

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of October on Tuesday, October 4, 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, Ritchie Linkhorst and Mary Linkevich. Officials present were Borough Solicitor Tony Odorizzi, Police Chief Michael Hobbs, Public Works Director Robert Jones and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Tonia Collevichio. Excused were Mayor Nathan Gerace and Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt.

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 first Regular Council Meeting held on September 20, 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 David J. Meredith: Parade Chairperson/Post Adjutant of CH Berry Post No 173, requesting permission to hold the annual Veterans Day Parade on Saturday November 5, 2022 at 10 am on Broad Street; the event will be coordinated with Chief of Police Michael Hobbs and the Tamaqua Fire Police; the Mayor and Council are also 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 Kunkel, seconded by Hollenbach, to approve the request for the Veterans Day Parade and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Dale Freudenburger, President of the Tamaqua Historical Society, updating Council that the Society will present the 38th Annual Tamaqua Heritage Festival on Sunday October 9, 2022 from 10 – 5 pm in downtown Tamaqua; this is a rain or shine community event and their request for assistance is the same as previous years which includes various streets to be posted no parking Sunday and various streets to be closed; also requesting use of the borough dump truck and wooden stairs. Mr. Freudenburger also is aware of the recent handicapped resident that complained to Council regarding the layout of the festival and room on the sidewalks; with only two weeks until the Heritage Festival, there are no options that they feel are doable now but will see what major changes can be made in time for the Summerfest next year; they would need plenty of time to look at all options in advance of the Tamaqua Summerfest next June. 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 Linkhorst, to approve the requests for the Heritage Festival and unanimously approved. Council will remind the Tamaqua Historical Society to give more notice of their events.

Communication was received from Mandy L. Book, Executive Director of the Commonwealth Financing Authority, writing in response to Council's request for financial assistance under the Flood Mitigation Program regarding the Wabash Creek Culvert Rehabilitation Project. Unfortunately, they were unable to act favorably on the request for assistance at this time.

Communication was received from Mandy L. Book, Executive Director of the Commonwealth Financing Authority, writing in response to Council's request for financial

assistance under the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program regarding the Tamaqua Bungalow Pool Development Project. Unfortunately, they were unable to act favorably on the request for assistance at this time.

Public Works Director Jones reported on the tax claim bureau private sale notice and that recommendations will be provided next meeting; Bids for Heating Oil are due October 17th and Bids for Demotion are due October 14th, recommendations will be provided at the next meeting; also reported on the status of the purple streetlights, the manufacturer sent the wrong bulbs however they are still replacing at no cost.

Under Finance, Wage & Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to adopt a resolution authorizing the Council President to sign a PennDOT Winter Maintenance Services Agreement.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-17

PENNDOT WINTER MAINTENANCE SERVICES AGREEMENT

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution for the winter maintenance service agreement. 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 approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Under Finance, Wage & Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include a motion to approve the transfer of Austin Fogel to a vacant Water Treatment Plant Operator position effective October 17, 2022. 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 transfer Austin Fogel effective October 17, 2022 were so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Under Finance, Wage and Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to hire Eric Nelson as a full-time Water Distribution Worker at a pay rate of \$24.00 per hour. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Under Finance, Wage & Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include a motion to hire Joe Behun as full-time Water Treatment Plant Work Leader effective October 17, 2022. 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 Joe Behun as Work Leader effective October 17, 2022 were so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under Neighborhoods, Downtown & Historic District Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve the following two certificates of appropriateness; 116 East Broad Street requesting to install a new sign using the existing metal sign box mounted vertically on the building and 32 West Broad Street requesting to install new sign lettering on an existing sign on the building which is the former Bittner's Store location. 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 Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under Recreation & Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include a motion to approve the low bid from Eric Clausius in the amount of \$7,800 for the roof project at the South Ward Playground contingent upon South Ward Playground paying their half in the amount of \$3,900 to the Borough of Tamaqua within six months. 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 for the roof project at the South Ward Playground were so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Tom Schlorf, 224 Orwigsburg Street, addressed council regarding the acceptance of the low bid for the South Ward Playground roof project, “better than nothing”; Vice President Bowman stated that the Borough doesn’t really have the funding, but we are trying to do what we can.

Dave Clemson, 226 Pitt Street, asked Council why nothing is still being done about the lot across the street from him that he brought to their attention last meeting. There was much discussion on status of the situation and protocol.

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

Under Borough Solicitor’s Report, Mr. Odorizzi updated council on the public hearing at 6:30 pm on October 18, 2022 regarding the transfer of the liquor license request.

Under Unfinished Business, a recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include a motion to remove from the table and appoint George Herring to the Employee Pension Committee. 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 George Herring to the vacant seat on the Employee Pension Committee were so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, a recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include a motion to approve the changes made to the Civil Service Rules and Regulations and adopt the forgoing resolution of adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-18
RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION
CIVIL SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS

A recommendation was made to amend the agenda, as well as the recommendation to adopt the foregoing resolution for the civil service rules and regulations for adoption and approve the changes made to the rules and regulations. 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 Bowman, and approved by unanimous roll call vote. There was a brief discussion about the physical portion of the test.

Council President Connely stated that prior to the meeting starting, Council held an executive session at 6:30 pm to discuss personnel and legal matters.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:40 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkhorst, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Tonia Collevchio, Borough Secretary/Treasurer