

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of December on Tuesday, December 19, 2023 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, Brian Connely, 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 and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Trainee Timothy M. Ziegler. Solicitor Anthony Odorizzi was excused and Mayor Nathan Gerace was absent.

President Connely called for a moment of silence for David G. Herring who worked for the borough Street Department for 38 years. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

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 all council members present.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on November 21, 2023 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.

Communication was received from Frank Fabrizio requesting permission to close East Broad Street from Pine Street to Greenwood Street from 11:30 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. on December 31, 2023 for the Annual Eagle Rise at the Tamaqua High Rise and asking for police presence during the event. 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.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the 2024 Street Materials bid results. Manager Steigerwalt stated there were a total of four bidders and that he provided council with a bid results worksheet. The low bidders were as follows:

- 400 tons Superpave Asphalt Warm Mix Wearing Course (pickup)  
Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA \$30,320
- 400 tons Superpave Asphalt Warm Mix Wearing Course (delivery)  
Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA \$35,120
- 30 tons Superpave Asphalt Warm Mix Any Wearing Course (pickup)  
Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA \$2,274
- 100 tons Superpave Asphalt Warm Mix Base Course (pickup)  
Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA \$6,075
- 100 tons Superpave Asphalt Warm Mix Base Course (delivery)  
Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA \$7,275
- 100 tons PaDOT Approved Cold Patch (pickup) New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co, PA \$14,700
- 100 tons PaDOT Approved Cold Patch (delivery) Hei-Way LLC, Sarver, Winfield, PA \$14,800
- 100 gallons PG 64S-22 (pickup) Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA \$1,600
- 750 tons Anti-skid AS3 (pickup) R.E. Pierson, Middleport, PA \$14,250
- 750 tons Anti-skid AS3 (delivery) Lehigh Asphalt, Tamaqua, PA \$17,437.50
- 100 tons #57 stone (pickup) R.E. Pierson, Middleport, PA \$1,600
- 100 tons #57 stone (delivery) R.E. Pierson, Middleport, PA \$2,300
- 200 tons #8 stone (pickup) R.E. Pierson, Middleport, PA \$3,800
- 200 tons #8 stone (delivery) R.E. Pierson, Middleport, PA \$5,200

A recommendation was made to award the 2024 Street Materials contracts to 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 on motion of Bowman, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt presented the following resolution for approval:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-13  
DULY ADOPTED  
PRICE ADJUSTMENT OF BITUMINOUS MATERIALS  
FOR SMALL QUANTITIES**

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

Manager Steigerwalt stated that increases in appropriations for emergency services and other organizations which were discussed at the November 21, 2023 council meeting were added to the 2024 budget.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that the demolition of 423 Willing Street and rehab of the adjoining properties is almost done and should be completed within a week, except for seeding which will be completed sometime in spring 2024.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that the sanitation schedule will be changed due to the Christmas holiday. Monday's collection will be on Tuesday and Tuesday's collection will be on Wednesday with recycling being collected on Saturday. The schedule will be the same for the following week due to the New Year holiday. There will be a call made to residents to remind them, and the schedule will be posted on the borough website as well as the borough Facebook page.

Manager Steigerwalt also reported that there will be a Reorganization Meeting held on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

Manager Steigerwalt also noted that there are some vacancies on the Zoning Hearing Board, Planning Commission and Board of Health. If anyone is interested, please contact the borough.

Manager Steigerwalt also noted that the schedule of meetings for the 2024 calendar year was completed by Borough Secretary/Treasurer Trainee Timothy M. Ziegler and it will be advertised prior to the next meeting.

Under the Public Safety Report, a motion was made to approve a proposal from CODY Computer Services for new police software at a cost of \$39,851 to be paid from the Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative Grant. 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 Report a recommendation was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 214 Race 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 the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to adopt the 2024 budget. The summary of the proposed budget is as follows:

Proposed 2024 Budget Summary

Estimated balance January 1, 2024	\$ 6,537,600
Estimated revenues	\$ 9,229,155
Estimated expenditures	<u>\$(10,147,080)</u>
Estimated balance December 31, 2024	\$ 5,619,675

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 the Finance, Wage & Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to adopt the 2024 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.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-14  
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, COUNTY  
OF SCHUYLKILL, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,  
FIXING THE TAX RATE FOR THE YEAR 2024**

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing 2024 Tax Resolution. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation to adopt the 2024 Tax Resolution was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Kunkel, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

The meeting was opened to the floor with no one wishing to address council.

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.

Under Unfinished Business, Public Works Director Jay Stidham stated that the fourth order of streetlights will be shipped on January 9, 2024, and the borough will start installing them when they arrive.

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.

Council President reported there was an executive session at 6:00 p.m. in order to discuss legal and personal matters.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:14 p.m. on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Bowman, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

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Timothy M Ziegler, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Trainee

