

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of August on Tuesday, August 18, 2026 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, George Haldeman, Jay Hollenbach, Kathy Kunkel, and Kyle Oliphant. Officials present were Mayor David Clemson, Chief Michael Hobbs, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Public Works Director Jay Stidham, Solicitor Anthony Odorizzi, and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Amy Macalush.

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

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on July 21, 2026 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Bowman, seconded by Haldeman, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Brian Keich, Tamaqua Halloween Parade Chairman, stating that the Annual Tamaqua Halloween Parade is planned for October 27, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., with a rain date of October 28, 2026. The parade will assemble on East Broad Street, in the vicinity of Kistler Transportation, and proceed west on Broad Street and continue to the former St. Jerome's Church. The communication requested permission to prohibit parking along the parade route and assistance from the Tamaqua Police Department and the Fire Police. The communication also requested that East End Avenue be made a one-way going west from Laurel to Columbia streets so that traffic is going in one direction for drop off of the Tamaqua Band and Soccer teams at the M&M Storage Lot. A recommendation was made to grant the requests. 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.

Communication was received from Nicole Inama, Treasurer of Harmony Lodge No. 86, IOOF, stating that the Annual Tamaqua Fall Fest would be held on October 11, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The communication is requesting permission for the following: the Borough and Police Department's help with street closure and postings; a list of streets that should be posted No Parking on Sunday; barricades for various street intersections; and the use of a borough dump truck and wooden stairs to load trash. All crafters and vendors will set up directly on West Broad Street. A recommendation was made to grant the requests. 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.

Communication was received from Kaitlyn Tinari, Schuylkill Haven Borough Secretary, requesting assistance from Tamaqua Fire Police for their annual Borough Day celebration on September 26, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 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 Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt stated that he had a Cooperation Agreement between the Borough of Tamaqua and Tamaqua Community Ambulance Association for the Local Share Account (LSA) Grant for the purchase of a new ambulance for Council's consideration. A recommendation was made to approve the Cooperation Agreement between the Borough of Tamaqua and Tamaqua

Community Ambulance Association for the Local Share Account (LSA) Grant for the purchase of a new ambulance. 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 also reported on an LSA Grant Application submission for the purchase of a frontline Advanced Life Support squad replacement for the Tamaqua Community Ambulance. A recommendation was made to authorize the borough to assist with submission of the LSA Grant application on behalf of the Tamaqua Community Ambulance. 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.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the project list for 2026 and paving of Schuylkill Avenue.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that he had a resolution approving the budget for the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) for fiscal year 2026. The details of the budget are as follows: street improvements \$71,844; demolition \$30,789; administration \$22,528; and the total amount of the grant is \$125,161. The resolution approving the budget for the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) for fiscal year 2026 was presented for Council's consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-10

**APPROVING BUDGET FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026**

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 Kunkel, seconded by Bowman, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the 2026-2027 insurance policy renewal with The Seltzer Group. Manager Steigerwalt stated that he should have pricing available for the next council meeting and the policy renews on October 1, 2026.

Manager Steigerwalt requested an executive session prior to adjournment to discuss real estate and legal matters.

President Connely reported that there was an executive session held before the meeting to discuss legal matters.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a proposal from Miracle Ford for five Havis Charge Guards for the police vehicles at a cost of \$721.25. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Amentler, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking & Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 520 Washington Street. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Haldeman, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage & Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to award a contract to Ronnie C. Folk Paving Inc. to pave Hunter Street between Broad Street and the

borough line at a cost of \$139,802. 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 the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to install two new signs at 46 West Broad Street. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Oliphant, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to demolish the property at 17-19-21 North Greenwood Street. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Oliphant, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a proposal from TPD, Inc (Traffic, Planning, Design) for construction inspection services for the River Walk Extension Project. 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 unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve an easement with the Alliance for Building Communities for the Tamaqua River Walk Extension Project. 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 unanimously approved.

Under the Police and Community Building Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve Change Orders #26, #27, #30, #31, and part of #33 for the Tamaqua Police Station and Community Center Project. 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.

Fire Police member Nicole Rupert was sworn in by Mayor Clemson.

Mayor Clemson reported that National Night Out went well and thanked everyone for coming out to support the event.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Steve Sturgis of South Railroad Street asked if the borough could clean South Railroad Street once a month to help with runoff from Orwigsburg Street.

Dan Romig of 37 Jerome Street asked about the No Parking Signs that were recently placed on West Street. President Connely stated that the change was made by ordinance due to complaints about double parking.

Julie DeAngelo of 328 Lincoln Street also questioned the No Parking Signs on West Street, the placement of the signs and how and when the ordinance was advertised.

Nasia Sullivan of Lincoln Street stated that West Street was never maintained, and neighbors are cutting the grass there.

Elizabeth John of 409 North Nescopec Street commented about a trailer in her yard that is blocked by people parking there.

Jack Sakusky of Owl Creek Road stated that Joe Salla has been cleaning up Owl Creek Road for three days and asked if the Borough could send a letter of appreciation to Mr. Salla. A recommendation was made to send a letter of appreciation to Mr. Salla for cleaning up in Owl Creek. 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.

Tamaqua School District Superintendent Mr. Raymond Kinder announced that he is retiring and thanked the borough, public works director, police department, fire police and ambulance for their continued support over the years and for always being there to assist.

Pete DeAngelo of 328 Lincoln Street expressed concern with a nearby tree and asked if it could be trimmed. Mr. DeAngelo also asked if the borough could patch the street in front of the steps to his house.

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

Solicitor Odorizzi reported on the ESRP revised zoning ordinance to provide for data centers, warehouses and short-term rentals. Solicitor Odorizzi stated that the final version of the ordinance was forwarded to the respective planning commissions, and once it's advertised, the public can get copies. Solicitor Odorizzi stated that a public hearing on the ordinance is scheduled for October 6, 2026 in Tamaqua council chambers. President Connely added that there is one possible area in Tamaqua for a data center but it's not big enough and on private property.

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 Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under Unfinished Business, Public Works Director Stidham reported that the new dump truck has finally arrived.

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 Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, Manager Steigerwalt stated that he had a resolution revising the Community Development Block Grant Program for fiscal year 2022 to apply \$26,633.32 currently allocated to Demolition to Street Improvements for the Hunter Street paving project. The following resolution was presented for council's consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-11

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF
TAMAQUA, REVISING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022**

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 Kunkel, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

A recommendation was made to hold an executive session to discuss legal and 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 Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 7:35 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:05 p.m.

President Connely announced that an executive session was held to discuss legal and real estate matters.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:05 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Oliphant, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Amy Macalush, Borough Secretary/Treasurer