

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of April on Tuesday April 16, 2024, at 7:03 p.m. in the 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, Public Works Director Jay Stidham, Solicitor Anthony Odorizzi and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Trainee Timothy M. Ziegler. Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt was excused.

President Connely called for a moment of silence for Charles T “Chuck” Rodgers who was an active member with many organizations throughout the Tamaqua Borough. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. 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 7 council members present.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on March 19, 2024 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

President Connely noted that council met in executive session prior to the council meeting to discuss personal and legal matters.

Communication was received from Rick Bekesy resigning from the Tamaqua Police Department effective April 1, 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 Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Jody Kellner, Owner of Tinks Antiques requesting to close South Railroad Street from Borad Street to the end of Spruce Street Sunday, September 15th from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. for a new antiques market. 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 Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Dave E Mace resigning from his position on the Tamaqua Borough Zoning Board effective immediately as he has been recently appointed to the Tamaqua Borough CRIZ authority. 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 Bowman, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Justin McCarroll of the East End Fire Company requesting to have a dumb truck delivered for their annual block party. The block party is scheduled for Friday June 7th & Saturday June 8th, 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 Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Ray Swartz of the American Hose Fire Company No. 1 requesting to close Pine Street from East Broad Street to the intersection of Mauch Chunk St. on August 4th from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. 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.

Public Works Director Stidham reported to council that the street sweeper did begin Spring cleanup and the schedule is posted on Facebook and the Borough website. All streets will post the day before cleaning. Residents should take note that we are ticketing and towing cars. Public Works Director Stidham also noted, there was a pre bid meeting on April 16th, 2024, at the Northward and Southward playground for the rehab project for fencing and sidewalks. The bids are on Penn Bid, and bids will be open on April 24th, 2024, at the Schuylkill County Courthouse. Public Works Director Stidham also asked council for permission to hire part-time seasonal help for the summer of 2024.

A motion was made to hire part-time seasonal for Summer of 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 Parking and Traffic Committee report, a motion was made to purchase a mobile fingerprint identification reader from the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association at a cost of \$1,025.00 per year. 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 Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Under Parking & Traffic Committee Report, a motion to approve a handicapped parking space application for 520 E. Elm Street. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The motion to approve the handicap parking space was so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Under Parking & Traffic Committee Report, a motion to approve a handicapped parking space application for 49 Hunter Street. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The motion to approve the handicap parking space was so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Under Parking & Traffic Committee Report, a motion to deny a handicapped parking space application for 136 Penn Street due to it exceeding the amount of handicap spaces. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The motion to approve the handicap parking space was so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Under Parking & Traffic Committee Report, a motion to deny a handicapped parking space application for 61 Bowe Street due to it exceeding the amount of handicap spaces. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The motion to approve the handicap parking space was so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Under Parking & Traffic Committee Report, to have the Solicitor to prepare and advertise and ordinance regulation dumpsters on public streets. The recommendation was so ordered on the motion of Kunkel, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage & Salary Committee report, a motion was made approve an agreement for the Good Will Summer work program. 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 Lindhorst and unanimously approved.

A motion was made to amend the agenda for an increase by \$1.00 hour for Timothy Ziegler and Lori Patrick as still in training, also to post for a Sewer plant operator and also post assistant mechanic/street worker positions. The recommendation was so ordered on the motion of Bowman, seconded by, Linkevich and unanimously approved.

A motion was made to increase by \$1.00 hour for Timothy Ziegler and Lori Patrick as still in training, also to post for a Sewer plant operator and also post assistant mechanic/street worker positions. The recommendation was so ordered on the motion of Bowman, seconded by, Linkevich and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a motion was made to hire part time lifeguards at a pay rate of \$10.00 per house plus \$0.25 per hour for each year of service. The following lifeguards are Ericka Campomizzi, Lyla Clemson, Leighton Granick, Ava Hess, Moana Hudak, Larson Hudak, MaKayla Kester, Vincenzo Valentine, Nick Wall, and Alex Zehner. 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.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a motion was made to hire part-time pool clerks at a pay rate of \$9.00 per house plus \$0.25 per hour for each year of service. The clerks are Caryn Matz and Trea Myers. 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. A roll call vote was taken with all 7 council members approving.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee report, a motion was made to adopt a resolution to apply for the filing of an application grant for a Community Conservation Partnership grant in the amount of \$750,00.00 for extension of the Little Schuylkill Riverwalk. 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. A roll call vote was taken with all 7 council members approving.

Under Railroad Committee A motion to adopt an ordinance vacation Vine Street from North Railroad Street to 31.5 feet west of the centerline of the railroad tracks. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved. A roll call vote was taken with all 7 council members approving.

Cable Franchise Committee: A motion to prepare and advertise an ordinance granting non-exclusive cable television franchise to Service electric. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Mayors Report. Mayor Gerace reported on the vape task force for the month of March. Three stores have passed and received letters of appreciation, although there were 4 that did not pass, and the police department will continue with the vape task force. Mayor Gerace also gave an update on numbers on the amount of traffic citations and parking tickets from the police department that are available to the public.

The meeting was opened to the floor:

Michelle Calkins of 411 N Lehigh Street had concerns with the Southward playground being broken into and asked for police to patrol all the playgrounds more often. Chief Michael Hobbs asked if there are cameras and gave some other recommendations to try to make the park more secure. The police will be patrolling the parks more often now with the warmer weather.

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 Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Unfinished Business: There was some discussion about backboards for the pool. We will look into getting them prior to the pool opening.

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 motion was made to approve an intergovernmental agreement to participate in the Schuylkill Land Bank. 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 8:15 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Kunkel, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Timothy M. Ziegler, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Trainee