

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of December on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Tamaqua Municipal Building, 320 East Broad Street, Tamaqua, PA.

Present were Councilmembers Robert Amentler, Ronald Bowman, Brian Connely, Jay Hollenbach Jr., Kathy Kunkel, Mary Linkevich and Ritchie Linkhorst. Officials present were Mayor Nathan Gerace, Chief of Police Michael Hobbs, Borough Manager Keving Steigerwalt, Public Works Director Jay Stidham, Solicitor Anthony Odorizzi 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 first Regular Council Meeting held on November 19, 2024, 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 Douglas Knaus, Sr. of 237 Mauch Chunk St. expressing interest in the alternate position on the Zoning Hearing Board. 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.

Communication was received from the Tamaqua Fire Police Association requesting to acquire two borough owned properties located at 13 and 15 South Lehigh St. to construct a building to house the vehicles used for fire police activities. There was some discussion regarding this, and a recommendation was made to turn the matter over to the Public Safety Committee for further review. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from the Tamaqua Civil Service Commission recommending Kathy Kunkel be reappointed to another five-year term on the Tamaqua Civil Service Commission beginning January 1, 2026. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Boman, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Thomas Nelson, Zoning Officer, recommending that Karl Smulligan be reappointed to another three-year term on the Eastern Schuylkill Regional Planning Commission. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Boman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Nate MacDonald, Executive Director of Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission (ESRC), recommending that Ritchie Linkhorst be reappointed to another three-year term as ESRC Municipal Representative. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Boman, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the 2025 Street Materials bid results. Manager Steigerwalt stated that there were a total of two bidders and that he provided council with a bid results worksheet. The low bidders are marked in type as follows:

- 1,200 tons Superpave Asphalt Warm Mix Wearing Coarse (pickup)
Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA \$91,500
- 1,200 tons Superpave Asphalt Warm Mix Wearing Coarse (delivery)
New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co, Winfield, PA \$102,600
- 30 tons Superpave Asphalt Warm Mix Any Wearing Coarse(pickup)
Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA \$2,287.50
- 100 tons Superpave Asphalt Warm Mix Base Coarse (pickup)
Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA \$6,175
- 100 tons Superpave Asphalt Warm Mix Base Coarse (delivery)
New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co, Winfield, PA \$7,130
- 100 tons PaDOT OK Cold Patch (pickup) New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co, PA \$14,600
- 100 tons PaDOT OK Cold Patch (delivery) Hei-Way LLC, Sarver, Winfield, PA \$15,685
- 750 tons Anti-skid AS3 (pickup) Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA \$12,750
- 750 tons Anti-skid AS3 (delivery)Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA \$17,812.50
- 100 tons #57 stone (pickup) Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA \$1,750
- 100 tons #57 stone (delivery) Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA \$2,425
- 200 tons #8 stone (pickup) Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA \$4,800
- 200 tons #8 stone (delivery) Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA \$6,150

A motion was made by Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, to award the 2025 Street Materials based on the low bidders as presented by the Borough Manager. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered and unanimously approved.

Borough Manager presented a resolution for approval.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-16
DULY ADOPTED
PRICE ADJUSTMENT OF BITUMINOUS MATERIALS
FOR SMALL QUANTITIES

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution duly adopted price adjustment of bituminous materials for small quantities. 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 by unanimous roll call vote.

Borough Manager Steigerwalt also reported the Tamaqua Area Water Authority signed two ten-year agreements continuing the release of our water to Constellation Energy, previously known and PECO. A motion was made to approve the water release agreement by Constellation Energy. 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 by unanimously approved.

Borough Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: The closing with Penn Vest for the Sewer plant upgrades was completed for the 12 million dollar grant and 8 million dollar loan. Work will begin on the Sewer plant upgrades any day. The Borough is currently advertising for bids for the new police station. Bids will be accepted until January 7th, 2025, through PennBid. Borough Manager Steigerwalt also gave an update regarding the renovations on the new swimming pool. The designer met with Jay Stidham Public Works Director to take measurements for the new pool. Manager Steigerwalt also stated the 2025 budget is on the agenda for approval. There were some revisions have made based on recommendations from the water and sewer engineer and also from the finance committee to make some increases to appropriation for the fire and rescue departments. A revised budget was given to council members.

Under Chief of Police, Chief Hobbs reported that the police department started their co-responder program with CCR and introduced Caitlyn Ashelman who is a co-responder. Caitlyn will be responding with the police on calls to help with mental health crisis, domestic violence issues and fires.

President Connely stated that the Council held an executive session prior to the meeting to discuss personnel and real estate matters.

Under Parking and Traffic Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 237 Mauch Chunk 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 Parking and Traffic Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve a request from American Legion Post 173 to create a loading/unloading zone in the Memorial Avenue Parking Lot and move the handicapped parking meter in Memorial Avenue Parking Lot to a parking space adjacent to the proposed loading zone. 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 approved.

Under Parking and Traffic Committee Report, a recommendation was made to authorize the borough solicitor to prepare and advertise an ordinance prohibiting parking on the east side of Mauch Chunk Street south of the driveway for the new police station. 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 approved.

Under Finance, Wage & Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to adopt 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 Bowman, and seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under Finance, Wage & Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to adopt the 2025 Tax Resolution setting the real estate tax rate at 23.75 mills with 22.40 mills for General Purposes, 1 mill for the Building and Equipment Fund, 0.25 mill for the Wabash Improvement Fund and 0.10 mill for the Street Light Fund. There was a brief discussion regarding the increased millage that will be used for strictly for an additional full time police officer and to help keep it low the millage for the Wabash Improvement Fund was reduced.

RESOLUTION NO.2024-17
BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
2025 TAX RATES

There was no one else from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation to adopt the 2025 tax schedule was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved in roll call vote.

Under Finance, Wage & Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to purchase a 2019 Ford F-150 pickup truck from Coaldale Borough including the police radio at a cost of \$28,000. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, and seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under Finance, Wage & Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to retain Maria Derr as a full-time Police Clerk effective January 6, 2025. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, and seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under Finance, Wage & Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to retain Brian Clouser as a full-time Street Maintenance Worker effective January 6, 2025. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, and seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under Finance, Wage & Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve the transfer of Robert Filloy to the Street Maintenance/Sweeper Operator position. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, and seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Derek DeAngelo of 328 Lincoln Street had some questions regarding parking on a paper street within the borough and a car which he owns being towed. There was some discussion regarding this and it was explained paper streets must not be blocked and all residents should have access to them. Mr. DeAngelo also asked about selling a portion of it, but it was explained that it was not possible to do so due to all other residents along the paper street needing access.

Tom Williams of 232 Spruce Street had concerns regarding parking and towing cars near his property. There was some discussion regarding this, and an explanation was given as to why cars are being removed from the streets and in other places within the borough.

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

Under Borough Solicitor, Borough Solicitor Odorizzi made a motion to adopt an ordinance establishing pretreatment regulations for the borough's wastewater collection and treatment system.

ORDINANCE NO. 746
BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, SCHUYLKILL
COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, (“BOROUGH”) SETTING FORTH UNIFORM
REQUIREMENTS FOR DIRECT AND INDIRECT CONTRIBUTORS INTO THE
BOROUGH'S MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT
SYSTEM AND ENABLING THE BOROUGH TO COMPLY WITH ALL APPLICABLE
STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS RELATED THERETO.

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing 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 Kunkel, and approved by unanimous roll call vote.

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 Kunkel, 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 with councilman Hollenbach abstaining from Voucher # 51941 and Voucher # 51942.

Under New Business, a recommendation was made to advertise the schedule of regular meetings for 2025. 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.

Under New Business, a recommendation was made to authorize civil service testing to be conducted. 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.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:37 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