

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of November on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 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, Ritchie Linkhorst and Mary Linkevich. Officials present were Borough Solicitor Tony Odorizzi, Police Chief Michael Hobbs, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Tonia Collevecchio. Mayor Nathan Gerace was absent.

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

The reading of the minutes of the first Regular Council Meeting held on January 17, 2023 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 Tonia Collevecchio, Borough Secretary/Treasurer, requesting council make a motion to open up an escrow account for Street Opening Fees in accordance with the Borough of Tamaqua Code of Ordinances establishing regulations for streets and sidewalks, article II Ordinance No. 734. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkovich, seconded by Hollenbach, to open the street opening fees escrow account and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Jonathan Hadesty requesting consideration to be placed on the Tamaqua Planning Commission. 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 place Jonathan Hadesty on the planning commission and unanimously approved.

Communications was received from Gerald Petrole, President Board of Trustees American Primitive Method Church, updating council on the successful completion of demolition of structures located at 52 & 50 Hunter Street; the church submitted a variance application and the required \$500 fee to request relief from the installation of lights asis requirement of section 1509(I). The church's status is non-profit and requesting the borough give the church relief on the \$500 variance application fee. 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 Linkovich to grant the relief of the variance application fee and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported to council he had bid results for the sale of Borough equipment and recommends to accept the high bids on the municibid list. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkovich, seconded by Bowman to accept all high bids on the municibid list and unanimously approved. Steigerwalt also recommended to council to scrap the other item that did not sell and relist the Ford Crown for \$200 on minicibid. 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 Linkovich to update the Ford Crown and scrap the other item on the list and unanimously approved. Also reported that the PennDot contractor finished completed all the handicapped ramps and updated council on the upcoming paving projects; the street department has been replacing catch bases and manholes and also replacing the purple lights with new bulbs; demolition projects are almost completed and they are progressing very well.

Under Chief of Police Report, Chief Hobbs was pleased to report on the Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative grant the Tamaqua Police Department received in the amount of \$150,000 and will be partnering with the Sexual Assault Resource & Counseling Center and the Tamaqua Area Community Partnership on an intense two year initiative; Council President Connely thanked Chief Hobbs for the work on the grant.

Under Public Safety Committee Report, a recommendation was made to accept the letter of resignation from part-time police officer Nicole Deliz. 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 Public Safety Committee Report, a recommendation to approve a request to send Sergeant Thomas Rodgers and Officer Andrew Seip to a firearms and patrol rifle training course at the Allentown Police Academy on April 6-7 at a cost of \$400 per officer. 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 Public Safety Committee Report, a recommendation to approve a request to send Officer Christopher Cordes to the 2023 Street Cop Training Conference in Nashville, TN on April 23-28 at a cost of \$1,049. 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 Parking and Traffic Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 424 Pine 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 Linkovich, and unanimously approved.

Under Parking and Traffic Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 111 Coal 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 Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Under Parking and Traffic Committee Report, a recommendation was made to adopt an ordinance prohibiting parking on portions of Glenwood Avenue and South Railroad Street.

**ORDINANCE NO. 738**  
**BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA**  
**SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**  
**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, SCHUYLKILL**  
**COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, REVISING AND AMENDING SECTION 326-26 OF THE**  
**BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA CODE OF ORDINANCES ESTABLISHING**

**REGULATIONS FOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, ARTICLE III PARKING, SECTION  
326-26 – PARKING PROHIBITED IN CERTAIN LOCATIONS**

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing ordinance prohibiting parking on portions of Glenwood Avenue and South Railroad 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 Bowman, and approved by unanimous roll call vote. There was a brief question from Edith Trevorah on where the parking would be allowed and brief question from Mr. and Mrs. Sterges on how the borough would be taking away parking to which Councilwoman Kunkel answered.

Under Finance, Wage & Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to retain Eric Nelson as a full-time Water Distribution Worker effective February 13, 2023. 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.

Under Finance, Wage & Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to retain Joseph Behun as a full-time Water Treatment Plant Work Leader effective February 13, 2023. 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 Neighborhoods, Downtown & Historic District Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve certificate of appropriateness to add solar panels on the roof of 235 High 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 Linkovich, and unanimously approved.

Under Recreation and Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to hire Beth Jones as pool manager for the 2023 season at a pay rate of \$17.50 per hour. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkovich, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under Recreation and Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to advertise for an assistant pool manager, head lifeguard, lifeguards, and pool clerk for the 2023 season. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkovich, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under Recreation and Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to open the pool on the Saturday closest to the last day of school with an official opening date of Monday May 28. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkovich, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under Recreation and Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to close the pool on Sunday closest to the first day of the 2023-2024 school year, tentatively on Sunday August 20. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The

recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkovich, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under Recreation and Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to increase the season pool pass fee for people who reside within the Tamaqua Area School District from \$10 per person to \$15 per person. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkovich, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under Recreation and Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to eliminate the use of laminated season pool passes and to have the staff check patron's names using an online and/or printed roster. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkovich, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Linda Miller asked when she was getting her handicapped sticker; Councilwoman Kunkel told her that part was voted down.

John Sukusky, Owl Creek, asked council about Geisinger's building and the violations which lead to much discussion.

Kathy Nunemacher reported on hazardous trees not sure who owns them by LCCC, Borough Manager Steigerwalt will follow up with LCCC.

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

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 Amentler, 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 Bowman, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved. Councilman Hollenbach abstained from vouchers 47737 & 47736.

Council President noted at this time that prior to the start of tonight's meeting Council held an executive session at 6:30pm for personnel matters.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:34 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

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Tonia Collevchio, Borough Secretary/Treasurer