

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of October on Tuesday, October 15, 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, Brian Connely, Ronald Bowman, Kathy Kunkel, Mary Linkevich, and Ritchie Linkhorst. Officials present were Solicitor Anthony Odorizzi, Mayor Nathan Gerace, Chief of Police Michael Hobbs, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Public Works Director Jay Stidham, 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 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 September 17, 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 Reve Richard Clemson advising that he will be resigning from the Tamaqua Zoning Board effective December 31, 2024. A recommendation was made to accept the resignation. 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 Anthony Kropp of 243 Owl Creek Rd asking that the borough consider adding outdoor pickleball courts within the borough. There was some discussion about the possible areas where the courts could be added. A recommendation was made to turn the request over to the Recreation Committee for further review. The recommendation was so ordered on the motion of Kunkel, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from John Sienkiewicz, President of Safer Streets for Tamaqua's little feet requesting permission to use Tamaqua's Depot square Christmas tree for The Giving Tree project from December 9, 2024 through February 2, 2025 with the event kicking off on December 8, 2024. A recommendation was made to approve 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Borough Manager Steigerwalt reported on the Heating Oil Bids that were opened to the public on October 14 with the results as follows:

Fegley Oil Company Inc- Fixed Price 2.799 per gallon; with no bid on the Floating Price \$0.00 per gallon. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered by Bowman, seconded by Linkevich to approve the lowest bid listed and unanimously approved.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-8
BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough of Tamaqua of Schuylkill County hereby requests a Statewide Local Share Assessment grant in the amount of \$292,137 from the Commonwealth Financy Authority to be use for the purchase of a new LifeLine Type III ambulance for the Tamaqua Community Ambulance Association

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

Borough Manager Steigerwalt presented another resolution to Council for consideration:

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-9

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

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: The insurance policies did renew on October 1, 2024. Ther was an increase over the prior year which was to be expected. If there are any questions, please see Manager Steigerwalt with any questions. There were not changes in the deductible amounts. The paving of Cedar Street and Clay Street are now completed. There was some sealing that needed to be completed, but they will be back to finish that. The playground projects are coming along. The first phase of the North/Middle Ward playground are done. The second phase which will be completed is the fencing. The Southward playground is just waiting for gates to be installed. Manager Steigerwalt also mentioned that there is a new “Welcome to Tamaqua” sign that was donated by Matt Hope. A letter of appreciation will be sent to Mr. Hope. There will also be a solar light placed in front of the sign. Manager Steigerwalt also said he will be sending out the advertisement shortly for our annual street materials and that he is currently working on the 2025 budget, any comments, suggestions or ideas should be submitted to Manager Steigerwalt.

Chief Hobbs reported that on October 26, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., the department would be participating in a Drug Take-Back Program at the police station.

President Connely who informed council and the audience that an executive session was held prior to the meeting to discuss personnel and real estate matters.

Under the Public Safety Report, a motion was made to approve a request to send Patrolman Douglas Springer to an Anti-Human Trafficking Awareness training in Scranton, PA on December 16, 2024 at a cost of \$225.00. A recommendation was made to approve the request. 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 Public Safety Report, a motion was made to approve a request to send Police Chief Michael Hobbs to the 2024 Rural LISC Seminar in Little Rock, AR on December 3-4, 2024 at no cost. A recommendation was made to approve the request. 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 Public Safety Report, a motion was made to allow the Tamaqua Police Department to participate in a Co-Responder Program through the Center for Community Resources. A recommendation was made to approve the request. 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 Public Safety Report, a motion was made to adopt a resolution amending the Tamaqua Police Department's Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to include an Employee Timesheet Submission Policy.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA. AMENDING THE TAMAQUA POLICE DEPARTMENT'S ("POLICE DEPARTMENT") STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES TO INCLUDE GUIDELINES FOR THE ACCURATE AND TIMELY RECORDING OF WORK HOURS FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES.

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

Under the Public Safety Report President Connely made mention that the Tamaqua Fire Department will be going around on Saturday October 26, 2024 installing smoke detectors to anyone that needs them. The smoke detectors are available to all residents and renters and up to three can be installed into each residence. The information to obtain smoke detectors can be found on the borough page.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to retain John Leinthall as a full-time Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator effective October 28, 2024. 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 & Historic District Committee Report, a recommendation as made to approve certificate of appropriateness for the following properties from the HARC meeting held on Monday September 23, 2024. The first applicant was 232 W. Broad Street requesting removal of the roof addition and replace it with a new one. The second application was 14 W. Broad Street requesting to install a sign above the front window of the store

and the third applicant was Daniel Poncavage, architect for client at 18 Mauch Chunk Street requesting a change of use of the first floor including door stops, safety railing, and lighting. Also included upgrades to windows, doors and siding. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on the motion of Kunkel and seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Under the Neighborhoods, Downtown & Historic District Committee Report, a recommendation as made to approve certificate of appropriateness for the following properties from the HARC meeting held on Monday October 7, 2024. The first applicant was 117 E. Broad Street requesting to install a new business signage. The second application was 301 W. Broad Street requesting to install a new business signage and the third applicant was the Borough of Tamaqua proposing demolition of the blighted house at 39 N. Railroad Street. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on the motion of Kunkel and seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Under Recreation and Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to make a motion to award a contract to Pro Max Fence Systems LLC for improvements to the North and Middle Ward Playground at a cost of \$53,016.80. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. A recommendation was so ordered on the motion of Kunkel and seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Under Recreation and Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to make a motion to hire Aquatic Facility Design for pool design consulting services at a cost of \$289,060.00. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. A recommendation was so ordered on the motion of Kunkel and seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Under Recreation and Youth Committee Report, councilwoman Linkhorst mentioned that the Tamaqua Library will be hosting trick or treat Halloween party on on Monday October 28, 2024 which is free to all children. All children must be registered at the library.

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. Mayor Gerace stated a proclamation was made celebrating 150 years of the Tamaqua Railroad Station on Sunday October 13, 2024.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Linda Miller of 447 Willing Street stated there was a huge pothole on Columbia Street. President Connely asked Public Works Director Jay Stidham to work with the Street Department to take care of it.

Holly Coombe of 33 Pine Street expressed she still had concerns about sewer water coming in from her neighbor's property. This has been an ongoing issue. President Connely stated that code enforcement has issued tickets and will continue to until the issue is resolved. Manager Steigerwalt will follow up with code enforcement.

Tom Schlorf of 224 Orwigsburg Street, representing the Southward playground thanked council for the new fence that was installed at the playground, also explained that they had sent out letters in regards to the wheelchair swing that the borough was going to go half on it. The

playground received enough donations to purchase the swing and also are looking to purchase an additional one with additional donations received.

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

Under Solicitors Report, a recommendation was made to adopt an ordinance authorizing the Borough's Guaranty of the PennVEST loan in the amount of \$7,792,299.00 and the filing of all required proceedings with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

ORDINANCE NO 744

OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA DETERMINING TO INCUR DEBT; DETERMINING THAT THE MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF SUCH DEBT SHALL BE \$7,792,299; 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 \$7,792,299

A recommendation was made to approve ordinance. 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 approved unanimously roll call vote.

A recommendation was made to make a motion to authorize the filing with DCED of the Report on Self-Liquidating Debt prepared by Gannett Fleming Valuation and Rate Consultant's, LLC pertaining to the Boroughs Guaranty (lease rental debt) as to both the Authority's PennVEST loan and the Authority's Guaranteed Sewer Revenue Bonds, Series of 2024. 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.

A recommendation was made to make a motion to approve the Third Supplemental Agreement of Lease between the Tamaqua Borough Authority and the Borough, and the Assignment of Third Supplement Agreement of Fidelity Bank. 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 approved unanimously.

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 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.

New Business

A recommendation was made to make a motion to amend the agenda. to have Borough Manger Steigerwalt take appropriate steps to add 401 Willing Street, 423 Willing Street and 200 Pitt Street to the Landbank application. 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 have Borough Manager Steigerwalt add 401 Willing Street, 423 Willing Street and 200 Pitt Street to the Landbank application. 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 President Connely reminded the public that any type of signage such as fundraising or political signs are not allowed to be hung on borough property. If any such signs are put up, they will be taken down by the borough.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:40 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