

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

The meeting was called to order by President Connely with a moment of silence for Albie Coccio. The invocation was given by Councilman Hollenbach. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Amentler. The roll was called with six councilmembers present and one excused.

The reading of the minutes of the first Regular Council Meeting held on February 21, 2023 was ordered suspended; and with no additions or corrections; the minutes were approved as written on motion of Bowman, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Kathy Kunkel, Tamaqua Civil Service Commission Secretary, notifying Council that the Civil Service Commission completed its requirements to create an eligibility list for the position of Police Officer for the Borough of Tamaqua and requests that the Council approves the certified list of applicants for the 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.

Communication was received from the Southward Playground Association, updating council that they were asked to sponsor an Easter Egg Hunt at the Southward Playground on Saturday April 1, 2023 from 1pm – 5pm; the egg hunt is open to Tamaqua and Hometown residents; there will be food and drinks for sale; the egg hunt will be done in three age groups ranging from 1 year to 10 years old and the children must be preregistered online by Sunday March 26, 2023, registered children will receive a free hot dog and soda. The Association is also asking for Oak Street between Penn Street and Race Street to be blocked off from 12pm – 5pm for the children’s safety. 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.

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 29th, 2023 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 Kunkel, to grant the request and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Tonia Collevichio, Borough Secretary/Treasurer, requesting council make a motion to open up an escrow account for fire insurance proceeds

received for the property at 123 W. Broad Street in accordance with the Tamaqua Fire Escrow Ordinance No. 568. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Boman, seconded by Kunkel, to open the fire loss escrow account and unanimously approved.

Communication received from Eugene Brode informing council that he will be retiring as a Sewer Plant Operator for the Borough of Tamaqua. His last physical day of work will be on or around May 16th, 2023 and will be using his accumulated paid time off with last day of employment on March 8th, 2024. 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.

Manager Steigerwalt reported to council that the Tamaqua Borough Police Department received the Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative Grant in the amount of \$150,000 and needs to be approved by council. The Department of Justice funds the grant and has provided a contract and two other agreements. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation to sign and approve documents for the grant was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that the audit of workplace safety committee has passed resulting in a 5% discount for workers' comp. Council President Connely requested Manager to send a thank you to the committee, one for each department; the CRIZ Authority audit is completed, demolition programs are on hold due the weather with demolition grants paying a portion so we need to wrap it up by June; the streetsweeper will be out soon prior to the actual schedule to do test runs; tree trimming is happening now around town by Matt Dunn; also reported that Rottet submitted a quote for a 2015 Ford Explorer in the amount of \$9,500 and Manager Steigerwalt is requesting to purchase vehicle for the code department using funds from the Municibid sales. A recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include a motion to authorize the addition of purchasing the 2015 Ford Explorer to agenda and purchase the vehicle for the code department using Municibid funds in the amount of \$9,500. 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 the purchasing of the 2015 Ford Explorer for the code department using Municibid funds were so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported he received a quote for double line painting on Owl Creek Road at a price of \$6,600 from DeAngelo Contracting Services LLC. A recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include a motion to approve a proposal from DeAngelo Contracting Services LLC to paint a double yellow center line on Owl Creek Road at a cost of \$6,600. 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 approve the low bid proposal from DeAngelo Contracting Services LLC to paint the double yellow lines on Owl Creek Road at a cost of \$6,600 were so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported he received a quote for destruction of old records. A recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include a motion to approve a proposal from

Shred-it for document shredding services at a cost of \$2,220. 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 approve the proposal from Shred-it at the cost of \$2,220 and split bill with Water Authority were so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved. Also reported the status of the drone training to take place in April.

Under Public Safety Committee Report, a recommendation was made to hire Riley Robinette as a part-time police officer 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.

Under Public Safety Committee Report, a recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include a motion to hire Devin Dellock as a full-time police officer effective immediately. 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 hire Devin Dellock as a full-time police officer effective were so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under Recreation & Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to hire Emma Coccio as assistant pool manager 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 on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Under Recreation & Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to hire Alex Porambo 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 Kunkel, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Under Recreation & Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to hire Susan Coombe as a pool clerk at a pay rate of \$9.00 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 Kunkel, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Under Recreation & Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve a proposal from Alfred Benesch & Company in the amount of \$23,400 for the design of improvements to the North and Middle Ward Playground and South Ward Playground. 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 Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Melissa Wilmont, Mahanoy Street, had a question regarding line painting for a no parking zone; request will be looked into by the Parking & Traffic Committee.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Sturgis, 222 South Railroad Street, asked council of the status of no parking sign installments that were approved. Manager Steigerwalt updated them that the borough has not received the signs yet. Mr. Sturgis also updated council about their concerns for parking and driving on their street due to tractor trailers parking there; Chief of Police Hobbs will look into the matter with the code department.

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 Hollenbach, 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.

Under New Business Report, a recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include a motion to appoint Jay Stidham as Public Works Director effective May 26th, 2023. 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 appoint Jay Stidham as Public Works Director effective May 26th, 2023 upon Robert Jones' retirement were so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business Report, a recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include a motion to post for in-house applications for the Water Distribution Work Leader position. 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 post for in-house applications were so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to hold an executive session to discuss Personnel 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 Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 7:32 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:07 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

Tonia Collevchio, Borough Secretary/Treasurer