

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of November on Tuesday, November 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, au Hollenbach Jr., Kathy Kunkel, Ritchie Linkhorst and Mary Linkevich. Officials present were Borough Solicitor Tony Odorizzi, Police Chief Michael Hobbs, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Tonia Collevecchio. Excused was Mayor Nathan Gerace.

The meeting was called to order by President Connely. The invocation was given by Councilwoman Linkevich. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Bowman. The roll was called with seven councilmembers present.

The reading of the minutes of the first Regular Council Meeting held on October 18, 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 Officer Doug Springer asking to be placed in the Police Pension Committee's vacant seat. 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, to appoint Officer Springer to the Police Pension Committee and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Thomas Nelson, Zoning Officer, recommending that Mr. George Boyle III be reappointed for another five-year term on the Tamaqua Zoning/Hearing Board. 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, to reappoint Mr. George Boyle III for another five-year term on the Tamaqua Zoning/Hearing Board and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Thomas Nelson, Zoning Officer, recommending that William Kennedy and Tammy Swinburne be reappointed for another three-year term on the Historical Architectural Review Commission. 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, reappoint William Kennedy and Tammy Swinburne for another three-year term on the Historical Architectural Review Commission and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Dan Evans, CRIZ Chairman, recommending that Mary Linkevich be reappointed for another five-year term on the Tamaqua Community Revitalization and Improvement Zone Authority. 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, reappoint Mary Linkevich another five-year term on the Tamaqua Community Revitalization and Improvement Zone Authority and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Jody Keller, Tink's Antiques, requesting that South Railroad Street from Cottage Ave to the library be closed for our annual Christmas Market on December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 4-8pm. 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 Bowman, to approve request and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Tammy Sienkiewicz, Safer Streets for Tamaqua's Little Feet, requesting permission to use the large Christmas Tree in Depot Square for their 7<sup>th</sup> year of the Giving Tree to once again provide help to keep our community warm from December 4<sup>th</sup> – end of January depending on temperatures. 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 Linkevich, to approve the request and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Judy Hoppes, Festival Chairperson, updating council the The Spirit of Christmas Festival Committee is planning to hold the 2022 festival from December 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>; events are being planned with safety and social distancing taken into consideration. The committee is asking permission to use the Depot Square Park on the following dates: Friday December 2<sup>nd</sup> – Light the Park and hold a Meet and Greet with Santa, Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup> – Entertainment by the Faculty Brass Band, and Sunday December 4<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Tree Lighting. 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 Linkevich, to approve request and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Tonia Collevichio, Borough Secretary/Treasurer, requesting council make a motion to open up two escrow accounts for fire insurance proceeds received from USAA for the property at 530 Arlington Street and from Nationwide for the property at 528 Arlington 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 Hollenbach, to open the fire loss escrow accounts and unanimously approved.

Borough Manager also reported that he finished the 2023 budget draft and plans on making a few changes; subgrant agreement of \$2,000,000 for the police station/magistrate/community building was discussed. A recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include a motion to approve a subgrant agreement with the Tamaqua Area Community Partnership for the \$2 million redevelopment assistance capital program grant for the new police station and community center. 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 subgrant agreement were so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved. Borough Manager also updated council that the District Justice Office Lease is set to expire at end of the year and we received a proposal from the county and borough solicitor requested an executive session for real estate matters; also updated on the demolition status. A recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include a motion to advertise for bids for the demolition of 423 Willing Street. 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 advertisement of the demolition of 423 Willing Street were so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Borough Manager also reported that Street Material Supply bids will be due the second week of December; reported on the borough's drone. A recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include a motion to approve a proposal for drone registration and training in the amount of \$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 drone registration and training were so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Under Chief of Police report, Chief Hobbs had nothing to report however Councilman Bowman took the time to thank all our volunteer first responders and businesses that came together in the borough's time of crisis.

Under Parking and Traffic Committee Report, a recommendation was made to deny a handicapped parking space application for 243 Clay Street since it will 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.

Under Parking and Traffic Committee Report, a recommendation was made to adopt an ordinance amending the street opening permit ordinance.

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 734**

#### **AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, REVISING AND AMENDING SECTION 286 OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA CODE OF ORDINANCES ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR STREETS AND SIDEWALKS, ARTICLE II (EXCAVATIONS AND OPENINGS)**

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing ordinance for article II excavations and openings. 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 approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Under Finance, Wage and Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to tentatively adopt and advertise the 2023 budget. There was a discussion to hire another full-time patrolman. 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 Finance, Wage and Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to prepare a resolution setting the 2023 Real Estate Tax Rate at 23.50 mills with 21.90 mills for General Purposes, 1 mill for the Building and Equipment Fund, 0.50 mill for the Wabash Improvement Fund and 0.10 mill for the Street Light Fund. 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, and unanimously approved.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Dave Clemson, 226 Pitt Street, asked Council for an update on his prior concerns.

Christopher Anderson, 227 Owl Creek, reported on an incident that happened at his home and was directed to Chief Hobbs.

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

Under Borough Solicitor Report, an executive session was requested for 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 Linkhorst, 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 Amentler, and unanimously approved.

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 Amentler, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 8:05 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:54 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:54 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