

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of November on Tuesday, November 6, 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, 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 Brian Connely and Councilwoman Mary Linkevich were excused.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Bowman. The invocation was given by Councilman Hollenbach 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 October 15, 2024 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Judy Hoppes Festival Co-Chairperson of The Spirit of Christmas Festival Committee requesting permission to use Depot Square Park on Friday December 6, 2024 for the annual tree lighting at 6:00 p.m. They will also be offering horse drawn carriage rides from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday December 12, 2024 and December 19, 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 Linkhorst, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Thomas Nelson Tamaqua Zoning officer requesting to appoint Thomas Schlorf to the Tamaqua Zoning/Hearing Board Committee for a five-year term effective January 1 2025. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on the motion of Kunkel, seconded by Linkhorst and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Captain Brent Confer, of the Tamaqua Fire Police requesting to hold a boot drive on Saturday November 16, 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 Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Borough Secretary/Treasurer Timothy M. Ziegler, requesting to open a Water Escrow account. 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 Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Coaldale Borough Council requesting council a letter of endorsement for a grant application for new holiday pole lights for their streets and footprint along route 209. 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 Amentler, and unanimously approved.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-11

Resolution of the Borough Council, Tamaqua Pennsylvania Regarding Grants from the John E. Morgan Foundation, Inc.

Adopted November 6, 2024

WHEREAS, the Borough Council, Tamaqua, Pennsylvania has determined it to be in the best interests of the Borough of Tamaqua, Pennsylvania (the “Borough”) to authorize the Council President of the Borough to accept, on behalf of the Borough, certain grants from the John E. Morgan Foundation, Inc. and to enter into grant agreements with respect to those grants

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.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-12

BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough of Tamaqua of Schuylkill County herby requests a Statewide Local Share Assessment grant in the amount of five-million dollars (\$5,000,000) from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the construction of a new Tamaqua Area Public Library multipurpose building in the Tamaqua National Historic District on behalf of the Tamaqua Area Community Partnership.

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 Hollenbach, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: The first draft of the 2025 preliminary budget was presented to the council. Manager Steigerwalt asked council to look over it and contact him with any questions or concerns. There was some discussion regarding the first draft of the 2025 budget regarding filling current vacancies within the borough which Manager Steigerwalt did work into the first draft of the budget. At the next meeting council will vote on a tentative budget and the meeting following council will approve the budget. Councilwoman Kunkel asked Manger Steigerwalt if there was a survey for a new pickleball court. Manager Steigerwalt and Public Works Director Jay Stidham said that they will work with Councilwoman Linkevich.

Manger Steigerwalt also stated the street sweeper will continue running as long as the weather stays warm.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to adopt a resolution amending the Tamaqua Police Department's Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to include a Small Unmanned Aircraft System (Drone) policy.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-13
BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

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 USE OF A SMALL UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEM ("sUAS") AND FOR THE SOTRAGE, RETRIEVAL, AND DISSEMINATION OF IMAGES AND DATA CAPTURED BY THE sUAS USED FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY PURPOSES IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE PENNSYLVANIA AND FEDERAL LAW.

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 Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a proposal from C&V Construction in the amount of \$7,000.00 to replace the roof at the fire training area. 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 Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking & Traffic Committee report, a motion was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 404 W. Spruce 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 Recreation and Youth Committee Report a recommendation was made to make an amendment to the agenda to approve a replacement project at the Southward playground. They are going to replace landscaping ties with landscaping block and the Southward playground Association will donate \$400.00 with the work being done by the borough workers. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on the motion of Kunkel, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Under Recreation and Youth Committee Report, a motion was made to approve a replacement project at the Southward playground to replace landscaping ties with landscaping block and the Southward playground association will donate \$400.00 with the work being done by the borough workers. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this

matter. The recommendation was so ordered on the motion of Kunkel, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Mayor Gerace reported Trick or Treat went well and also that the annual Veterans Day parade will be held on Saturday November 9, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was opened to the floor:

David Clemson 226 Pitt Street had concerns about the streetlights around Yetten Circle. Public Works Director stated that are being worked on and they are replacing them and asked to be patient and give them time to get them replaced.

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

Under Solicitors Report, a recommendation was made to adopt the following ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO 745

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, REVISING AND AMENDING CHAPTER 260 (“SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL”), SECTION 260-29 (“SEWER RENTALS OR CHARGES”), OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA CODE OF ORDINANCES ESTABLISHING SEWER RENTALS AND CHARGES TO INCREASE THE SEWER RENTAL OR CHARGE FOR DWELLING UNITS FROM THE CURRENT \$130.00 PER QUARTER, BY SPECIFIED PERCENTAGES AT SPECIFIED DATES, TO ASSURE SUFFICIENT FUNDS FOR THE TAMAQUA BOROUGH AUTHORITY TO PAY DEBT SERVICE ON ITS GUARANTEED SEWER REVENUE BONDS, SERIES OF 2024, PENNVEST LOAN, AND INTERIM LINE OF CREDIT

A recommendation was made to approve the 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 Linkhorst, and approved unanimously roll call vote.

Under Solicitors report a motion was made to authorize the signing of the official documents regarding the properties we will acquire from the landbank. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on the motion of Kunkel, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Under unfinished business, Councilwoman Kunkel stated there were over 200 children that attended the Halloween party at the Tamaqua Library and hit was a huge success.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:23 p.m. on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Amentler, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Timothy M. Ziegler, Borough Secretary/Treasurer

