

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of October on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 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., Mary Linkevich and David Mace. Absent was Councilman Ritchie Linkhorst. Officials present were Mayor Nathan Gerace via cell phone, Chief of Police Michael Hobbs, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Solicitor Anthony Odorizzi, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire and Director of Community Development Ann Marie Calabrese.

The meeting was called to order by President Mace. The invocation was given by Councilman Connely followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Bowman. The roll was called with six councilmembers present and one absent.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on October 5, 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.

Communication was received from Jody Kellner of Tink's Antiques requesting permission to close the street from Cottage Avenue to the end of their driveway in front of Tink's Antiques, located at 28 South Railroad Street, on December 4<sup>th</sup> from 4-8 p.m. A recommendation was made to grant the request. 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.

Communication was received from Savas G. Logothetides, Wheel Restaurant, stating that he is currently working with the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB) for a permanent extension of premise regarding outside serving and consumption of alcohol. Mr. Logothetides is requesting a letter stating that the borough approves it. A recommendation was made to approve the request. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Connely, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the following: he is working on the 2022 budget and will have the first draft to council in the beginning of November; he is working on an alternate version of the 2022 budget which would include a Street Light Maintenance Fund; a bid opening for Street Materials would be held on December 16<sup>th</sup>; the TAWA bond closing will be next week and several documents would need to be signed by President Mace, Mayor Gerace and Secretary/Treasurer DeWire; the Boyer's Food Market sidewalk is under construction; the demolition of 252 Cottage Avenue has started; and the demolition of 266 Cottage Avenue is being done by the homeowner.

Director of Community Development Calabrese reported on the following: the Tamaqua Community Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ) certification of local taxes is \$27,406.22; the tax certification is due on October 15<sup>th</sup>; and there is a \$1,461.95 increase over the 2019 increment.

Chief Hobbs reminded residents that the Halloween Parade is on Tuesday night and there will be no parking along Broad Street.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a request to send Officer Andrew Seip to a two-day Standardized Field Sobriety Test training in

Lehighton, PA at no cost. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Connely, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a request to send Corporal Rodgers to a one-day Glock Armorer Training Course in Bangor, PA at a cost of \$250.00. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Connely, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Chairman Connely of the Public Safety Committee commended the fire departments for participating in Fire Prevention Week at the Tamaqua Elementary School. He stated that October is Fire Prevention month.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to adopt an ordinance prohibiting parking on the east side of Patterson Street across from 32 Patterson Street.

Councilman Hollenbach of the Parking and Traffic Committee reported that he had an ordinance prohibiting parking on the east side of Patterson Street across from 32 Patterson Street to present for council's consideration:

ORDINANCE NO. 727

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, REVISING AND AMENDING SECTION 326-26 OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA CODE OF ORDINANCES ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, ARTICLE III PARKING, SECTION 326-26 – PARKING PROHIBITED IN CERTAIN LOCATIONS.

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing ordinance. 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 Amentler, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to purchase street name signs for Dutch Hill and East End from U.S. Municipal Supply at a cost of \$9,956.57 with funds designated from Liquid Fuels-Highway Aid Fund. 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 Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include a motion to advertise an ordinance for No Parking on the west side of the 200 block of Rolling Mill Avenue. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Connely, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to advertise an ordinance for No Parking on the west side of the 200 block of Rolling Mill Avenue. There was some discussion about the new construction of the St. Luke's parking as follows: how did a project that large not include a sidewalk; a possible violation of the sidewalk ordinance; the construction of a sidewalk was not on the plans; and asking St. Luke's to add curbing. Council recognized Kathy Kunkel of 420 West Spruce Street who asked how the plans were approved without a sidewalk. There was additional discussion as follows: the head of Code Enforcement at the time, Gregory Kurtz, no longer works for the borough; the plans were reviewed by the

Planning Commission, the Zoning Board and Barry Isett and Associates; and how did Barry Isett miss this in the plans. There was no one else from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Connely, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, Councilman Connely discussed a parking issue on Biddle Street by the garages. Council recognized Fire Chief Jim Connely who stated that it is East Union Street not Biddle Street. A recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include a motion to advertise an ordinance for No Parking on the north side of East Union Street from Rolling Mill Avenue to the end of the garages. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Connely, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to advertise an ordinance for No Parking on the north side of East Union Street from Rolling Mill Avenue to the end of the garages. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Connely, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to hire Tonia L. Collevchio as Borough Secretary/Treasurer Trainee at a salary of \$50,000 effective November 8, 2021 on a six month probationary period. Councilman Bowman discussed the interviews for the position. Council recognized Kathy Kunkel who asked if \$50,000 is an annual salary and not a six-month salary. Councilman Bowman stated that it is an annual salary figure. There was no one else 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 the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, a motion was made by Bowman and seconded by Linkevich to reimburse the fire companies and various Borough departments for lost 2020 revenue with funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Manager Steigerwalt stated that he and Mayor Gerace were on a conference call on Friday and the subject of the Act came up. Congressman Dan Meuser's office forwarded information that was received establishing a formula for the reimbursement of lost revenue. Manager Steigerwalt stated that the formula is not a dollar-for-dollar match, and he must ask the fire companies for more financial information. After some discussion, the motion and second were amended as follows: a recommendation was made to reimburse the fire companies and various Borough departments for lost 2020 revenue with funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) according to the formula as required for the reimbursement. Council recognized Kathy Kunkel who asked if there is a ballpark figure on the reimbursement. Manager Steigerwalt stated that revenues prior to 2020 are needed and the formula also includes a multiplier for inflation. Mayor Gerace stated that the guidance is slightly complicated. Council recognized former Fire Chief Tom Hartz who stated that the fire company had to submit three years worth of revenues. President Mace stated that the rules were made by the Federal Government and Treasury. There was more discussion about this matter. There was no one else wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Mayor Gerace reported that the Halloween parade would be held on October 26<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of October 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Gerace expressed his concerns about the condition of the railroad tracks and timeline for repairs. President Mace stated that the railroad is responsible for repairs and upkeep. Manager Steigerwalt stated that the railroad crossings at Broad, Spruce and Greenwood streets are planned for repair possibly next year. There was some discussion about this matter.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Tom Hartz of 322 Market Street expressed his concerns about the plans for the St. Luke's parking lot. He stated that when he was Fire Chief, he was called in on the plans for Lehigh Carbon Community College. Mr. Hartz stated that the Fire Chief should be looking at all plans.

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 legal matters.

A recommendation was made to accept and file the various reports of 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 Amentler, 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 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 Amentler, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 7:42 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:20 p.m.

President Mace announced that an executive session was held to discuss legal and personnel matters.

A recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include three personnel transfers as follows: George Herring to the vacant Street Maintenance Work Leader position; Aaron Coggiano to the vacant Street Maintenance/Sweeper Operator position; and Jeffrey Hartz to the vacant Water Distribution Worker 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 Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to approve three personnel transfers as follows: George Herring to the vacant Street Maintenance Work Leader position; Aaron Coggiano to the vacant Street Maintenance/Sweeper Operator position; and Jeffrey Hartz to the vacant Water Distribution Worker 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include giving the office staff \$50 towards the purchase of clothing with the borough logo. 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 give the office staff \$50 towards the purchase of clothing with the borough logo. Council recognized Kathy Kunkel who asked if there is a design. President Mace stated that the clothing would be blue with white. 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.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:25 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

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Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer