

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

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 six councilmembers present and one excused.

Prior to the meeting Council President Brian Connely took a moment to honor the Keystone Fish & Hunt Club for celebrating their upcoming 75 year anniversary; 75 years is an amazing feat for the things you do for the club and community; taking on Kellner's Dam in particular; the Borough would like to recognize the Keystone Club to which he presented the club members with a plaque congratulating them. The plaque reads as follows, "To the Keystone Fish & Hunt Club in recognition of 75 years providing a warm and friendly place for residents to congregate offering good food and entertainment, the Keystone Fish & Hunt Club also supports many nonprofit groups and charitable causes in the community. The Tamaqua Borough Council congratulates the members of the Keystone Fish & Hunt Club on their 75th anniversary celebration, presented, tonight, July 19, 2022.

The reading of the minutes of the second Regular Council Meeting held on June 21, 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 Officers of the Keystone Fish & Hunt Club officially inviting the Tamaqua Borough Council & Mayor to attend their 75th Anniversary Celebration on July 23, 2022. The event will begin at 3 pm and run until midnight. There will be a food truck "The Messy Pig", live music outside from 3-9 pm (weather permitting), raffles, 50/50 and other specials that day. There will be live music inside from 9-12 midnight. This event is open to the public and we welcome everyone to come see the recent remodeling that was completed.

Communication was received from David W. Christ requesting Council to accept his resignation from the Water Authority effective July 19, 2022 and thanked Council for the opportunity to have served with this group. 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 from the Water Authority, requesting a thank you to be sent to Mr. Christ and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from John Comisac stating he is interested in filling the vacancy of David Christ on the Tamaqua Area Water Authority. 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 accept his request to fill the vacancy for the Water Authority,

and unanimously approved. Mr. Comisac has recently retired from the Water Department and currently serving on the Tamaqua Borough Authority.

Communication was received from Kathy Nunemacher, SWPA Secretary, requesting to place a bike rack at the southwest corner of the South Ward Playground and requesting the borough donate on if there are any currently in storage; updated Council on the by-laws and has contacted the Pennsylvania Department of State in effort to have the amendments approved by the state; additionally the association is interested in applying for a small game of chance license and offering the facilities for rent for small parties at a fee of \$100 which would include a refundable \$25 security/clean up fee, in order to obtain license the organization will need a written lease agreement with the borough as the borough owns the playground; a copy of the association's rental agreement is attached. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. Council broke this request down into parts and there was a brief discussion. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Hollenbach, to approve request upon solicitor's approval and unanimously approved. Council President Connely thanked the volunteers for stepping up for the kids. Councilman Bowman was then thanked by the volunteers from the floor that even though he, Tamaqua Borough, closed the park in the end it benefited everyone and is much appreciated.

Under Borough Manager Report, Public Works Director, Robert Jones requested an executive session to discuss Personnel and Legal matters; updated Council on an online meeting with PennDOT on Monday July 25, 2022 he and Borough Manager Steigerwalt will attend; updated that no schedule was received yet from the contractor and discussed the proposed designed build to which Councilman Bowman went into detail what exactly a designed build is. Someone from floor asked where the construction would be taking place; there was much discussion on the matter.

Under Public Safety Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve a request to send Officer Andrew Seip and Officer Christopher Cordes to Drug Field Test Certification (NIK System) training in South Heidelberg Township, PA on September 12 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 Public Safety Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve a proposal from Campbell Supply Company for an air compressor for the Ladder Truck at a cost of \$1,926.00. 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 was made to send a letter to the Schuylkill County Communication Center advising them of the "Tree Down" policy for the Borough of Tamaqua. 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. Council President Connely that this was generated via 911 to have contact numbers to remove trees from roads; work detail can be called out instead of the fire trucks.

Under Parking and Traffic Committee Report, a recommendation was made to deny a handicapped space application for 322 Washington 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. Councilwoman Kunkel explained to applicant why decision was made prior to the meeting.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to hire Erin Miller as a part-time Utility Clerk 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 by Bowman, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to hire McKenna Ehrig as a lifeguard 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 Linkevich, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include a motion of hiring Nicole Aguero-Ramirez as Head Lifeguard at a pay rate of \$11.00 per hour plus \$0.25 per hour for each year of service effective/retroactive April 19, 2022. 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 amend the hiring of Nicole Aguero-Ramirez at a pay rate of \$11.00 per hour plus \$0.25 per hour for each year of service effective/retroactive April 19, 2022 were so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under Mayor's Report, Mayor Gerace requested an executive session to discuss legal matters.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Michele Weaver, 219 Orwigsburg Street, told council that the South Ward Playground needs mulch and asked if the borough could help them get mulch. There was much discussion on the matter and Council President Connely directed Public Works Director to put it on the list.

Shawn Hutta, 427 Arlington Street, questioned council about the status of the prior approved handicapped spot at 428 Arlington Street; Councilwoman Kunkel advised that Borough Manager will confirm status.

Mary Ann Sakusky, 331 Owl Creek Road, wanted to update council on the conditions at the Upper Reservoir, the overall condition of the Owl Creek Road in general, and speeding in the area; there was much discussion on the matters. Councilwoman Linkevich along with her committee, Recreation and Youth, will work with Tom Banditelli on the concerns at the reservoir. Ms. Sakusky is also requesting "Dawn to Dusk" signs to be installed at the reservoir; Robert Jones will look to see what we already have and work on the request. Ms. Sakusky asked what the weight limit is on the road due to Shamrock trucks and tour buses driving on the road; the weight limit is 5 tons; council asked Chief of Police Hobbs to look into it and contact the owner of the company which lead to speed limit signs being discussed and one resident from Owl Creek requested bigger signs. Council President Connely turned that request over to the Parking and Traffic Committee to look into.

Dennis O'Donnell, 257 Owl Creek Road, wanted to thank the police for all they do to stop the speeders, he walks the road and feels that it's an accident waiting to happen. There was much discussion on the speeding in town and on Owl Creek Road.

Jack Sakusky, 331 Owl Creek Road, asked council if the railroad has plans to fix the Spruce Street and part of East Broad Street; there was much discussion on the matter.

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.

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 Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, Council President Connely wanted to give the Tamaqua Borough workforce a pat on the back; they went to a conference that had a line painting competition and our guys won a line painting machine (a walking machine) at no cost to the borough. Thank you to all that participated.

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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 7:48 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:14 p.m.

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

A recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include a motion to request that the Civil Service Commission conduct a Police Officer Exam and prepare an eligibility list. 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 request the Civil Service Commission conduct a Police Officer Exam and prepare an eligibility list were so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Kunkel, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Tonia Collevchio, Borough Secretary/Treasurer