

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of July on Tuesday, July 18, 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., and Kathy Kunkel. Councilwoman Linkevich was excused. Officials present were Police Chief Michael Hobbs, Borough Solicitor Tony Odorizzi, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Tonia Sakusky and Public Works Director Jay Stidham. Mayor Nathan Gerace and Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt were excused.

The meeting was called to order by President Connely. The invocation was given by Councilman Hollenbach. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Solicitor Odorizzi. The roll was called with six councilmembers present and one excused.

The reading of the minutes of the first Regular Council Meeting held on June 20, 2023, 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.

At this time Council President Connely opened the floor to Representative Jamie Barton. Rep. Barton introduced himself to council and attendees; he recently replaced Representative Jerry Knowles and came here to serve and help the community; his office is located at 202 East Broad Street, Tamaqua PA.

Communication was received from Dale Freudenberger, President of the Tamaqua Historical Society Inc., respectfully submitting a request seeking permission from the Borough and PennDot to close West Broad Street on Sunday October 8th from 6am – 8pm for our 38th annual Tamaqua Heritage Festival. The purpose of this request is to make the Tamaqua Heritage Festival more handicapped accessible and less congested by moving it off of the crowded sidewalks and into the street. We are seeking the close West Broad from Lehigh Street to South Railroad Street; also need to know what would be required for the proposed detour route of South Lehigh Street, Spruce Street, and South Railroad Street including signage, etc.; the festival runs from 10am – 5pm but since this is the first time closing down 209 there is built in additional time for set up and close up afterwards including trash removal. If successful in receiving approval from PennDot there will be a follow up with a send letter to the Tamaqua Borough Council seeking help with the detour route, signage, identifying barricades needed, no parking signs, etc. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered to start the process of closure on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved. Public Works Director Stidham received quotes for signs and Councilwoman Kunkel is looking to split the cost with the Historical Society.

Communication was received from Tim Hibbler and Raymond Pheil, patrons of the Swatara/Rowe street parking permits, requesting the installation of a light to face into the parking lot from the pole located at the corner of Swatara and Rowe Street due to the increase of suspicious night time parking of non-permit pay people and other activities that have been happening in the lot. Calls were made to the police several times but the culprits were gone by the time police arrived. This request was given to Public Works Director Stidham to look into the situation for the next meeting.

Communication received from the Tamaqua Elks, they are planning a one day fair on Saturday October 7, 2023 and is requesting that Nescopec Street be closed for that day to traffic; the event will consist of music, vendors and various food options with the event being open to the public; requesting that Nescopec Street be closed that day to provide parking spots for the bands and vendors supporting the fundraiser. The event is to help community learn more about the Elks and its various programs and the help they can offer and hopefully generate interest to gain new members. 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, to approve the requests for the Elks fair and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Thomas Isleib, American Legion Post 173 Commander, is planning on hosting a stop on August 19th at their location at 206 West Broad Street for the Frackville American Legion Riders; they are doing a fundraiser for a child who is undergoing several major surgeries. Requesting that the borough cordon off one block of Nescopec Street and the parking lot adjoining the legion to provide ample space for the Legion Riders to park their motorcycles and are also requesting the assistance of the Tamaqua Fire Police if they may be available. Once a tentative approval is received, we will obtain the certificate of insurance listing the Borough as an additional insured for the date and times listed and forward such a copy to 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, to approve the request for the Legion to host the stop for the Frackville Legion Riders and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Sabrina Smith, updating council that on Sunday August 13, 2023, they will be hosting a mobile food truck that will be open to the public. The food truck hours are 4-8pm with an hour of set up and clean up times needed. Requesting a one-day parking restriction directly in front of our location for the food truck from 3-10pm. 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 Linkhorst, to approve the request for the parking restriction for the food truck and unanimously approved.

Public Works Director Stidham reported to council the bid results for the sale of borough equipment on Municibid. The 2007 Crown Vic isn't selling there has been no other bids and the 2003 Ford Interceptor had one bid in the amount of \$6,250. Council President Connely reviewed how Municibid works for anyone that was curious from the floor. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Hollenbach, to approve sale of the 2003 Ford Interceptor in the amount of \$6,250 and unanimously approved. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Hollenbach, to include the sale of the 2007 Crown Vic to the first bidder that was rejected in the amount of \$900 and unanimously approved.

Public Works Director also had a status update of the road work to which hopefully it is completed prior to school starting at the end of August; reminded council for next meeting for a list of projects for the CDBG funds; the police car was delivered today and cheaper than expected; and the third round of streetlights have been delivered.

Under Public Safety Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve a request to send Sergeant Thomas Rodgers to Defensive Tactics Instructor Training in Wilkes-

Barre, PA on August 14-19th at a cost of \$875.00. Council President Connely stated that the Police Department is required per the MOPAC training. 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.

Under Public Safety Committee Report, a recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include a motion to approve a request to send Patrolman Karl Harig to the National Sexual Assault Conference in San Francisco, CA on August 22-24th at a cost of \$2,002.11. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The motion to amend the agenda, as well as the recommendation to approve Patrolman Karl Harig to attend the Sexual Assault Conference was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Under Parking & Traffic Committee Report, a motion to close and prohibit parking on West Broad Street between South Railroad and Lehigh Streets for the Tamaqua Heritage Festival on October 8, 2023. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The motion to approve the request to close and prohibit parking on West Broad Street between South Railroad and Lehigh Streets for the Heritage Festival was so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Under Parking & Traffic Committee Report, a motion was made to adopt a Fee Schedule Resolution revising the Driveway Permit Fees.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-7
BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA
FEE SCHEDULE RESOLUTION

The recommendation to adopt the resolution was so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Hollenbach, unanimously approved in a roll call vote. Public Works Director Stidham went over the fee charge changes for the floor.

Under Parking & Traffic Committee Report, a motion to approve a handicapped parking space application for 110 Pitt Street. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The motion to approve the handicapped parking space application for 110 Pitt Street was so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Under Recreation & Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve the filing of a draft application to the PennDOT Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program for a River Walk Project connecting East Broad Street to Cedar Street along the west side of the Little Schuylkill River. 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 Kunkel, and unanimously approved. Councilwoman Kunkel updated Council that the Partnership is looking to expand and will be doing all the paperwork for the filing, etc.; Councilwoman Kunkel also stated that the East End Playground Association wants to have a meeting with the Recreation & Youth Committee to replace retiring members that volunteer to which Council recommended to set up the meeting.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Peter Deangelo, 328 Lincoln Street, complained about a tree in the neighborhood that is located on private property that is currently filled with lantern flies and leaking sap. There was much discussion on the matter; Council President Connely told Mr. Deangelo that unfortunately this is a civil matter, and the borough cannot do anything and suggested he contact a lawyer.

Debra Heff, 415 East Union Street, demanded to know why she didn't get a response from her email to everyone and does not want to be ignored, she is very angry, feels person who pays for the handicapped space should be the only one to park there; after much discussion on the matter Council President Connely stated that the Borough cannot put every handicapped space on each block that anyone with a plaque can legally park there per the ordinance and laws.

Brenda Lazar, 123 Market Street, requested reimbursement of her tow fine and help getting a parking ticket revoked due to being out of the area for vacation and didn't see any advertisements prior to leaving. Public Works Director Stidham told Mrs. Lazar that notices were posted a day ahead for road work. There was much discussion on the matter. A recommendation was made by Kunkel, seconded by Bowman, to work to get the tow fees and parking fine pulled back and unanimously approved.

Dawn Clouser, 606 East Elm Street, wanted to show her and her family's appreciation to the police department when her dog went missing for four days that Officer Springer went above and beyond to look for her German Sheppard and because of that her dog is home and well and she purchased pizzas for the officers and had a card for Chief Hobbs.

Angela Pascal, 417 West Rowe Street, told the Council she's been sick and her kids were removed from her home due to the condemned partial house next to her and claims a dog passed away inside the home; asked if Code Enforcement could do something, there's rats going in and out and she can't live at the house anymore nor can she sell it due to the smell. There was much discussion on the matter. Council President Connely told her that the Code Department has done everything they can and has exhausted all citations and now is a civil matter however will pass along the information to the Code Enforcement officers to see what else they can do about the situation.

Dave Clemson, 226 Pitt Street, asked Council if the potholes will be filled; brought to Council's attention car repairs being done on the streets and ripping apart cars on the streets; trailers being parked on the street again; lots of cars are out of inspection and wants to know what is being done. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

George Haldeman, 247 Van Gelder Street, brought to Council's attention that the Geisinger garage is not migrating to Orwigsburg Street.

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

Under Borough Solicitor Report, Borough Solicitor Odorizzi asked for an executive session for 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 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 Linkhorst, and unanimously approved with Hollenbach abstaining from Voucher #48727.

A recommendation was made to hold an executive session to discuss real estate 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 Amentler, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 7:53 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:02 p.m.

A recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include a motion to approve a lease assignment for real estate. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The motion to amend the agenda, as well as the recommendation to approve a lease assignment for real estate were so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:03 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Hollenbach, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Tonia Sakusky, Borough Secretary/Treasurer