

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of November on Tuesday, November 19, 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 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 was excused, and Mayor Nathan Gerace was absent.

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 Hollenbach. The roll was called with six council members present.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on November 6, 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 James Connely, Health Enforcement Officer, stating that the term of Wayne Schickram on the Tamaqua Board of Health will expire on January 1, 2025. Mr. Connely is recommending that Mr. Shickram be reappointed for another five-year term on the Tamaqua Board of Health. 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 Linkevich, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Dan Evans, Chairperson Tamaqua Community Revitalization and Improvement Zone Authority requesting to appoint Jack Kulp to the Authority 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 Linkevich and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from James Connely, Zoning Officer, requesting to appoint Brian Klusman to another four-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 motion of Kunkel, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from James Connely, Zoning Officer, requesting to appoint Adam Gallagher to another four-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 motion of Linkevich, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Thomas Nelson, Code Enforcement Officer, requesting Wayne Schickram to another three-year term on the Historic Architectural Review Commission effective January 1, 2025. 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.

Communication was received from Thomas Nelson, Code Enforcement Officer, requesting to appoint Mark Conville to another three-year term on the Historic Architectural Review Commission effective January 1, 2025. 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.

Communication was received from John Comisac, of the Tamaqua Borough Authority, requesting to reappoint Jack Kulp to another five-year term on the Tamaqua Borough Authority effective January 1, 2025. 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.

Communication was received from Brian Connely, of the Tamaqua Area Water Authority, requesting to reappoint John Comisac to another five-year term on the Tamaqua Area Water Authority effective January 1, 2025. 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.

Communication was received from Micah Gursky, Director of Tamaqua Area Community Partnership requesting a borough appropriation/contribution in the amount of \$20,000 and \$75,000 from the John E Morgan foundation for the development of the Tamaqua Liberty Tree Park. 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 Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Mary Linkevich, Council representative of the Tamaqua Public Library thanking the borough council for their continued support throughout the year. This year the Tamaqua Public Library held more than 10 programs per month, welcomed the entire third grade from Tamaqua, painted the front interior entrance, and held their largest and most successful kids Halloween Party with more than 200 participants. No motion was taken.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-14

A Resolution of the Borough of Tamaqua, County of Schuylkill Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Supporting the Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial (AMERICA250PA)

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania legislature and the Governor created AMERICA250PA in 2018 to plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States and Pennsylvania's integral role in that even and the role of its people in the nation's past, present and future.

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: There was a recommendation received from The Planning Commission to review the final subdivision plans of Vito and Paola Basile for 308-310 Washington Street which was approved and upon approval from council, the plans will then be submitted to the Schuylkill County Planning Commission to be recorded. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Hollenbach and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported. The fire chief has instituted a burn ban for the community which bans most forms of outdoor burning except for cooking. Manager Steigerwalt also stated he will be working on the annual bids for Street Materials. Manager Steigerwalt stated the bids will be due December 12, 2024. Manager Steigerwalt also stated that later in the meeting there will be some motions on the tentative 2025 budget. He will be making some fine tuning to the budget prior to next month's meeting for the final adoption of the budget and noted with the tax budget does not include any increase. Councilwoman Kunkel had asked Manager Steigerwalt to include an increase to appropriations to the fire companies and the Tamaqua Fire Police.

Police Chief Hobbs asked for a follow up to purchase a fingerprint ID user that was acquired by the Chief of Police associations. This will allow the officers to run a fingerprint ID immediately vs having to transport individuals to the State Police for fingerprinting.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to make a motion to amend the agenda to include amending the police departments SOP workplace recording policy. 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 unanimously approved.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to make a motion to adopt a resolution to amending the police departments SOP (Standard Operating Procedures) workplace recording policy he following workplace recording policy.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-15
BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMQUA, SCHUUYLKILLCOUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING THE TAMAQUA POLICE DEPARTMENT'S
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES TO PROVIDE A POLICY AND
GUIDELINES FOR WORKPLACE RECORDING POLICY.**

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.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to make a motion to adopt a resolution to amending the police departments SOP (Standard Operating Procedures) workplace to include a mobile fingerprint policy he following workplace recording policy.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-15
BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMQUA, SCHUUYLKILLCOUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING THE TAMAQUA POLICE DEPARTMENT'S
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES TO INCLUDE A MOBILE FINGERPRINT
DEVICE POLICY.**

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.

Under the Finance Wage & Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to tentatively adopt and advertise the 2025 budget. 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 & Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to prepare a resolution setting the 2025 Real Estate Tax Rate at 23.75 mills with 22.40 mills for General Purposes, 1 mill for Building and Equipment Fund, 0.25mill for the Wabash Improvement Fund and 0.10 mill for the Street Light Fund. 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 Finance Wage & Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to purchase a 2026 Mack tandem axle chassis with dump body, spreader and plow at a cost not to exceed \$305,000. 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 Finance Wage & Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve the permanent transfer of Ernie Shilko to the Water Distribution Worker 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance Wage & Salary Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve the purchase of Finance Hub accounting software from gWorks at a cost of \$9,630. 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 Councilwoman Linkevich stated she did not have an update on the Pool Grant. Councilwoman Linkevich also gave the results of the Skatepark/Pickleball Facebook survey stating that there was a total of 869 responses with 64% asking for it to remain as a skatepark. Councilwoman Linkevich stated that the committee will continue to look for other locations for an outdoor pickleball court.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Kenneth Robertshaw of Owl Creek had questions pertaining to a map of his property next to John Trudich as he is unable to find where the property line ends and there are no records to show. The last recorded map was from 1991. Borough Manager Steigerwalt will reach out to former code enforcement officer Jim Barron to see if he knows anything about this or knows of any other existing records as the borough does not normally give out the borough maps.

Tom Williams 231 Spruce Street had a few concerns about council members and others on board. There was much discussion had, and Mr. Williams thanked the board for listening to his concerns.

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

Under Solicitors report a motion was made to approve an agreement with Rush Township to develop an industrial wastewater pretreatment program. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on the motion of Linkevich, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

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.

Under unfinished business, Councilwoman Kunkel requested a moment of silence for Mr. Thomas Slane Sr. a long-time fire fighter who served on many roles within the community. Mr. Slane passed away on Monday, November 18, 2024. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time.

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 Linkevich, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved. Councilman Hollenbach abstained from Voucher 51730 and Councilwoman Kunkel abstained from Voucher 51690.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 7:43 p.m. while council met in executive session to discuss personnel and legal matters.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:14 p.m.

A recommendation was made to make a motion to amend the agenda to purchase log books for vehicle maintenance and inspection records. The motion was so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to make a motion to purchase logbooks for vehicle maintenance and inspection records recommendation to adopt the resolution was so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:17 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

