

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of June on Tuesday, June 7, 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 Hollenbach. The roll was called with seven councilmembers present.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on May 18, 2022 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Bowman, second by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Francis Betz, Secretary of Citizens Fire Co. #1, seeking permission to hold their annual Bazaar on Saturday, June 25th, 2022 from 2-11 pm along with the Fire Apparatus parade starting at 5 pm; requesting to close Hegarty Avenue and the 100 block of Rowe Street for the Bazaar; also requesting to hold their annual Pig Roast and Cornhole tournament on October 1st, 2022 from 10-10 pm also requesting to close Hagarty Avenue. 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, to grant requests and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Dale Freudenberger, c.o. Tamaqua Historical Society, updating council of the 31st annual Tamaqua Summerfest on Father's Day Sunday, June 19th, 2022 from 10-5 pm in downtown Tamaqua rain or shine. Mr. Freudenberger requested the following streets that he would like to be posted "no parking Sunday": West Broad St from the Five Points to Nescopeck St, South Railroad St from Broad to Spruce, Berwick St from Broad to Hegarty Ave, Hegarty Ave just in front of the blacksmith shop between Nescopeck and Lafayette St, Nescopeck St from Hegarty Ave to Rowe and Nescopeck St from West Broad to Cottage Avenue; also requesting following streets to be closed to all traffic: South Railroad St from Broad to Spruce, Hegarty Ave the entire length from Berwick St to Nescopeck St, Hegarty Ave in front of the blacksmith shop from Nescopeck to Lafayette St, Nescopeck St from Hegarty Ave to Rowe St, and Nescopeck St from Broad to Cottage Ave; requesting barricades be dropped off at those intersections; also requesting the use of a borough dump truck and wooden stairs parked on South Railroad St near Spruce St to load trash after Summerfest. The historical society will pay the tipping fee at the Tamaqua Transfer Station after the truck is dumped on Monday. 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 Linkevich, to grant requests and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Officer Corey R. Herring informing council that he will be resigning his position as full time police officer effective June 14, 2022 and will finish out his scheduled shifts and will be available for any future court appearances. 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 accept Officer Herring's resignation and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Judy Hoppes, Festival Chairperson, updating council on the Christmas in July festival; in addition to the parade they are planning to hold some children's activities on South Railroad St on the lot between Tink's Antiques and Tamaqua Public Library following the parade, activities will take place from noon – 3 pm. The Spirit of Christmas Committee is requesting permission to have seven parking meters in front of Tink's and the library bagged as no parking for the day; also contacted several food truck vendors and several are interested and inquired about any rules and regulations that apply to food truck vendors. 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 Linkevich, to grant the request and unanimously approved. There was a brief discussion regarding the food truck vendors' requirements; no permit is needed however the committee should look into their licenses.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that he has a couple resolutions to present to council. The first one was provided by the Tamaqua Community Partnership authorizing the filing of an application of a business plan for the Commonwealth; the grant that we would receive would be for the construction of the new police station and community center, the grant is through the redevelopment assistance in capital projects program and you submit a proposal and they approve or deny, this is the same kind of funding used for construction of LCCC. Micha Gursky sent along a copy of the business plan and the application if anyone on council would like to see it.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION AND BUSINESS PLAN TO THE COMMONWEALTH

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution authorizing the filing of an application and business plan to the commonwealth. 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.

Steigerwalt reported on the next resolution to be presented to council. A program initiated a few years ago called the Borough of Tamaqua community plan also known as Tamaqua Choose Happiness Community Plan it was applied via the Tamaqua Community Partnership in 2019 and approved in 2020 they are finally wrapping up the project due to the public health issues; they sent the completed plan and forwarded it to council, the project was funded through a grant from the DCED and then a local match from the Partnership, closing out the grant requires council to receive a plan and adopt via a resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-11

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE TAMAQUA CHOOSE HAPPINESS COMMUNITY PLAN

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution in regards to the Tamaqua Choose Happiness Community Plan. 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.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on summer work through Goodwill Keystone area in Berks County similar to PA Career Link, it would provide work experience for young people in cutting grass, painting, etc. There are 3 or 4 local youth that could work for us in the summer. The program provided full time supervision and works 6 weeks for roughly 18 hours a week. A recommendation was made to approve the summer work program SWEAP. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. Council President Connely had one question; who is providing the transportation back and forth; the program? Steigerwalt spoke with the supervisor, Amanda Woodring, and will work it out prior. Bruce Reed, 747 E. Broad St, commented from the floor regarding insurance for these summer help youth, what happens if they get hurt, Mr. Reed was told that the program will cover them. With no one else from the floor wishing to address council the recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved. Steigerwalt also reported about the garbage contract, a 5 year contract was awarded and price went up and asked council to look into raising garbage prices. Council President Connely passed this issue over to the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee for discussion; July 1st is the date of next possible billing and is recommending \$75.00 a quarter / \$300 a year to break even. Councilman Bowman noted that council will have it for next meeting and a resolution will be needed to raise the rate.

Under Parking and Traffic Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve the following handicapped parking space applications at these locations; 136 Mahanoy Street, 147 Penn Street, 428 Arlington 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 deny a handicapped space application for 303 Clark Street since it would exceed the number of handicapped spaces allowed in that block. Charles Houser, 753 E Broad Street, asked from the floor if any handicapped person can park in someone else's spot; the answer is yes anyone with a plaque can park in those spots. With there being no one else 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 that their name will be placed on a waiting list.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to retain Robert J. Filloy as full-time Street Maintenance Worker effective June 2, 2022. 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 retain Stephen J. Surotchak as a full-time Water Distribution Worker effective June 7, 2022. 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.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to hire Shane P. Young as a full-time Street Maintenance Worker at a pay rate of \$24 per hour. 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 the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to hire Aydan Coady as a part-time Maintenance Worker 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 on motion of Bowman, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to appoint Ritchie Linkhorst to the Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission to fill the unexpired term of Mary Linkevich. 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 Recreation and Youth Committee Report, Councilwoman Linkevich updated council that the updated DCED application for the resolution was submitted.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee Report, Councilwoman Linkevich updated council on the SouthWard Playground. The playground is currently open with a lunch program; a fun-day is scheduled for June 8, 2022 from 4-7 pm with missionary students running programs with activities; bylaws are tentative and there will be a meeting on June 13, 2022 to finalize; the playground is only open 8 am – 10 or 11 pm and the gates are locked at night to deter vandalism. Council President Connely offered help to the committee with organization if needed and reported that code officials have worked with the other wards to help keep them safe too.

Mayor Gerace updated on Officer Herring's resignation and recommends a new Civil Service exam that will be under review for the next meeting.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Charles Houser, 753 E Broad St, reported an abandoned vehicle in front of his house for the last 4 weeks and has multiple tickets and wanting to know why the vehicle has not been towed yet. There was much discussion on the process of abandoned vehicles.

Bruce Reed, 747 E Broad St, complained about excessive speeding; there was much discussion on the matter.

Linda Miller, 447 Willing St, complained about her new neighbor at 449 Willing St. She claims they put up a new fence and took down hers without her consent and ruined her flowers; she is also very concerned about her dogs' safety which leads to her going to a lawyer. President Connely told her unfortunately it is a civil matter but can offer code officials to come to her property to make sure permits were good. There was much discussion on the matter.

Edith Trevorah, 316 N Columbus St, complained about excessive speeding and cannot enjoy her porch; asking for stop signs to control the intersections. Parking and Traffic Committee will look into the matter.

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

Under Unfinished Business, Council President Connely updated council on a meeting soon with the partnership to review proposal with the project downtown.

No New Business.

A recommendation was made to hold an executive session to discuss personnel. 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.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 7:44 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 matters.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:09 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Tonia Collevchio, Borough Secretary/Treasurer