

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of June on Tuesday, June 21, 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, Mary Linkevich and Ritchie Linkhorst. Officials present were Mayor Nathan Gerace, Chief of Police Michael Hobbs, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Solicitor Anthony Odorizzi and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Tonia Collevechio.

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 Regular Council Meeting held on June 7, 2022 was ordered suspended; the minutes were approved as written with one correction of committee from Public Safety to Parking and Traffic on motion of Bowman, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Stephen Surotchak thanking Council for the opportunity to be employed for the Tamaqua Water Authority as a Water Distribution worker but unfortunately has been offered another position which will enable him to advance his career and pursue his dreams. With regret, Mr. Surotchak submitted his resignation effective June 29, 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 Linkevich, to accept Stephen Surotchak's resignation and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Charles Houser and Bruce Reed; in the thank you note was a brief message thanking the Borough of Tamaqua, the Mayor, and especially the Chief of Police Michael Hobbs for the quick work on getting the car removed from in front of their houses after four weeks of dealing with it and was cleared up within 24 hours; would also like to thank everyone for great work well done.

Manager Steigerwalt reported an update on the 252 Cottage Ave demolition status that it should be finishing up in the next few weeks; update on Railroad Street, sent information to the county; a demolition lien will be placed on 300-302 Race Street, a new person has purchased the property however it is still on the list for demo and all parties were notified of action; received Tax Sale notice for August 22, 2022 for eleven properties and will get council a list of those properties; 2022 CDBF does not have actual allocation as of yet; also there are vacancies WTP/Water Department and will most likely be looking to fill positions outside of the plants. Manager Steigerwalt discussed the new garbage contract and the changing of the fee(s). Borough Solicitor agreed a fee schedule resolution is the way to go with rates reflecting \$75 per quarter/\$300 yearly due to operating costs and contract fees; Steigerwalt presented a resolution for the council's consideration.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-12**  
**BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA**  
**FEE SCHEDULE RESOLUTION**

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution authorizing the fee schedule changes. 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 approved by unanimous roll call vote. Councilman Bowman wanted to add that he is still not satisfied with the five year contract due to after three years the rates will raise.

Under Parking and Traffic Committee Report, a recommendation was made to adopt an ordinance prohibiting parking on both sides of South Street between Coal and Bowe streets.

**ORDINANCE NO. 731**  
**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**

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 approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Under Parking and Traffic Committee Report, a recommendation was made to deny a handicapped space application for 302 Spruce Street and place the request on a waiting list since it would exceed the number of handicapped spaces allowed in that block. 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 with the notation by Councilman Bowman to Councilwoman Kunkel to make sure a letter is sent so the applicant understands why.

Under Parking and Traffic Committee Report, a recommendation was made to place Fire Station warning signs on the streets approaching each volunteer fire company. 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 Neighborhoods, Downtown & Historic District Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve the following four Certificates of Appropriateness; 398 Cottage Avenue in the R-4 Zoning District requesting to install an entire new roof on the house, 114 North Lehigh Street requesting to replace a low brick and stucco retaining wall in front of the property with new landscape blocks and wishes to create one of two parking spaces in part of the back yard with the driveway coming off of Lafayette Street, 228 High Street in the R-4 Zoning District requesting permission to remove a rear first floor window and install a standard door in its place for access to the house from the yard at ground level, and 256 Cottage Avenue in the R-4 Zoning District requesting to replace the front door and rear door of the house to which neither are original to the house. 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve a 2023 Owl Creek Reservoir Commission Rental Agreement. 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 Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage & Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve the permanent transfer of Ernie Shilko to the Street Maintenance/Sweeper Operator position. 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 Mayor's Report, Mayor Gerace updated council that Summerfest went very well and was very pleased with the work done on East Broad Street especially with the letters and boil advisory notices.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Tyson Nalesnik, 434 Arlington Street, questioned council on a prior approved handicapped space on his block that is one sided parking and the residence has rear off street parking available; there was much discussion on the matter. Councilwoman Kunkel will look into it.

Linda Miller, Willing Street, had a billing question for council and there was a brief discussion.

Agnes Versailles, 228 Owl Creek, had a complaint about a neighbor's porch lights. There was much discussion on the matter. Council President Connely and Manager Steigerwalt made notes regarding the situation and will have the code officials look into the matter.

Joe Salla, Owl Creek, asked where his letter was to which he was told it is a police matter and was directed back to the police department and will not be read. Mr. Salla then brought up people walking their dogs without a leash at the reservoir; there was much discussion on the matter and was directed to contact Tom Banditelli or call the police. Mr. Salla then complained about pot holes in the Owl Creek road to which Councilman Bowman updated him that the road project is still not completed, there are no pot holes, and the cracking on the edge of the road is also a part of the project.

Dave Mace, 643 Arlington Street, requesting that posting minutes on the Tamaqua Borough website resume, that he can only view January 2022; council will look into why they are not uploaded.

Gina Anderson, 227 Owl Creek, is afraid to let her child out on the road now that school is out and wanted to thank the Chief of Police for sending a cop out for speeding.

Jack Suzuki, Owl Creek, asked about line painting to slow people down; there was much discussion on speeding in Owl Creek and Mr. Suzuki was referred to Chief Hobbs.

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

Borough Solicitor Odorizzi updated council about a public hearing at 6:30 pm on July 12, 2022 so the ESRP board can review and make recommendations for the August meeting.

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.

No New Business.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:37 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