

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of December on Tuesday, December 21, 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, Ritchie Linkhorst and David Mace. Officials present were Mayor Nathan Gerace, Chief of Police Michael Hobbs, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Trainee Tonia Collevechio and Director of Community Development Ann Marie Calabrese. Absent was Solicitor Anthony Odorizzi.

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

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on December 7, 2021 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 Barbara Morgans expressing an interest in serving on the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Communication was received from Paul Wandzilak expressing an interest in serving on the Citizens Advisory Committee.

A recommendation was made to appoint Barbara Morgans and Paul Wandzilak to serve on the Citizens Advisory Committee. Councilman Connely asked if there are any stipulations on who serves on the committee. There was some discussion about this matter. 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 on the 2022 Street Materials bid results. Manager Steigerwalt stated that there were a total of four bidders and that he provided council with a bid results worksheet. Manager Steigerwalt discussed a comparison of material hauling cost calculations for pickup of materials at the plant or quarry. The hauling cost is calculated using a formula recommended by PennDOT. Manager Steigerwalt stated that due to the difference in mileage and travel time to each plant or quarry, the lowest per ton bid is not always the lowest price. The low bidders are marked in bold type as follows:

400 tons Superpave Asphalt Warm Mix Wearing Coarse (pickup)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 26,800.00
400 tons Superpave Asphalt Warm Mix Wearing Coarse (delivery)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 30,800.00
30 tons Superpave Asphalt Warm Mix Any Wearing Coarse(pickup)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 2,010.00
100 tons Superpave Asphalt Warm Mix Base Coarse (pickup)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 5,900.00
100 tons Superpave Asphalt Warm Mix Base Coarse (delivery)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 6,900.00
100 tons PaDOT OK Cold Patch (pickup)	Glenn O. Hawbaker, Bellfonte, PA	\$ 14,000.00
100 tons PaDOT OK Cold Patch (delivery)	Hei-Way LLC, Sarver, PA	\$ 11,500.00
500 tons 2A stone (pickup)	R.E. Pierson, Middleport, PA	\$ 4,250.00
500 tons 2A stone (delivery)	R.E. Pierson, Middleport, PA	\$ 7,750.00
100 gallons PG 64-22 (pickup)		No Bids
750 tons Anti-skid AS3 (pickup)	R.E. Pierson, Middleport, PA	\$ 11,250.00
750 tons Anti-skid AS3 (delivery)	Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA	\$ 14,212.50
200 tons #57 stone (pickup)	R.E. Pierson, Middleport, PA	\$ 2,400.00
200 tons #57 stone (delivery)	R.E. Pierson, Middleport, PA	\$ 3,800.00
100 tons #8 stone (pickup)	R.E. Pierson, Middleport, PA	\$ 1,500.00
100 tons #8 stone (delivery)	R.E. Pierson, Middleport, PA	\$ 2,200.00

A motion was made by Connely and seconded by Linkevich to award the 2022 Street Materials based on the low bidders as presented by the Borough Manager. Manager Steigerwalt stated that his recommendation is to award the items in bold with the exception of item number eight for 500 tons 2A stone (pickup) and item number nine for 500 tons 2A stone (delivery). After some discussion, the motion and second were amended as follows: a recommendation was made to award the 2022 Street Materials based on the low bidders as presented by the Borough Manager with the exception of item number eight for 500 tons 2A stone (pickup) and item number nine for 500 tons 2A stone (delivery). 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 Linkevich, and approved by a 6-0-1 vote with Councilman Bowman abstaining.

Manager Steigerwalt stated that he had a resolution revising the Community Development Block Grant Program for Fiscal Years 2019 and 2020. The Borough wishes to utilize the remaining funds for Fiscal Year 2019 in the amount of \$18,491.00 and for Fiscal Year 2020 in the amount of \$15,368.05 for the fencing projects at the South Ward Playground and North/Middle Ward Playground planned for Fiscal Year 2021. The following resolution was presented for council's consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-17
RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF
TAMAQUA REVISING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEARS 2019 AND 2020.

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution. 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 a unanimous roll call vote.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on a letter from Greg Thall, secretary of the Governor's Office of the Budget, stating that Governor Wolf has authorized the release of \$2,000,000 in Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) funding for the Tamaqua Blight Remediation and Public Services Building project in Schuylkill County. In order to be eligible for this award in accordance with RACP statutes, the borough must notify the Office of the Budget if the Borough accepts the grant within 30 days of receiving notification of approval via an official correspondence. Manager Steigerwalt would give the letter to President Mace to accept the award. There was some discussion about this matter. A recommendation was made to prepare a letter notifying the Office of the Budget that the Borough accepts the grant. 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.

Director of Community Development Calabrese reported on the following: a Christmas decoration press release and photo; and Citizens Advisory Committee.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to promote Corporal Thomas Rodgers to the rank of Sergeant, effective January 9, 2022. 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, Sergeant Rodgers was sworn in by Mayor Gerace. Sergeant Rodgers daughters, Lilly and Myra, pinned the Sergeant chevron on the collar of his uniform.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to sell nine old Glock firearms and purchase eleven new Glock Model 45 firearms for the police department at a cost of approximately \$2,800.00. Councilman Connely stated that it is a budget item for next year and \$2,800.00 is the net 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 purchase seven air packs and fourteen cylinders for the aerial truck from Mid-Atlantic Fire and Air at a cost of \$66,739.40. Councilman Connely stated that the cost is being paid with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. 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 the distribution of American Rescue Plan Act funds to emergency services in the amount of \$168,338.16. 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 revised Memorandum of Agreement allowing 12-hour shifts for the Police Department on a temporary basis. Councilman Connely stated that the only changes to the agreement are extending the date and timeframe. 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.

Mayor Gerace requested an executive session prior to adjournment to discuss personnel and legal matters.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Joseph Salla of 204 Owl Creek Road presented a list of observations regarding issues in Owl Creek to Councilman Bowman and the rest of council. Mr. Salla's observations about vehicles traveling on Owl Creek Road included, but were not limited to, the following: 37 lowboy trailers went through on Owl Creek Road; two tankers; one FedEx double trailer; one UPS single trailer; and three trailers with no markings. Mr. Salla requested the following: two new street signs, at Route 309 and at the Carbon County Line; two new larger No Trucks Except Local Deliveries signs; and a 5 Ton Limit sign on the south side of Route 309. Mr. Salla commended the police officer who caught four speeders and stated that he appreciates police effort regarding the speeding issue along Owl Creek Road. Mr. Salla also expressed his concerns about nepotism and numerous concerns and code enforcement issues about a condemned house located at 226 Owl Creek Road. Mr. Salla also requested that a light bulb be replaced at the light shining on the American Flag at the entrance of Owl Creek Road. There was some discussion about these matters.

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 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 Linkhorst, and unanimously approved with Councilman Hollenbach abstaining from voucher number V45021 in the amount of \$98.00.

It is noted that a motion was not made to hold an executive session.

Councilman Connely stated that tonight is President Mace's last meeting on council. He thanked President Mace for what he has done for the community and the area, and the outstanding job he did guiding council. Councilman Connely stated that he appreciated President Mace's leadership, guidance and friendship. Councilman Connely presented a glass award to President Mace on behalf of the Tamaqua Borough Council. The award has the borough seal on it and he read the inscription on the award as follows: Presented to Dave Mace in appreciation for your service and dedication to the residents of the Borough of Tamaqua as a member of Tamaqua Borough Council your accomplishments have not only benefited our community but the entire area. President Mace stated that he has served on council for twelve years. He stated that he served with integrity and gave his best effort for the betterment of the community.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:38 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Amentler, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer