

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of February on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 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 and Mary Linkevich. Officials present were Mayor Nathan Gerace, Chief of Police Michael Hobbs, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Solicitor Anthony Odorizzi, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Trainee Tonia Collevichio and Director of Community Development Ann Marie Calabrese. Absent was Councilman Ritchie Linkhorst.

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 six councilmembers present and one absent.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on January 18, 2022 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Bowman, second by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Wayne Schickram, of Tamaqua, showing interest in serving on one or more committees. There was a brief discussion regarding vacancies on both the HARC and Board of Health committees. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this manner. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, to appoint Wayne Schickram to the HARC and Board of Health committees and unanimously approved with no question from the floor.

Communication was received from Georgia DeWire, Secretary of the Police Pension Fund Commission, updating council of accepting resignation from the Police Pension Fund Commission, Robert C. Orbin Jr., and recommending Brian Keich to be appointed to fill the vacancy; and accepting resignation from the Non-Uniformed Pension Committee, John Comisac, effective February 4, 2022 and recommending Jay Stidham to be appointed to fill the vacancy. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this manner. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Hollenbach, to appoint Brian Keich immediately to the Police Pension Fund Commission and unanimously approved with no question from the floor. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Bowman, to appoint Jay Stidham to the Non-Uniformed Pension Committee effective February 4th, 2022 and unanimously approved with no question from the floor.

Communication was received from Albert L. Gricoski, Director of the Schuylkill County Election Bureau, stating that in preparation for the upcoming Primary Election on Tuesday May 17, 2022 and General Election on Tuesday November 8, 2022, the bureau is reaching out to the polling locations to ensure the availability of the facilities. If the facility is still available, there is no need to contact their office. President Connely stated no action was required.

Communication was received from Brian Ouly, of Sons of the American Legion, stating that the Sons of the American Legion Post 173 will be holding a food event for the post on Saturday February 26, 2022 and requesting to block three parking places in front of the post from noon til 5 p.m. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, to block off the requested three parking spaces and unanimously approved with no question from the floor.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the following: he received a double-yellow line painting quote for a length of five miles in the amount of \$6,336 for waterborne paint and a quote for a length of five miles of epoxy resin in the amount of \$42,240; will proceed if council chooses. There was a brief discussion about this matter and there will be a pause until communication is received from the prior contractor; there has been request from Water and Sewer customers for assistance with payments and LIWAP was discussed; still working on the garbage contract and will ask for a 1-5-year contract moving forward; the to-do list is in effect and will be updated at each meeting; and demolition projects will take place in the spring.

Director of Community Development Calabrese reported she spoke with Nathan Halenar and Gwyneth Collevchio regarding the status of the Panther Valley pool opening; requested to sell some green signs for a fundraiser to benefit the Pool; and reported that on Monday February 21, 2022 CRIZ will be holding their meeting as normal and stated that six properties on Kline Street and Mauch Chunk Street need to be removed from the CRIZ in order for the Authority to proceed with grant filings.

Under Chief of Police, Chief Hobbs had nothing to report.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to retain Shaun Hutta as a full-time Mechanic/Street Maintenance Worker effective immediately. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, second by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to hire Beth Jones as Pool Manager for the 2022 season at a pay rate of \$17.50. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this manner. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under Recreation and Youth Report, a recommendation was made to advertise for part-time assistant managers, lifeguards, and pool clerks for the 2022 season. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this manner. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under Recreation and Youth Report, a recommendation was made to open the pool on Saturday May 28, 2022 and close tentatively on Sunday August 21, 2022 pending lifeguard availability. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this manner. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under Recreation and Youth Report, a recommendation was made to advertise for a concession stand vendor and prepare a lease agreement requiring insurance, a deposit, payment of propane and electric utilities, removal of trash and cooking oil and cleaning of the stand area. There was a brief discussion on the manner. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this manner. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under Recreation and Youth Report, a recommendation was made to allow members of the Panther Valley School District, should Panther Valley pool not open this season, to apply for a season pass using the Lansford pool pay schedule. There was no one from the floor wishing to

address council about this manner. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under Recreation and Youth Report, a recommendation was made approve the season and daily pool pass rates for the 2022 season. There was a brief discussion on the rates and if anyone would like to make donations, that is ok. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this manner. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under Recreation and Youth Report, a recommendation was made to adopt a resolution accepting a \$60,000 grant from John E. Morgan Foundation, Inc. for pool operating purposes.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-4

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL, TAMAQUA, PENNSYLVANIA REGARDING GRANTS FROM THE JOHN E. MORGAN FOUNDATION, INC.

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution accepting a grant from the John E. Morgan Foundation, Inc. in the amount of \$60,000 for pool operation purposes. 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 approved by roll call vote with six councilmembers for adopting the resolution and one absent.

Under Mayor's Report, Mayor Gerace reported this is the 10-year anniversary of the Community Arts Center; asked who is responsible for tree maintenance and river maintenance, President Connely told him DCNR does it; Mayor Gerace will reach out to State Representatives regarding the manner. Mayor Gerace reported on residents' complaints regarding the snow removal and respectfully brought it to council which lead to a brief discussion. At this time Mayor Gerace requested an executive session prior to adjournment to discuss personnel matters.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

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

Solicitor Odorizzi requested an executive session prior to adjournment to discuss real estate matters.

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 Amentler, and unanimously approved.

No unfinished business.

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 Amentler, and unanimously approved; Councilman Hollebach abstained from approval of voucher 45338 \$477.00 and voucher 45357 \$716.00.

Under New Business, none.

A recommendation was made to hold an executive session to discuss legal, real estate and personnel matters. 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.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 7:26 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:39 p.m.

President Connely announced that an executive session was held to discuss legal, real estate and personnel matters.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:39 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Hollenbach, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Tonia Collevchio, Borough Secretary/Treasurer (Trainee)