

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of January on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, 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, Kathy Kunkel, Mary Linkevich and Ritchie Linkhorst. Officials present were Mayor Nathan Gerace, Chief of Police Michael Hobbs, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Public Works Director Jay Stidham, Solicitor Anthony Odorizzi and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Timothy M. Ziegler. Councilman Jay Hollenbach Jr. was excused.

The meeting was called to order by President Connely. The invocation was given by Councilwoman Linkevich. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Amentler. The roll was called with six council members present and one excused.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on December 17, 2024, was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that Micah Gursky of the Tamaqua Area Community Partnership is asking council to back a 2-million-dollar construction loan for the Police Station and Community Center Project. Part of the funding for that project is a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Project Grant which is a reimbursable grant.

Under the Borough Manager's Report, a recommendation was made to amend the agenda to back the loan for the 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 Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

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Borough Manager Steigerwalt also stated that once the building is completed, the Tamaqua Area Community Partnership will be turning over the building to the borough to operate and bids for construction of the building are due by 2 p.m. on January 22. Manager Steigerwalt also reported that the Tamaqua Area Water Authority is planning on doing six projects this year, and a Request for Proposals has been advertised for a \$2.1 million loan that would also require backing by the borough and council may be required to act on the loan at the next meeting in February. The bids were opened for the demolition of the borough properties at 35, 37 and 39 North Railroad Street. Manager Steigerwalt stated Daniel Farber was the lowest bidder for the project. Manager Steigerwalt also said that borough workers will continue to pick up Christmas trees through the end of the month and all trees must be free of any decorations. Manager Steigerwalt also stated that code enforcement will be issuing tickets for sidewalks that are not cleared of snow and asked that residents pay attention to streets that are posted for snow removal and remove their cars accordingly.

Under the Public Safety Committee Report, a recommendation was made to authorize the solicitor to prepare and advertise an ordinance updating the Fire Insurance Ordinance to allow for the collection of delinquent taxes and fire department expenses. 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 Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 306 Market 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 Parking and Traffic Committee Report, a recommendation was made to adopt an ordinance prohibiting parking on the southeast side of Mauch Chunk Street south of the driveway for the new police station.

ORDINANCE NO. 747
BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
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 Kunkel, seconded by Amentler, and approved by unanimous roll call vote.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

David Clemson of 226 Pitt Street asked council about rumors that the Tamaqua Police will be patrolling in the Borough of Coaldale. President Connely stated there was some discussion about the possibility of patrolling, but nothing has been decided yet. Mr. Clemson also praised the Tamaqua Borough workers for a job well done with getting the streets cleared during the most recent snowstorm.

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 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 Linkevich, 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 Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, a recommendation was made to amend the agenda to authorize the hiring of Attorney Martin Cerullo of Bowe & Odorizzi to handle employment and labor law

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.

Under New Business, a recommendation was made to hire Attorney Martin Cerullo of Bowe & Odorizzi to handle employment and labor law 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.

President Connely stated that Borough Council held an executive session prior to the meeting to discuss personnel and real estate matters.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:32 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Timothy M Ziegler, Borough Secretary/Treasurer