

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of November on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 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, Ritchie Linkhorst and Mary Linkevich. Officials present were Mayor Nathan Gerace, Borough Solicitor Tony Odorizzi, Police Chief Michael Hobbs, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Tonia Collevichio.

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 councilmembers present.

The reading of the minutes of the first Regular Council Meeting held on December 20, 2022 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 Robert Jones, Public Works Director, requesting council accept his intention to retire with his last physical day of work being May 26, 2023 at which time he will be using his accumulated paid time off and last day of employment will be on or around March 6, 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, to accept Robert Jones' retirement from Public Works Director and appoint Jay Stidham as Public Works trainee and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Tonia Collevichio, Borough Secretary/Treasurer, requesting council make a motion to open up an escrow account for fire insurance proceeds received from Farmer's Insurance for the property at 115 W. Broad Street in accordance with the Tamaqua Fire Escrow Ordinance No. 568. 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, to open the fire loss escrow account and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that he received notification of 15 parcels up for private sale through Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau; the deadline for any objections is February 13, 2023; the utility department, code officers and police department will check to see if there are any other issues with bidders; currently one bidder is questionable. 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, to authorize council to object past violations, etc by response date of February 13, 2023 and unanimously approved.

Borough Manager presented two resolutions for approval.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-1

BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, DECLARING ITS INTENT TO FOLLOW THE SCHEDULES AND PROCEDURES FOR DISPOSITION OF RECORDS AS SET FORTH IN THE MUNICIPAL RECORDS MANUAL APPROVED ON DECEMBER 16, 2008

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution declaring its intent to follow the schedules and procedures for disposition of records. 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 approved by unanimous roll call vote.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-2
BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA
BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, SCHUYLKILL
COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ABOVE CITED
MUNICIPAL RECORDS MANUAL, HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE DISPOSITION OF
THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC RECORDS**

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution declaring its intent to follow the schedules and procedures for disposition of records. 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 approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Borough Manager also that the contractors started in Owl Creek to replace the purple lights, reported on the damaged pole and wire on Lehigh Street, three demolitions are on their way with some work being postponed for weather and working with the County to get reimbursed; 421 Willing Street will be the next demolition site and will go out for bid next week and finally Christmas trees should not have any decorations or lights on them when they are put out for pick up

Under Public Safety Committee Report, a recommendation was made to adopt a resolution approving a Mutual Aid Agreement for police protection with Rush Township.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-3
BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, SCHUYLKILL COUNTY COMMONWEALTH OF
PENNSYLVANIA
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF
THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, PENNSYLVANIA, HEREBY AUTHORIZES ITS
PRESIDENT TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO ON BEHALF OF SUCH BOROUGH A
CERTAIN MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF RUSH,
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, WHICH AGREEMENT IS DATED EVEN
DATE HEREWITH, FOR SUPPLEMENTAL POLICE PROTECTION SERVICES.**

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution to enter a Mutual Aid Agreement with the Township of Rush, Schuylkill County. 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 approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Under Parking and Traffic Committee Report, a recommendation was made to prepare and advertise an ordinance prohibiting parking on a portion of Glenwood Avenue. This will take

away only one parking space of the 400 block at the utility pole due to emergency vehicles cannot get on street properly. 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 deny a handicapped parking space application for 406 Hazle Street since it would exceed the number of handicapped spaces allowed in that block; also has no handicapped plaque or permit. 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, a recommendation was made to adopt a resolution accepting the \$60,000 grant from the John E. Morgan Foundation Inc. for pool operation and maintenance expenses.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-4

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL, TAMAQUA, PENNSYLVANIA
REGARDING GRANTS FROM THE JOHN E. MORGAN FOUNDATION, INC
ADOPTED JANUARY 17, 2023**

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution to adopt the John E. Morgan Foundation, Inc. Grant in the amount of \$60,000. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. Council President Connely stated that the John E. Morgan Foundation, Inc. is a life saver and is very much appreciated for their continued help for the community. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Kunkel, and approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Councilwoman Linkevich also reported that a grant application for the North Ward park was denied and there will be a meeting next week regarding the pool.

Under the Mayor's Report, Mayor Gerace wanted to update council on the notice to hire fulltime officers and parttime officers. The Civil Service Committee will be conducting a written Civil Service examination for the full-time position of Police Officer on Monday, March 6, 2023 at 6:30 pm; applications must be returned to the Borough Manager's office no later than Friday, February 17, 2023 at 4 pm along with the \$35 fee. Mayor Gerace also requested an executive session to discuss personnel matters.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Sturgis, 222 South Railroad Street, brought to Council's attention parking issues that involve trailers parking for months and aren't licensed. There was much discussion regarding this matter. Council President Connely suggested Chief Hobbs look into the situation and asked Parking and Traffic Committee to look into the situation as well.

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

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.

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.

A recommendation was made to hold an executive session to discuss 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 Linkevich, 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 7:45 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Tonia Collevechio, Borough Secretary/Treasurer