

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of June on Tuesday, June 20, 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, Jay Hollenbach Jr., and Kathy Kunkel. Councilman Brian Connely and Councilwoman Linkevich were excused. Officials present were Mayor Nathan Gerace, Police Chief Michael Hobbs, Borough Solicitor Tony Odorizzi, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Tonia Sakusky and Public Works Director Jay Stidham.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Bowman which at this time he updated council and audience of an executive session that was held on June 13, 2023 at 6:30 pm for personnel and legal matters. The invocation was given by Councilman Hollenbach. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Amentler. The roll was called with five councilmembers present and two excused.

The reading of the minutes of the first Regular Council Meeting held on May 17, 2023 was ordered suspended; and with no additions or corrections; the minutes were approved as written on motion of Kunkle, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Ozz Gomez, President of Outhouse Production Films, requesting to use Willing Park for the purpose of filming on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 between the times of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. The time requested will cover preparations before filming and allow our crew to leave no trace after wrapping. There will be no street closures needed; also requests access to parking for crew member vehicles and our production vans. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered to approve all requests on motion of Hollenbach, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Pastor Rob Tomes, New Life Assembly of God, inquiring about utilizing the north/middle ward park during the summer months for New Life's Sunday morning services. Their first "Church in the Park" service would be on June 25, 2023 at 10:00 am weather permitting and would need access to electrical hookup and the concession building; plan on utilizing the park on Sundays at least two/three times a month til the end of September. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Hollenbach, seconded by Amentler, to approve requests for the Sunday church services as long as the parks committees approve and unanimously approved.

Communication received from Carbon County Sheriff Daniel G. Zeigler, a letter of appreciation. On behalf of myself and the entire Carbon County Sherrif's Office we would like to recognize the Tamaqua Police Department for apprehension of Gregory Sperlbaum on June 4, 2023. We greatly value the relationship that we have built with your agency and appreciate the efforts that you and your department displayed to assist us. It has been and will continue to be an ongoing focus of my office to deploy every option available to apprehend wanted fugitives in Carbon County and all neighboring jurisdictions. Thank you for your support and the use of your resources that led to the apprehension of Mr. Sperlbaum. We hope to only expand on the

partnership that we have developed. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter.

Communication was received from Sabrina A. Smith, Smitty's Pool Hall 446 East Union Street, notifying Council that on Sunday July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 they will be holding a pool tournament with mobile food truck open to the public; the food truck hours are 4-9 pm with an hour of setup and cleanup times needed. Ms. Smith is requesting a one-day parking restriction directly in front of the location for the food truck from 3-10 pm. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Hollenbach, seconded by Linkhorst, to approve the request for the one-day parking restriction for the food truck and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported to council the bid results for demolition at 423 Willing Street; had to advertise the bid twice ( April and June ) and got no bids in April but received only one bid after advertisement in June from NE Industries in the amount of \$63,327, there is CDBG funds still available to use towards project and we can borrow from other funds to cover remaining costs if needed. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkhorst, seconded by Amentler, to accept the bid and unanimously approved.

Borough Manager reviewed the Schuylkill County Hazard Migration Plan Update with Council; it is an action plan for the county with all municipalities to prevent loss of life, loss of property, etc and wants the Borough of Tamaqua to update our plan. This involves 5-6 meetings which Steigerwalt will attend and he also added Public Works Director Jay Stidham to the plan as secondary contact. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkhorst, seconded by Kunkel, to approve Vice President Bowman to sign letter for the Schuylkill County Hazard Migration Plan Update and unanimously approved.

Borough Manager also updated Council that the three demolition projects are still in process and coming along nicely, hoping to be completed soon; new sweeper signs are going up around town; street lights are still being corrected and replaced by company; the work on the railroad crossing on Broad Street is completed and the company patched some spots on Spruce Street; and the garbage schedule for the July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 holiday was announced.

Under Public Safety Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve a revised Memorandum of Agreement allowing 12-hour shifts for the Police Department on a temporary basis. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Amentler, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under Parking & Traffic Committee Report, a motion to approve a handicapped parking space application for 536 East Union 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 Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Under Finance, Wage & Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve the permanent transfer of Jeff Hartz to the Water Distribution Work Leader position. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The motion to approve the permanent transfer of Jeff Hartz was so ordered on motion of Linkhorst, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Under Finance, Wage & Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to hire Michael Styka as part-time maintenance worker at a pay rate of \$12.50 per hour effective June 12, 2023. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The motion to approve the hiring of Michael Styka as part-time maintenance worker was so ordered on motion of Linkhorst, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Under Finance, Wage & Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve sharing municipal public works services, including equipment and personnel, with Rush Township. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The motion to approve the sharing of municipal services was so ordered on motion of Linkhorst, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved. Vice President Bowman added the explanation of what sharing municipal services all involves and benefits.

Under Recreation & Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to hire Edward Zukovich as head lifeguard at a pay rate of \$12.25 per hour retroactive to May 27, 2023. 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 Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Under Recreation & Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to hire Nicholas Wall as a lifeguard at a pay rate of 10.00 per hour plus \$0.25 per hour for each year of service. 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.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Carolanne Garber, 200 Pine Street, asked the Council why nothing was done to make the Summerfest that was held on Sunday ADA compliant; something needs to be done to help people that need to be assisted in getting around, the elderly in the high-rise, etc. Councilwoman Kunkel agreed that something needs to change because she says no changes made to improve accessibility; neither did other members of the Council. Ms. Garber stated she started a petition via an online forum and paper that included suggestions which lead to a lengthy discussion about the next steps to help resolve this situation.

Linda Miller, 447 Willing Street, asked how long a person is allowed to not take care of their property; her neighbor has not mowed her grass in 8 weeks but it is not visible to the street. This lead to a brief discussion to which Borough Manager Steigerwalt told Ms. Miller he will report this to the Code Officers.

George Haldeman, 247 Van Gelder Street, asked for an update on the road work.

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 litigation 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 Kunkel, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Under Unfinished Business Report, Councilwoman Kunkel updated the Council that the Corporal Testing will be on July 17, 2023 at 6 pm at LCCC.

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 Linkhorst, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

A recommendation was made to hold an executive session to discuss litigation matters. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Amentler, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

The council meeting was recessed at approximately 7:29 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 7:55 p.m.

A recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include a motion to approve Borough Solicitor to prepare a resolution denying the request of liquor license #R-11800. 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 Borough Solicitor to prepare a resolution were so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Borough Solicitor Odorizzi presented a resolution for council’s review and approval to deny the liquor license #R-11800 transfer into Borough of Tamaqua from North Manheim Township.

**BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA  
RESOLUTION NO. 2023-6**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, COUNTY OF SCHUYLKILL,  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DENYING A REQUEST TO TRANSFER  
RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE R-11800 LID 15162 INTO THE BOROUGH OF  
TAMAQUA FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF NORTH MANHEIM**

The recommendation to adopt the resolution was so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Linkhorst, unanimously approved in a roll call vote.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:56 p.m. on motion of Amentler, seconded by Hollenbach, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

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Tonia Sakusky, Borough Secretary/Treasurer