSH TOWNSHIP, WALKER TOWNSHIP,
SCHUYLKILL TOWNSHIP AND THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, SCHUYLKILL
COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, JOINTLY COMPRISING THE
EASTERN SCHUYLKILL REGIONAL PLANNING (ESRP) GROUP, EACH AND
INDIVIDUALLY HEREBY ENACT THIS ORDINANCE AMENDING THE EASTERN
SCHUYLKILL REGIONAL PLANNING ZONING ORDINANCE (2019 EDITION) BY
AMENDING THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OR PARTS THEREOF: 201 (AS
RELATES TO THE DEFINITIONS OF “AGRICULTURE, INTENSIVE”, “ANIMAL
HUSBANDRY”, “ACCESSORY USE” AND “ADJOINING LOT”); 452; 453; 455; 555;
702; 703; 752; 753; 954; 1004; 1507H; 1507K; 1615C; 1615D; 16155; 1615T; 1616; 1617;
AND 1694.**

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 Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Borough Solicitor Odorizzi requested an executive session for 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; however Council President Connely updated Council on a few items discussed at a prior meeting, letters were sent out to some people for tonnage and briefly discussed the need to look into changing the 5 ton limit and it will be an ordinance change so it was turned over to the Parking and Traffic Committee, discussed signs for speed, the upper and lower dam swimming signs and dusk to dawn signs and locks were provided to keep people out after hours.

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.

No New Business.

A recommendation was made to hold an executive session to discuss Personnel and Legal. 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.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 7:35 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:08 p.m.

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

A recommendation was made to authorize borough solicitor to move forward on all real estate 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.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:08 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkhorst, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Tonia Collevchio, Borough Secretary/Treasurer