

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of March on Tuesday, March 15, 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, Ronald Bowman, Brian Connely, 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 Amentler. The roll was called with seven councilmembers present.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on February 15, 2022 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Bowman, second by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Paul Fridirici, of the Tamaqua CRIZ Authority, submitting his letter of resignation from the Tamaqua CRIZ Authority after serving for many years. 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 turn this correspondence over to the Tamaqua CRIZ Authority for their thoughts and unanimously approved with no question from the floor.

Communication was received from Paul Fridirici, of the Tamaqua Borough Authority, submitting his letter of resignation from the Tamaqua Borough Authority after serving for many years. 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 turn this correspondence over to the Tamaqua Borough Authority for their thoughts and unanimously approved with no question from the floor.

Communication was received from David J. Meredith, adjutant of the CH Berry Post 173 of the American Legion, requesting permission to hold the annual Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 30th, 2022 beginning at 10 am starting at the East End of town by the Tamaqua Insurance Building and ending at West Broad Street and Lehigh Street. The event will be coordinated with Police Chief Hobbs, Tamaqua Fire Police and will follow all current CDC and PA Dept of Health guidelines. The Mayor and Borough Council are invited to participate in the parade. 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 grant the request and unanimously approved with no question from the floor.

Communication was received from Christina Wagner, on behalf of the Tamaqua Elementary PTO, requesting permission to use the pavilion and playground area at the pool on Friday, May 13th, 2022 from 12 pm to 2:30 pm for their second grade students to enjoy a picnic lunch. They are a 501c3 non-profit group and also requesting the fee be waived for the use of facilities on that day. 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, to grant permission, waive the fees and unanimously approved with no question from the floor.

Communication was received from Louis T. Smyth, DAV Representative, requesting council to allow the Veterans Hospital Wilkes-Barre to park their Tamaqua, Disabled American Veterans (DAV) van at our facility. Included with the request is their Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for council's review. 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 have borough solicitor, Tony Odorizzi, mark up a document for council's review and unanimously approved with no question from the floor.

Communication was received from Ethan Risteter, Boy Scout Troop 777, requesting permission from council to replace and add on to the existing benches surrounding the campfire pit at the lower dam of the Owl Creek Reservoir. He would like to replace the benches to fulfill his final requirement for Eagle Scout; he already gained permission to build the benches from Tom Bandatelli Jr who is in charge of the Owl Creek Commission. The existing benches are rotting and are too close to the ground for teens and adults to sit comfortably. Ethan's plan is to tear down the existing benches and pour concrete underneath with a timber post for support; then will put a composite material on top of a 2x4 so the benches will stay in good condition for years to come; also will add on another 16 ft so the benches form a U-shape that will surround the fire pit. Ethan estimated the price of the project to be \$900.00 which will be covered by his family; the only things requested of the council are permission to do the project and that the fees of any required permits be waived. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, and seconded by Hollenbach, to waive any permit fees required, approval of the project and unanimously approved with no question from the floor. Council President Connely stated that he remembers being active in his Boy Scout Troop and grateful for him doing the project.

Communication was received from Francis Hill, American Hose Co. #1 Captain, requesting additional "No Parking" signage on the unit block of Mauch Chunk Street specifically across the street from the American Hose fire company. The area is currently a no parking zone; the signage requested is an additional sign in the middle of the current no parking zone in front of the apartment building; additionally requesting, when weather permits, that the area be painted and with the addition of the "chevrons" in the boxed off area to assist motorists in seeing the no parking zone. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered by Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, to turn this request over to the parking and traffic committee and unanimously approved with no question from the floor. There was a brief discussion on there being a small sign at the beginning and end and unsure if a new sign will help.

Communication was received from Alex Steigerwalt, Troop 777, requesting permission to finish construction of the cabin at the Lower Owl Creek Dam; the cabin needs electrical work, paint, landscaping and a new door. Finishing the cabin will complete the requirements for Alex to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. This project has been approved by the Owl Creek Reservoir Commission and they also agreed to supply the materials and supplies he needs to finish the cabin; also plans to paint the outside of the cabin, minor electrical work inside, install a door, clear weeds, and build a fire pit and when the cabin is completed it will provide a great place for visitors or for anyone who would like to rent it out; if borough council approves this request he

plans to start the work in the spring and is requesting any assistance that council can provide. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered by Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, to approve the Eagle Scout project, waive any permit fees required and unanimously approved with no question from the floor. Councilwoman Kunkel briefly asked about the electrical work that needs to be done.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the following: the status of the library's roof and has been in contact with the code department; reported that the demo at 252 Cottage Avenue is proceeding and on track; contract for garbage bids will be due next month; street sweeper starts end of March early April and will post the schedule when available; reported two vacancies on the Board of Health, one vacancy on the CRIZ and Tamaqua Borough Authority. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about these matters. A recommendation was so ordered by Linkevich, seconded by Hollenbach, to waive any permit fees from the library roof project and unanimously approved with no question from the floor.

Manager Steigerwalt is also working on a \$135,000 resolution for a grant for public and charitable purposes within the Borough of Tamaqua from John E. Morgan Foundation, Inc. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. A recommendation was so ordered by Linkevich, seconded by Bowman, to adopt the documents when completed and unanimously approved with no question from the floor.

Under Chief of Police, Chief Hobbs had nothing to report.

Under Building and Equipment Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve a proposal from Structural Metal Fabricators Inc. for a new salt spreader at a cost of \$3,678.82. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Amentler, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved with no question from the floor.

Under Building and Equipment Committee Report, a recommendation was made to purchase a 4-post, 14,000 lb lift for the borough garage at a cost not to exceed \$20,000. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Amentler, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved with no question from the floor.

Under Public Safety Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve a proposal from Kovatch Inc. to update and repair the license plate readers on Unit 177 at a cost of \$3,066.74. 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 with no question from the floor. Chief Hobbs noted that the cost of repairs should be paid out of the camera fund.

Under Public Safety Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve a request to send Sergeant Thomas Rodgers and Patrolman Tony Stanell to a three-day Pennsylvania Narcotic Officers' Association Conference in Harrisburg, PA. 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 with no question from the floor.

Under Parking and Traffic Committee Report, a recommendation was made to move a handicapped parking sign from 632 East Broad Street to 302 Biddle Street due to person moving. There was no one from floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved with no question from the floor.

Under Parking and Traffic Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve a request from the Tamaqua Area Chamber of Commerce to place up to 10 metal signs approximately 8-by-10 inches in size on existing poles in the downtown area. There was no one from floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved with no question from the floor. There was a brief discussion about the signs and parking issues on South Street.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to adopt an ordinance amending the Defined Contribution and Normal Retirement Pension benefits in the Non-Uniformed Employee Pension Plan:

ORDINANCE NO. 730
BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, SCHUYLKILL COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA, AMMENDING SECTIONS 3 AND 11 OF ORDINANCE NO. 295,
ENACTED OCTOBER 14, 1969, AS AMENDED, WHICH PROVIDED FOR THE
ESTABLISHMENT AND REGULATION OF THE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT
PLAN OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, SCHUYLKILL COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA

There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, second by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved by roll call vote with no question from the floor.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to retain Tonia L. Collevecchio as Borough Secretary/Treasurer effective immediately. 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 with no question from the floor.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to appoint Randy Clemson to the Water Treatment Plant Work Leader position effective immediately. 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 with no question from the floor.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to appoint Todd Macalush to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Work Leader position effective immediately. 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 with no question from the floor.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve the transfer of Aaron Coggiano to a vacant Water Treatment Plant 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 with no question from the floor.

Under Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve the following five Certificates of Appropriateness: 223 West Broad Street for installation of two signs; 117 East Broad Street to replace an existing sign with a vinyl sign; 249 East Broad Street to replace two existing signs; 320-322 East Broad Street to demolish the rear wooden addition which was heavily damaged by a fire; and 227 West Broad Street to replace entire wooden porch on front and side of building. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about these matters. The recommendations were so ordered on motion of Hollenbach, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved with no question from the floor.

Under Recreation and Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to adopt a resolution authorizing the filing of an application for a Community Conservation Partnerships Program Grant for renovation of the H.D. Buehler Memorial Pool.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-5

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

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 with roll call vote with no question from the floor.

Under Police and Community Building Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve a proposal from Alpine Building Supply for a 20-by-60 foot pole building kit at a cost of \$37,632. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion by Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved with no question from the floor. There was a brief discussion that there will be additional costs with concrete etc; this will be just the start of the cost.

Under Mayor's Report, Mayor Gerace reported that Friday, April 22nd, 2022 is the town cleanup for Earth Day and asking for groups of volunteers and donations of trash bags, gloves, etc; Borough Manager Steigerwalt can get donations through Schuylkill Keep It Pretty and Council President Connely stated fire companies could look to coordinating with the fire chief to clean blocks; the scouts will be out helping clean as well. Mayor Gerace also reported to council that a resident on Glenwood Avenue is asking for council to look into the road becoming a one-way street; there was a brief discussion on the matter.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Christopher Anderson, 227 Owl Creek Rd, reported to council that now that the weather is nice there's excessive speeding and stated that the sides of the roadway is hazardous for the kids playing; reported about the construction at 226 Owl Creek Rd, the construction company is from Allentown and leaving the house in shambles, it's a hazard with open ditches and no bathroom, has seen children throwing items in a dumpster without adult supervision. Gina Anderson, 227 Owl Creek Rd, also reported issues she has observed and expressed concerns about the water in the creek and open ditches as well. There was much discussion about these matters; if trespassing is occurring it is recommended to call 911 and report it due to the house being posted with only contractors being able to be there, if there is a violation, permits could be pulled and Council President Connely will follow up with code.

Joe Salla, 204 Owl Creek Rd, requests trash bags, gloves, safety vest etc from Borough Manager Steigerwalt to cleanup as well.

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

Solicitor Odorizzi requested an executive session prior to adjournment to discuss real estate 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved with no question from the floor.

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 Kunkel, and unanimously approved with no question from the floor; Councilman Hollebach abstained from approval of voucher 45588 in the amount of \$129.00.

Under New Business, Council President Connely discussed that the Downtown Cleanup is nice but there's complaints of trailer and RV types around and action will be taken to have them removed from the streets; there was much discussion on the matter.

A recommendation was made to hold an executive session to discuss 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved with no question from the floor.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 7:49 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:28 p.m.

President Connely announced that an executive session was held to discuss real estate matters. A recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include a motion to authorize legal council to sign the stipulation resolving the bank on broad tax assessment appeal. 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 authorize legal council to sign the stipulation resolving the bank on broad tax assessment appeal were so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved with no question from the floor.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkhorst, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Tonia Collevchio, Borough Secretary/Treasurer