

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its second Regular Council Meeting for the month of May on Tuesday, May 18, 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, Jay Hollenbach Jr., Kathy Kunkel, Mary Linkevich and Ritchie Linkhorst. Excused was Councilman Connely. Officials present were Mayor Nathan Gerace, Chief of Police Michael Hobbs, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Solicitor Anthony Odorizzi and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Tonia Collevechio.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Bowman. 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 excused.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on May 3, 2022 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Linkhorst, second by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Kathleen M. Quinn-Farber, 421 Glenwood Ave, regarding the proposed ordinance prohibiting parking on Glenwood Avenue; Ms. Quinn-Farber disapproves of the parking ordinance. There was no action from council on this matter.

Communication was received from Brad Hosler, Sons of the American Legion Post 173 Commander of the Sons, requesting to have three parking spaces reserved at 206 West Broad Street in front of the American Legion Post 173 for the reason of the legion will be hosting Vince's Cheesesteak food truck vendor on May 29, 2022. These spaces will provide enough space needed for the food truck, generator, and vendor's personal vehicle. He would also request to have the spots reserved for the evening of May 28, 2022 so that the vendor can park the food truck overnight for lunch service on May 29, 2022. Food sales will begin at eleven in the morning and continue until they are sold out. It would be greatly appreciated to have these parking spots to help with the fundraiser but it also helps bring business into the town. 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 Hollenbach, to grant permission for the reserving of parking spots requested and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Thomas Eislib, Commander of American Legion CH Berry Post 173, requesting that the parking lot at the legion as was as Nescopec from West Broad Street to Cottage Avenue be closed from 12:30 pm until 3:00 pm due to the Tamaqua American Legion will be assisting the Frackville American Legion with a Bike Run to raise funds for Autism Awareness on Saturday May 21, 2022; also requesting that horses and cones be dropped off in those general areas and they will put them up accordingly. They would also ask that meter bags be provided for them to post the meters within the lot; they have discussed this with Chief Hobbs and would ask for permission for this worthwhile event. 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 Hollenbach, to grant the requests and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Tom McCarroll, East End Fire Company, asking permission from council to close East End Avenue from the rear of 553 to rear of 612 E. Broad Street, as well as Colombia from E. Broad Street to East End Avenue due to the East End Fire

Company will host a corn hole tournament on Saturday June 4, 2022 from 10 am to 5 pm. 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 Hollenbach, to grant the requests and unanimously approved.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the bid opening results for the Refuse and Recycling Collection Contract as follows: three bids were received; the bidders were Tamaqua Transfer and Recycling, J.P. Mascaro and Sons and GFL (County Waste), and the lowest bidder was Tamaqua Transfer and Recycling of Tamaqua. Manager Steigerwalt read the Tamaqua Transfer bids as follows: the year one contract price is \$786,600.00; the year two contract price is \$786,600.00; the year three contract price is \$786,600.00; the year four contract price is \$825,930.00; and a year five contract price of \$834,190.00 which is the total of years one to five, is \$4,019,920.00. There was a lengthy discussion on the matter. George Haldeman, 247 Van Gelder St, spoke from the floor, that he doesn't want the borough to get the five year contract maybe the three year contract to which Councilman Bowman agreed due to the current state of inflation and hardships; Larry Wittig stated that this is the lowest it will go. Amanda Woodring, 520 E. Elm St, noted that the price affects competitors for outside of county; Larry Wittig had a brief discussion on how events happen that create raises in prices. There was no one else from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation to accept the five year contract was so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Hollenbach, and approved by a 3-3 vote with Councilmen Linkhorst, Amentler and Bowman opposing and Mayor Gerace having the final vote of approval. Manager Steigerwalt also reported on the following: the sale of a small vacant lot, received a bid from Matthew and Linda Hope in the amount of \$2,105.00 and a 10% bid secure in the amount of \$210.50. The recommendation to accept bid was so ordered on motion of Linkhorst, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved. Also currently in process of getting the pool ready for the season; street maintenance worker is needed and will look outside to fill vacancy; there will be a public hearing on June 7, 2022 at 6:30 pm at the borough building to discuss the Community Development Block Grant program to which the borough is expected to receive \$124,000.00 which the funds are typically used for demolition and street repurposing, etc.; and finally Manager Steigerwalt will be reapplying for a grant for the Wabash and provided a resolution for council's consideration for a FMP Grant in the amount of \$500,000.00 for the Wabash Creek improvements:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-8**  
**BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA**  
**SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**  
**REGARDING REQUEST OF A FLOOD MITIGATION PROGRAM**  
**(FMP) GRANT**

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution requesting a Flood Mitigation Program (FMP) Grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be used for rehabilitation of multiple sections of the Wabash Creek Culvert in downtown Tamaqua and designates Brian Connely, Borough Council President,

and Kevin A. Steigerwalt, Borough Manager, as officials to execute all documents and agreements between the Borough of Tamaqua and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant in the amount of \$500,000. 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 Amentler, and approved by roll call vote with six councilmembers for adopting the resolution and one excused. Application will be submitted by end of the month.

Under Public Safety Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve a request to send Police Chief Michael Hobbs to a Pennsylvania Justice Network and Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police conference in State College, PA on June 16-17 at no cost. 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 Public Safety Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve a request to send Police Chief Michael Hobbs and Councilperson Kathy Kunkel to a Police Civil Service Procedures Training in Wilkes-Barre, PA on June 2 at a cost of \$150.00 each. 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 Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve the transfer of Ernie Shilko to the Street Maintenance/Sweeper Operator position. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered by Hollenbach, seconded by Kunkel, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve the permanent transfer of Austin Fogel to the Water Treatment Plant Work Leader position. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered by Hollenbach, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include a motion to add the hiring of Joseph Behun as a full-time Water Treatment Plant Operator at a pay rate of \$26.45 per hour. 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 hire Joseph Behun as a Water Treatment Plant Operator were so ordered on motion of Hollenbach, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include a motion to add the hiring of Nathan Hope as part-time maintenance worker 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 amend the agenda, as well as the recommendation to hire Nathan Hope as part-time maintenance worker were so ordered on motion of Hollenbach, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include a motion to add the hiring of Sean Wall and Nicole Mushock as 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 motion to amend the

agenda, as well as the recommendation to hire Sean Wall and Nicole Mushock as lifeguards were so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to hire McKenzee Coombe and Destini Denning as pool clerks at a pay rate of \$9.00 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 the Recreation and Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the filing of an application for a Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program Grant in the amount of \$250,000.00 for the Pool Development Project.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-9**  
**BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA**  
**SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**  
**AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING BOROUGH'S REQUEST AND APPLICATION**  
**FOR GREENWAYS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION PROGRAM (GTRP) GRANT**

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 adopt a resolution authorizing the filing of an application for a GTRP Grant in the amount of \$250,000.00 for the Pool Development Project were so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Kunkel, and approved by roll call vote with six councilmembers for adopting the resolution and one excused.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee Report, Councilwoman Kunkel updated the council on the South Ward Playground progress; they found their bylaws and will reorganize; would like the council to allow them to open this Saturday, everything is ready to go including the stand. Michelle Mehallic, from the floor, acknowledged the kids that worked very hard to clean up the park and brought stuff, etc, and wants the park to open up sooner than later. Councilman Bowman suggested that one of the borough workers can fence the possible hazard from broken bouncy equipment. Kathy Meorelli, from the floor, addressed council hoping that the park will be open with no conditions, locks, etc. They tried to find inside places for the kids and the Bungalow Park is also an issue. There was much discussion on the matter. A recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include a motion to reopen the South Ward Playground on May 19. 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 open the South Ward Playground on May 19 were so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Mayor Gerace wanted to remind everyone about the Memorial Day Parade on May 30 and it starts at 10 am.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

George Haldeman commented about the South Ward Playground that the list form the borough was moved through three different code officers and that the borough is responsible for

the Bungalow Park but other wards should come together and check in with each other's officers to see if they need help just to make it fair.

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

Solicitor Odorizzi updated council of the proposed ordinance; each municipality is reviewing it and the plan is to have a public meeting/hearing in July and have ESRP finalize the approval then we will be able to have an amended ordinance.

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, Councilwoman Linkevich updated council about the eight passenger train from Reading is coming in on July 21 and August 18 and requesting extra police presence.

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.

No New Business.

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

ATTEST:

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Tonia Collevichio, Borough Secretary/Treasurer