

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its Reorganization Meeting followed by a Regular Council Meeting on Monday, January 3, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. in the 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, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Trainee Tonia Collevichio and Director of Community Development Ann Marie Calabrese.

Stephen J. Bayer, Magisterial District Judge of District Court 21-3-06, administered the Oath of Office to Councilwoman Kathy Kunkel prior to meeting date.

Mayor Nathan Gerace administered the Oath of Office to Councilmembers Jay Hollenbach Jr., Mary Linkevich and Ritchie Linkhorst.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gerace. The invocation was given by Councilman Connely. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Bowman. The roll was called with all councilmembers present.

Mayor Gerace called for nominations for President of Council. Brian Connely was nominated for President by Councilman Bowman and seconded by Councilman Linkhorst. With no other nominations, the nominations for President were declared closed and Brian Connely was elected as President by a unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Gerace called for nominations for Vice President of Council. Ronald Bowman was nominated for Vice President by Councilman Connely and seconded by Councilman Amentler. With no other nominations, the nominations for Vice President were declared closed and Ronald Bowman was elected as Vice President by a unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Gerace relinquished the chair to President Connely.

President Connely called for nominations for President Pro Tem to preside at the meetings in the absence of the President and Vice President. Mary Linkevich was nominated for President Pro Tem by Councilman Hollenbach and second by Councilman Bowman. With no other nominations, the nominations for President Pro Tem were declared closed and Councilwoman Linkevich was elected as President Pro Tem by a unanimous vote.

A Tamaqua Borough Council 2022 photograph was taken for the press.

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order by President Connely.

President Connely called for nominations for Chairman of the Tamaqua Vacancy Board. Mark Bower was nominated to be reappointed for Chairman of the Tamaqua Vacancy Board by a motion made by Linkevich and seconded by Hollenbach. With no other nominations, the nominations for Chairman of the Tamaqua Vacancy Board were declared closed. A recommendation was made to reappoint Mark Bower as Chairman of the Tamaqua Vacancy Board. 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 Appointment of Borough Officials, a recommendation was made to appoint Anthony S. Odorizzi of Bower and Odorizzi Law, LLC as the borough solicitor. 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.

A recommendation was made to appoint the Appointed Borough Officials to their respective positions.

The Appointed Borough Officials for 2022 are as follows:

Vacancy Board Chairman	Mark Bower
Borough Solicitor	Anthony S. Odorizzi
Chief of Police	Michael Hobbs
Borough Manager	Kevin A. Steigerwalt
Public Works Director	Robert D. Jones
Borough Secretary/ Treasurer	Georgia Depos DeWire
Borough Secretary/Treasurer (trainee)	Tonia Collevichio
Assistant Borough Secretary/Treasurer	Amy Macalush
Borough Engineer	Alfred Benesch & Company, Pottsville, PA
Zoning Officer/Code Official	Thomas Nelson
Health Enforcement Officer/Code Official	James Connely
Sewage Enforcement Officer	Barry Isett & Associates, Hazleton, PA
Appointed Auditors	Maillie LLP, Oaks, PA
Appointed Tax Collector	Berkheimer Associates, Bangor, PA
Appointed Tax Collector	Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau, Pottsville, PA
Fire Chief	James Connely
Emergency Management Coordinator	Robert D. Jones

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.

The Appointed Authorities, Boards and Commissions for 2022 are as follows:

**Board of Health**

- Vacant
- Vacant
- James Frie
- Hans Shinton

**Board of Health (continued)**

- Dr. Joanne Calabrese, D.O.
- Vacant, Health Officer
- James Connely, Health Enf. Officer
- Anthony Odorizzi, Borough Solicitor

**Citizens Advisory Committee**

- John R. Handler, Chairperson
- Benjamin Turrano
- Barbara Morgans
- Paul Wandzilak
- Steve Gintz
- Ann Marie Calabrese, Community Dev. Officer
- Anthony Odorizzi, Borough Solicitor

**Civil Service Commission**

- Charles Rodgers
- Janene M. Holter
- Kathy Kunkel, Secretary
- Anthony Odorizzi, Borough Solicitor

**Historic Architectural Review Commission**

- Dale Freudenberger, Chairperson
- William Kennedy
- Tammy Swinburne
- Bill Harleman
- Rich Stianche
- Mark Conville, AIA, RA
- Thomas Nelson, Zoning Officer
- Anthony Odorizzi, Borough Solicitor

**Zoning Hearing Board**

- Richard Clemson, Chairperson
- Frank Kane, Vice Chairperson
- Vacant
- George Boyle III
- Karl Smulligan
- Thomas Nelson, Zoning Officer
- Robert Fryklund, Solicitor

**Planning Commission**

- Timothy Stahl, Chairperson
- Dan Evans, Vice Chairperson
- Mark Conville
- Andrew Kane
- Brian Klusman
- Thomas Nelson, Zoning Officer
- Anthony Odorizzi, Borough Solicitor

**Board of Appeals**

- David E. Mace, P.E. (Electrical)
- Jay Hollenbach Jr. (Plumbing & Heating)
- Frank Kane (Building Supply)
- Daniel Poncavage (Registered Architect)
- Herman Zeller (Electrical)
- Thomas Nelson, Zoning Officer

**Tamaqua Borough Authority**

Brian Connely, Chairperson  
 Richard Hadesty Sr.  
 Paul Fridirici, Secretary/Asst. Treas.  
 Jack Kulp, Treasurer  
 Philip Houm  
 Anthony Odorizzi, Solicitor  
 Gannett Fleming Inc., Authority Engineer

**Tamaqua Area Water Authority**

Brian Connely, Chairperson  
 Jack Kulp, Treasurer  
 David Ceci  
 Philip Houm  
 David Christ  
 Tim Zeigler, Secretary  
 Anthony Odorizzi, Solicitor  
 Gannett Fleming Inc., Authority Engineer

**Employee Pension Committee**

Richard Baddick (Sewer Dept.)  
 Robert Jones (Office)  
 John Comisac (Water Dept.)  
 Brian Connely, Councilperson  
 Mary Linkevich, Councilperson  
 Anthony Odorizzi, Borough Solicitor

**Police Pension Fund Committee**

Nathan Gerace, Chairperson  
 Robert Orbin Jr.  
 Larry Wittig  
 Patrolman Karl Harig  
 Patrolman Corey Herring  
 Brian Connely (Public Safety)  
 Ronald Bowman, Councilmember (Public Safety)  
 Kevin Steigerwalt, Borough Manager  
 Georgia DeWire, Secretary/Treasurer  
 Anthony Odorizzi, Borough Solicitor

**Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission**

Borough of Tamaqua representatives  
 John Handler  
 Mary Linkevich

**Tamaqua Community Revitalization and Improvement Zone Contracting Authority**

Dan Evans, Chairperson  
 Richard Hadesty Sr.  
 Paul Fridirici, Secretary  
 Daniel Yelito, Treasurer  
 Jack Kulp  
 Phil Houm  
 Anthony Odorizzi, Solicitor

**Schuylkill Tax Collection Committee**

Kevin Steigerwalt, Delegate  
 Dave Mace, First Alternate  
 Nathan Gerace, Second Alternate

**Tamaqua Public Library Board**

Borough of Tamaqua representative  
 Mary Linkevich

**Eastern Schuylkill Planning Commission**

Borough of Tamaqua representative  
 Karl Smulligan

**Owl Creek Reservoir Commission**

(All Members are appointed by Borough Council)

President Connely reported on the following: there are three vacancies on the Board of Health; one vacancy on the Zoning Hearing Board; one term expiring on the Board of Health; one term expiring on the Historic Architectural Review Commission (*HARC*); and one term expiring on the Employee Pension Committee. Councilman Connely stated that anyone interested in any of the open positions should contact the Borough Office.

Under Other Appointments for the Appointed Authorities, Boards and Commissions members, a recommendation was made to reappoint Mary Linkevich to a three-year term on the Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission and to reappoint Karl Smulligan to a three-year term on the Eastern Schuylkill Planning Commission. 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.

President Connely reported that the Regular Council Meetings for 2022 would be held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month and to note that the second meeting is to pay the bills and claims against the borough so there is a chance that the first scheduled meeting could be canceled. Other exceptions would be election days and holidays when the meeting would be held the following day. It was noted that Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire had advertised the schedule of regular meetings of Council, Boards, Commissions, Authorities and special committees for 2022 in The Times News newspaper in December 2021.

President Connely had a brief discussion regarding the Borough Council Committees for 2022.

The reading of the minutes of the last Regular Council Meeting held on December 21, 2021 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.

Secretary/Treasurer, in training, Tonia Collevchio reported there were no communications at this time.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Claudia and Kevin Krell of Owl Creek Road requested that Council consider painting double yellow lines and white lines on Owl Creek Road due to hazardous travel situations resulting from fog and weather changes. Councilman Bowman responded that at one time there were lines on the road, but there is a slight issue with painting due to the varying width of the roadway. Mrs. Krell asked for some guidance. Councilwoman Linkevich asked Councilman Bowman about getting reflectors. After much discussion, Councilman Bowman stated that he is going to look into the situation.

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

Under Other Business, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 34 East Elm Street. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkhorst, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Chief Michael Hobbs requested an executive session prior to adjournment to discuss personnel and legal matters.

A recommendation was made to hold an executive session to discuss personnel and legal 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 7:23 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 7:30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:31 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Kunkel, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

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Tonia Collevchio, Borough Secretary/Treasurer (trainee)