

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of February on Thursday, February 27, 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 a Ritchie Linkhorst and Councilman Jay Hollenbach Jr. Officials present were Mayor Nathan Gerace, Chief of Police Michael Hobbs, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Public Works Director Jay Stidham, Solicitors Anthony Odorizzi and Marty Cerullo and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Timothy M. Ziegler.

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 seven council members present.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on January 21, 2025, 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 Ray Swartz, of American Hose Co. No. 1 requesting to close Pine Street from East Broad Street to the intersection of Mauch Chunk Street on Sunday August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 for their food truck fundraiser. 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 Linkhorst and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Ray Swartz, of American Hose Co. No. 1 requesting to close Pine Street from East Broad Street to the intersection of Mauch Chunk Street on Sunday August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 for their food truck fundraiser. 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 Linkhorst and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Timothy M Ziegler, Borough Secretary/Treasurer requesting to open a fire escrow account for 309 Clark St. 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 Lucy Pearson, Secretary of East End Fire Co. requesting permission to block off the 500 Block of E. Broad St on both sides on June 7, 2025 for their annual truck parade, close South Columbia St from E. Broad St to East End Ave for their annual block party on June 4, 2025 through June 9, 2025 and requested a dump truck delivered for cleanup. 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 Kunkle and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Zachary Filloy requesting to be considered as a candidate to fill a position on the Board Of Health. 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 Kunkle and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Rev Robert S. Tomes of New Life Assembly Church requesting permission to hold their annual East Egg Hunt at the Southward playground on Saturday April 12, 2025, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., Borough Secretary/Treasurer requesting to open a fire escrow account for 309 Clark St. A recommendation was made to grant the request as long as they contact Southward playground to coordinate the event. 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.

Under the Borough Manager's Report, Manager Steigerwalt presented an agreement from the Schuylkill County Demolition Program for the demolition of the structures of 35, 37 and 39 N. Railroad St. A recommendation was made to approve the agreement. 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 Kunkle and unanimously approved.

Under the Borough Manager's Report, Manager Steigerwalt presented the below resolution for the demolition of 401 Willing St.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-1**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA APPROVING  
SUBMISSION OF A DEMOLITION REQUEST TO THE COUNTY OF SCHUYLKILL**

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 Kunkle and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Borough Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the fence project at the North and Middle playground. The project should be starting soon. There was a bit of delay on the contractor's side. Public Works Director Jay Stidham added that he spoke to the contractor and the contractor stated he would be starting the following Monday

Under the Public Safety Committee Report, a recommendation was made to make a motion to send Police Chief Michael Hobbs to Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents training in Pottsville, PA on March 20, 2025 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 Linkhorst, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Under the Public Safety Committee Report, a recommendation was made to make a motion to send Patrolman Phoenix Ritchie to Testifying in Court training in Schwenksville, PA on February 27, 2025. 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 Kunkle, and unanimously approved.

Under the Public Safety Committee Report, a recommendation was made to make a motion to send Patrolman Phoenix Ritchie to Police Reports Time Management training in Schwenksville, PA on March 20, 2025, 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 Linkhorst, seconded by Kunkle, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 201 Schuylkill Ave Apt 1. 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 Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Under Recreation and Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to hire Beth Jones as pool manager for the 2025 season at a pay rate of \$17.50 per hour. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkovich, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under Recreation and Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to advertise for an assistant pool manager at the rate of \$15.00 per hour and a head lifeguard at a pay rate of \$12.00 per hour and \$13.00 per hour when acting as pool manager. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkovich, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under Recreation and Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to advertise for lifeguards and pool clerks at the rates of \$10.00 per hour and \$9.00 per hour respectively, plus \$0.25 per hour for each year of service. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkovich, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under Recreation and Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to open the pool on the Saturday closest to the last day of school with an official opening date of Saturday May 31, 202 and close the pool on Sunday August 17, 2025, with both dates contingent on the school district schedule, lifeguard availability and new pool construction. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkovich, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under Recreation and Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to maintain pool hours of 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. daily with hours subject to change based on weather, number of patrons and/or lifeguards. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkovich, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under Recreation and Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve the season and daily pool rate schedule for the 2025 season. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkovich, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

There was no one from the floor wishing to address council, the meeting was closed to the floor.

Under Borough Solicitor Report, Solicitor Odorizzi explained he had two items to address with council. Solicitor Odorizzi then introduced Solicitor Marty Cerullo. Solicitor Marty Cerullo then spoke regarding the loan for the water Authority and then turned the conversation over to Mr. Mike Vind of FSL Public Finance who explained the action taken by the authorities to select the best proposal.

Solicitor Cerullo then presented an ordinance authorizing the Borough's Guaranty of a \$2.1 million loan for the Tamaqua Area Water Authority and filing of all required proceedings with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)

**ORDINANCE NO. 748**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA DETERMINING TO INCUR DEBT; DETERMINING THAT THE MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF SUCH DEBT SHALL BE \$2,100,000 DETERMING THAT SUCH DEBT SHALL BE INCURRED AS LEAST RENTAL DEBT TO BE VIDENCED BY A GUARANTY AGREEMENT SECURING A BOND TO BE AUTHORIZED AND ISSUED IN THE MAXIMUM AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUN OF \$2,100,00 (THE BOND) BY THE TAMAQUA AREA WATER AUTHORITY (THE AUTHORITY) TO M&T BANK IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOLLOWING:**

A recommendation was made to approve the ordinance. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on the motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich and approved unanimously by roll call vote

Under Borough Solicitor Report Solicitor Marty Cerullo explained that there was discussion of a Heart and Lung claim Act and explained it would be appropriate for council to approve that.

A recommendation was made to amend the agenda to approve a Heart and Lung claim for a police officer. 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 Kunkle, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to make a motion to approve a Heart and Lung claim for a police officer. 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 Kunkle, and unanimously approved.

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 Kunkle, 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 Linkevich, 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 7:27 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

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Timothy M Ziegler, Borough Secretary/Treasurer