

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of September on Tuesday, September 17, 2024 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, Jay Hollenbach Jr., 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, and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Timothy M Ziegler. Solicitor Anthony Odorizzi & Councilmen Ronald Bowman were excused.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Bowman. The invocation was given by Councilwoman Linkevich followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Amentler. The roll was called with six council members present.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on August 20, 2024 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Kyle V. Oliphant expressing interest in serving on the Tamaqua Planning Commission. A recommendation was made to appoint Kyle V. Oliphant as alternate on the commission. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Hollenbach, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from David J Meredith of the American Legion Post 173 requesting to hold the annual Veterans Day Parade on Saturday November 9, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. The event will be coordinated with Chief Hobbs and the Tamaqua Fire Police. The recommendation was so ordered on the motion of Hollenbach, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from John T. Cray, of the Tamaqua Ambulance Association requesting the Tamaqua Borough consider applying for the LSA grant on behalf of the Tamaqua Ambulance Association. Tamaqua EMS will cover all costs associated with the application process. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Dale Freudenberger of the Tamaqua Historical Society, requesting to hold a car show on Sunday September 22, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on South Railroad Street and St Lukes parking lot. Mr. Freudenberger is also asking for permission to close South Railroad Street from W. Broad St to Spruce St. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Lisa Mace from the Tamaqua Public Library requesting approval for the Library's 1st Annual "Book It" on Saturday October 19, 2024 which will involve a 5K run, 3K walk and Broad Street stroll. The library is requesting Tamaqua Fire Police to assist in the main intersections of the race. 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.

Communication was received from Secretary/Treasurer Timothy M. Ziegler informing borough council that the 2025 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the Police Employees' Pension Plan is \$293,953.00, the MMO for the Non-Uniformed Employees' Pension Plan is \$217,471.00, and the MMO for the Non-Uniformed Defined Contribution Component Plan is \$45,000.00. Secretary/Treasurer Ziegler stated that the borough would require state aid and/or borough contributions in the year 2025 to meet the funding requirements for any or all pension plan(s). Secretary/Treasurer Ziegler stated that if General Municipal State Aid monies are not available, the borough contributions in the year of 2025 to meet the funding requirements for all pension plans would be approximately \$556,424.00.

A recommendation was made to approve the certification for the Police Employees Pension Plan calculation the 2025 MMO as 293,953.00, the certification for the Non-Uniformed Employees' Pension Plan calculating the 2025 MMO as \$217,471.00 and the certification of the Non-Uniformed Defined Contribution Component Plan as \$45,000.00. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Borough Manager Steigerwalt presented the following resolution to Council for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-7
BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

WHEREAS, the Borough of Tamaqua has in place a Police Pension Plan and Non-Uniformed Employee Pension Plan; and

WHEREAS, the department of the Auditor General, Bureau of Municipal Pension Audits, has recommended the borough appoint a Chief Administrative Officer for each pension plans;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Manager be and herby is appointed as Chief Administrative Officer of the Tamaqua Borough Police Pension Plan and the Tamaqua Borough Non-Uniformed Employee Pension Plan.

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 to adopt the resolution was so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Linkevich, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that he had a proposal for the annual inspection of the Owl Creek dam which must be completed annually and submitted to DEP which is required to be done every year price. The proposal was for \$5,000.00 and includes inspection of both upper and lower dams. A recommendation was made to approve the proposal for the inspection. 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the 2024-2025 insurance policy renewal with The Seltzer Group. Manager Steigerwalt stated that all the insurances renew on October 1st, which includes Property, General Liability, Inland Marine, Crime, Auto, Excess, Public Officials and Employment Practices Liability, Police Professional Liability, and Pollution Liability. All renewal paperwork has been submitted and he is waiting to get the quotes back. A recommendation was made to turn the policy renewal over to finance committee and Borough Manager. 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: There are projects being completed at both the Southward playground and Northward playground. There is new fence being installed at the Southward playground and repairs to the sidewalk and they are doing pathways through the park at the North/Middlward playground along with a new entrance to the park. They had to rebid the fence project for the Northward playground. Those bids are due September 25, 2024. There is a tentative start date of September 25, 2024 for the paving projects on Cedar Street and Clay Street. This start date is subject to change pending on weather. The request for proposals for a pool consultant were due on September 12, 2024. There were a total of four responses received and a list of results was submitted to the recreation committee; and he will be working on the heating oil bids and starting the 2025 budget. Borough Manager Steigerwalt asked council to have any comments, questions, suggestions regarding the budget to him prior. Councilwoman Kunkel asked to do a proposal or an estimated cost in the budget for another officer for the police department.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 628 Arlington 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 Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee reports, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 202 Pine 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve the transfer of Ernie Shilko to the vacant Water Distribution position. 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 Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to waive any zoning and permit fees for American Hose Company #1 for sign installation to replace a damaged sign. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Mayor Gerace reported that the annual Halloween parade will be held on Tuesday October 22, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. with a rain date of Wednesday October 23, 2024 and Trick or Treat will be held on Saturday October 26 from 6:00 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Linda Miller of 447 Willing Street inquired about the new location for the Helping Harvest pickup, which is the first Monday in October from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. located in the area of the park on Clark Street where cars can turn down Biddle Street where two lines of cars can form leading towards the baseball field.

Paul Fegley of 628 E Broad Street inquired about black rings which were forming in his toilet. Public Works Director Jay Stidham stated there was a major water leak in the area, so it may be due to that and directed Mr. Fegley to contact the water department to schedule a work order to investigate possible reasons.

Holly Coombe of 33 Pine Street expressed her concern about a neighbor's property which looks to be infested with fleas and rats living in an old boat along with sewage water that is leaking into her basement. Ms. Coombe was directed to the Board of Health regarding the issue and our code enforcement officers will also investigate the issue.

John Sakusky of 15 W Union Street expressed his concerns about a truck being parked at the top of Hunter Street and wanted to know if it was possible for the borough to put "no parking" signs on the corner. Mr. Sakusky also inquired about the new police building and the start date. Borough Manager Steigerwalt explained there is a hold-up with a highway occupancy permit with PENNDOT and once that is worked out things should start progressing with the building.

Under Solicitors Report, a recommendation was made to adopt an ordinance authorizing and approving Guaranteed Sewer Revenue Bonds, Series of 2024, to be issued by the Tamaqua Borough Authority in the amount of \$11,415,000.00.

ORDINANCE NO 743

OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA DETERMINING TO INCUR DEBT; DETERMINING THAT THE MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF SUCH DEBT SHALL BE \$11,415,000; DETERMINING THAT SUCH DEBT SHALL BE INCURRED AS LEASE RENTAL DEBT TO BE EVIDENCED BY A GUARANTY AGREEMENT SECURING TAX-EXEMPT GUARANTEED SEWER REVENUE BONDS, SERIES OF 2024, IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$11,415,000 (COLLECTIVELY, THE "BONDS") TO BE AUTHORIZED AND ISSUED BY THE TAMAQUA BOROUGH AUTHORITY (THE "AUTHORITY") IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOLLOWING: (1) FUNDING THE UPGRADE OF THE SEWER TREATMENT PLANT OF THE AUHTORITY; AND (2) PAYING COSTS, FEES AND EXPENSES WITH RESPECT TO THE FOREGOING PURPOSES AND THE FINANCING; ACKNOWLEDGING THE ACCEPTANCE BY THE AUTHORITY OF A BOND PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE BONDS; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE PROPER OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH: (A) TO PREPARE, TO CERTIFY AND TO FILE THE DEBT STATEMENT AND BORROWING BASE CERTIFICATE REQUIRED BY SECTION 8110 OF THE DEBT ACT; (B) TO EXECUTE, TO ATTEST, TO SEAL AND TO DELIVER A GUARANTY AGREEMENT; APPROVING THE FORM OF THE GUARANTY AGREEMENT; SPECIFYING THE AMOUNT OF THE GUARANTY OBLIGATIONS OF THE BOROUGH PURSUANT TO SUCH GUARANTY AGREEMENT AND THE SOURCES OF PAYMENT OF SUCH GUARANTY OBLIGATIONS; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE PREPARATION, EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF ALL OTHER REQUIRED DOCUMENTS BY THE PROPER OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH AND AUTHORIZING SUCH OFFICERS TO TAKE ALL OTHER REQUIRED, NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE RELATED ACTION IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROJECT AND THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE GUARANTY AGREEMENT; PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE; AND PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF ALL INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES OR RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES OR RESOLUTIONS.

A recommendation was made to approve ordinance for the bonds. 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 Linkevich, and approved unanimously roll call vote.

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 Kunkel, 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 Kunkel, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved. Councilman Hollenbach abstained from Vouchers 51375 and 51376.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:44 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