

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

The meeting was called to order by President Connely. The invocation was given by Councilwoman Linkevich. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Police Chief Hobbs. The roll was called with six councilmembers present and one excused.

The reading of the minutes of the first Regular Council Meeting held on April 18, 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.

Communication was received from Francis Betz, Secretary of the Citizens Fire Co. #1, respectfully asking for permission to hold their annual Bazaar on Saturday, June 24th. They would like to close Hegarty Avenue and Rowe Street; Hegarty Avenue closed starting Friday, June 23rd til Sunday, June 25th; the 100 block of Row Street would only be closed during the hours of the Bazaar 12 pm – 10 pm; further they wish to hold their annual Fire Apparatus parade on June 24th at 4 pm, parade would start at the high school and proceed through town and end back on West Broad Street at South Railroad Street; would also ask permission to close Hegarty Avenue on Saturday, October 7th for their annual Pig Roast and Cornhole Tournament. They noted they will coordinate the events with the Police Department and Fire Police to assist with traffic control and barricades. 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 Bowman, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Tonia Collevechio, Borough Secretary/Treasurer, requesting council make a motion to open up an escrow account for fire insurance proceeds received for the property at 139 Mahanoy 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.

Communication received from Judy Hoppes, Tamaqua Railfest Committee, updating Council that a Train Committee as part of the Tamaqua Area Community Partnership has been meeting and are planning to hold “Tamaqua Railfest” on Saturday August 26th from 10 am – 6 pm; this even would focus on trains, railroad and coal region displays along with railroad themed items to sell. The Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad plans to bring a train with visitors to Tamaqua to enjoy all the activities of Railfest plus visit the local businesses and restaurants; the train would arrive in town at approximately 11 am. The committee is asking permission to use Depot Square Park on that Saturday; would also ask to us the gazebo for some musical entertainment and possibly hold other activities in the park. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation to approve requests for

the Railfest was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported to council that he had a resolution for Councils approval.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-05

BE IT RESOLVED, BY AUTHORITY OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY AUTHORITY OF THE SAME, THAT THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT OF BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA BE AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED TO SUBMIT THE ATTACHED TRAFFIC SIGNAL MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT, TO SUBMIT FUTURE MODIFICATIONS TO THE ATTACHED TRAFFIC SIGNAL MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT, AND TO SUBMIT FUTURE APPLICATIONS FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL APPROVAL EITHER IN WRITING OR VIA ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE, TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND TO SIGN THIS AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA

Borough Manager reviewed the agreement with Council; there will be nine intersections for pedestrian signals that were selected by PennDOT of the thirteen intersections, those nine intersections are the easiest currently to work on. Public Works Director Jay Stidham along with Borough Manager had a conversation with the engineer to direct them to keep the touchpads that are already in place and will also receive LED signal countdown with the option of hearing-impaired function that will be looked into and will be discussed further at a later date. All the work is at no cost to the Borough; once completed anything that needs maintenance will be the Borough's responsibility to repair. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation to adopt the resolution and sign the agreement was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, unanimously approved in a roll call vote.

Borough Manager also updated Council that the bid for demolition at 423 Willing Street had no bid packets received and will be rebidding/advertising the demolition again for due on June 5th at 2 pm; pool opens at the end of the month; roof at the South Ward Playground is done but the soffit and fascia that will be donated; Alfred Benesh engineering firm is working on the playgrounds; CDBG is asking for a date for the first public meeting so suggested June 20th at 6:30 pm prior to regular meeting, the county will advertise; and discussed quotes received from Rottet Motors for a police SUV (\$61,031) and a Ford F350 with a plow (\$52,930), MCT bank gave an interest rate of 3.75% for 3, 4 or 5 years and the Tamaqua Borough Authority will be paying half the price of the truck. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. A recommendation to purchase both vehicles from Rottet Motors, a CoStar vender, was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved. Along with this motion a recommendation to place the three old police vehicles on Municibid was s ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Borough Manager requested an executive session at this time for Personnel matters.

Under Public Safety Committee Report, a recommendation was made to authorize the Civil Service Commission to conduct a promotion exam for Corporal/Criminal Investigator. 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. According to Chief Hobbs, this will be a Corporal exam only.

Under Public Safety Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve an agreement with Aequitas to provide ten training presentations for local law enforcement personnel between June 2023 and June 2024. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The motion to approve the agreement was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Under Parking & Traffic Committee Report, a motion to approve a handicapped parking space application for 211 Brown 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 Parking & Traffic Committee Report, a motion to approve a handicapped parking space application for 306 East Broad 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 Parking & Traffic Committee Report, a motion to approve a handicapped parking space application for 230 Mauch Chunk Street, Apt #1. 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 Parking & Traffic Committee Report, a motion to approve a handicapped parking space application for 547 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 Parking & Traffic Committee Report, a motion to approve the purchase of new no parking signs for street sweeper operations. At this time a question from the floor was provided; Thomas Williams, 232 W. Spruce Street, questioned Council about their recent band of towing's for the street cleanings and not just give a citation and go around the vehicle, that it's removing private property and stranding people. Councilwoman Kunkel responded to Mr. Williams with the process that Council has taken to notify the residents in a timely manner via Facebook, Website, Police do a "knock and call" around town prior to sweeper coming through and Postings around town so the residences have time to move their vehicles to avoid being towed. There being no one else from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The motion to approve the new street sweeper signs was so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved. Councilman Bowman noted we are going to have to look into updating the times to give the police enough time to do what they need to do.

Under Finance, Wage & Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve an agreement for the Goodwill Summer Work Experience and Assessment Program. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The motion to

approve the summer work experience and assessment program was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under Finance, Wage & Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to hire Ross Connely and Nate Milkovits as part-time maintenance workers at a pay rate of \$12.50 per hour. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The motion to approve the hiring of Ross Connely and Nate Milkovits as part-time maintenance was so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved with Councilman Connely abstaining.

Under Neighborhoods, Downtown & Historic District Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for the property at 301 West Broad Street for installation of new windows and two rear upper doors that need to be replaced. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness was so ordered on motion of Hollenbach, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under Recreation & Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to hire Alexis Buchala, McKenna Ehrig, Erika Campomizzi and Andrea Betz as part-time lifeguards 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 Linkevich, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under Mayor's Report, Mayor Gerace reminded everyone that May 29th is the Memorial Day Parade and Council President Connely asked the press to cover the Memorial Day parade to honor them.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Tom Schlorf, 224 Orwigsburg St, asked for mulch for the SouthWard Playground. There was much discussion about product and pricings and Councilwoman Linkevich will post on Facebook to see if anyone would like to help and donate; Thomas Williams offered his assistance along with New Life Assembly and led to a brief conversation on the condition of the SouthWard Playground.

Melissa Wilmont, Mahanoy Street, had questions regarding the no parking side painting and asked for two feet to be provided back to the community; this discussion was handed off to the Parking & Traffic Committee for further review.

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

Under Borough Solicitor Report, Borough Solicitor Odorizzi reported to Council that he was contacted by Penn Jersey Tamaqua Inc regarding a liquor license transfer request from Pottsville to Tamaqua. A recommendation was made to grant permission to Borough Solicitor Odorizzi to advertise a liquor license hearing on June 20th at 6 pm. 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 Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

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 Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business Report, Borough Manager Steigerwalt discussed the Vine Street Railroad Crossing Closure; crossings to be upgraded by playground and the PUC needs to be contacted by the Borough Solicitor. A recommendation was made to allow Borough Solicitor to start the PUC process for the closure. 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 New Business Report, a recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include a motion to post job posting for Sewer Treatment Plant with a shift change. 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 post the job with the shift change were so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business Report, Council President reported that the borough office was contacted by Comcast and created a committee for reviewal of their services. The committee members are the following: Mary Linkevich, Kathy Kunkel and Robert Amentler.

A recommendation was made to hold an executive session to discuss Personnel and 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 7:43 p.m. while council met in executive session.

The council meeting was reconvened at approximately 8:12 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:13 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Amentler, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Tonia Collevchio, Borough Secretary/Treasurer