

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of September on Tuesday, September 15, 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, Jay Hollenbach, Kathy Kunkel, and Kyle Oliphant. Absent was councilmember George Haldeman. Officials present were Mayor David Clemson, Chief of Police 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. A moment of silence was observed for 9/11. The invocation was given by President Connely followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll was called with six councilmembers present and one absent.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on August 18, 2026 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 0173 for the Tamaqua American Legion C.H. Berry Post Number 173, requesting permission to hold the annual Tamaqua Veterans Day Parade on November 7 beginning at 10:00 a.m. The parade would begin at the east end of town by the Tamaqua Insurance building and end at West Broad and Lehigh streets. 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 Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Kelly Gerber expressing her interest in serving on the Board of Health. A recommendation was made to appoint Kelly Gerber to the Board of Health. 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 Brent Confer, Captain of the Tamaqua Fire Police, requesting permission to hold a boot drop fundraiser on October 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 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.

Communication was received from Jody Kellner of Tink's Antiques requesting the closure of South Railroad Street from the alley to the library for their Annual Christmas Market on December 5 from 4:00 p.m to 8:00 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.

Communication was received from Secretary/Treasurer Amy Macalush informing borough council that the 2027 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the Police Employees Pension Plan is \$226,613, the MMO for the Non-Uniformed Employees Pension Plan is \$165,669, and the MMO for the Non-Uniformed Defined Contribution Component Plan is \$55,000. Secretary/Treasurer Macalush stated that the borough would require state aid and/or borough contributions to meet the funding requirements for the pension plans.

A recommendation was made to approve the certification for the Police Employees Pension Plan calculating the 2027 MMO as \$226,613, the certification for the Non-Uniformed Employees Pension Plan calculating the 2027 MMO as \$165,669 and the certification of the Non-Uniformed Defined Contribution Component Plan as \$55,000. Councilman Connely stated that the borough funds its obligations. 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 that he had an agreement between the Schuylkill County Land Bank and the Borough of Tamaqua for the acquisition of property at 17, 19 and 21 North Greenwood Street to present for Council's consideration. A recommendation was made to accept the agreement between the Schuylkill County Land Bank and the Borough of Tamaqua for the acquisition of property at 17, 19 and 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 Bowman, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: the 2026-2027 insurance policy renewal on October 1, 2026; the street and water departments are preparing Hunter Street for the paving project scheduled for September 23 – 25, weather permitting; a press release for Hunter Street paving; heating oil bid results will be available for the second meeting in October; and working on next year's budget.

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

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to waive the \$35.00 application fee for full-time Police Officer applications. 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 Public Safety Committee report, Chairman Amentler stated that he had a resolution approving the filing of an application for a Statewide Local Share Account (LSA) Grant in the amount of \$81,830 to fund a new emergency vehicle for the Tamaqua Community Ambulance Association to present for Council's consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-12
BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

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 Amentler, seconded by Hollenbach, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Under the Parking & Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 343 Hazle Street. 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 Neighborhoods, Downtown and Historic District Committee report, a recommendation was made to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a new sign and barber pole at 117 East 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 replace one aluminum door and frame and windows at 120 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 Police and Community Building Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve Change Orders #28, #29 Rev 1, #35, #36 Rev 1, and #37 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.

Mayor Clemson reported that the Halloween parade is scheduled for October 27 and Trick or Treat Night will be held on Halloween, October 31 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mayor Clemson recognized the Tamaqua Chamber of Commerce 2026 Award Recipients, R. Daniel Evans, Joseph Plasko Citizenship Award; Tamaqua Public Library, Business of the Year; and Megan and Aaron Gimbel, Business Person of the Year. Mayor Clemson also reported that he and Chief Hobbs attended a meeting at the Schuylkill County Prison regarding plans to install two modular holding cells at the courthouse to house people arrested overnight until they can be arraigned by a district judge in the morning. The plans stem from a shortage of district judges.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Donna Hollywood of 529 Willing Street expressed her concern with getting her car out of the garage due to cars parked across the street and asked if the lines could be extended. A recommendation was made to refer the matter to the Parking and Traffic Committee. 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.

Jack Sakusky of Owl Creek Road asked about the following: results of the traffic study; a traffic counter on Lincoln Street; contacting railroad personnel about repairs to the crossings; painting crosswalk lines on Center Street; and a rollback parked on West Union Street. Chief Hobbs will look into the rollback parked on West Union Street.

Linda Miller of 447 Willing Street expressed her concern about a neighbor that parks behind his garage making it difficult for her to get in and out of her garage and asked if lines can be painted. Public Works Director Stidham will handle the matter. Ms. Miller also expressed her concern about a boy looking through garbage in the neighborhood. Ms. Miller was advised to contact police when it occurs.

David John of 309 North Nescopec Street expressed his concern regarding dirt bikes flying up and down streets near the elementary school. Chief Hobbs will look into the matter.

Rebecca John of 243 East Broad Street expressed her concern with a neighboring house that is condemned and stated that there are a lot of people and kids trying to enter the property, especially at night. It was noted that the house is being renovated and it may be the workers on the property. Public Works Director Stidham will have Code Enforcement contact the owner about the matter.

Cathy Miorelli of Owl Creek Road asked about painting lines on Route 309 at the entrance to Owl Creek Road. Manager Steigerwalt will submit a request to PennDOT.

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

Solicitor Odorizzi reported that the Eastern Schuylkill Regional Planning (ESRP), consisting of the Borough of Tamaqua and Rush, Schuylkill and Walker Townships, will hold a public hearing on October 6 at 4:00 p.m. at the Tamaqua Municipal Building regarding an ordinance about data centers. Solicitor Odorizzi stated that the public will have an opportunity to ask questions and voice their opinions at the hearing. Each of the four municipalities will then meet separately at 7:00 p.m. to consider the new ordinance.

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.

A recommendation was made to pay all properly approved bills and claims against the borough. Councilwoman Kunkle asked if bottled water was still being delivered to the police station. Chief Hobbs stated that the contract was cancelled. 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 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 Amentler, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 7:28 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 7:50 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 7:50 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Oliphant, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Amy Macalush, Borough Secretary/Treasurer