

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of May on Tuesday, May 3, 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, Brian Connely, Mary Linkevich and Ritchie Linkhorst. Excused were Councilwoman Kathy Kunkel and Councilman Jay Hollenbach Jr. Officials present were Chief of Police Michael Hobbs, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Solicitor Anthony Odorizzi and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Tonia Collevechio. Absent was Mayor Nathan Gerace.

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 five councilmembers present and two excused.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on April 19, 2022 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Bowman, second by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Tim Ziegler, Utility Clerk, submitting his letter of notice that he will no longer be serving as secretary of the Tamaqua Area Water Authority effective immediately. 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 Bowman, to accept Mr. Ziegler's notice and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Bob Schlorf, Tamaqua Fire Police Captain, asking permission to hold their annual "Rubber Duck Race on the Little Schuylkill River" fundraiser on Father's Day, Sunday, June 19, 2022 with an alternate date of June 26, 2022; also requesting to close Elm Street from Pine Street to Schuylkill Avenue on June 19th between 1pm and 4pm so they can process and release the ducks off the Elm Street Bridge to begin the race. Captain Schlorf also asked permission to use the Tamaqua Borough Front End Loader on June 19th from 1pm to 4pm on Elm Street to dump the rubber ducks over the Elm Street Bridge. 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, to grant permissions for the annual fundraiser and the use of the borough's loader as long as a borough worker is able to donate their time to operate the loader and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Ruth Ward, 530 E. Broad Street, regarding the proposed ordinance prohibiting parking on Glenwood Avenue particularly on the 400 block; Ms. Ward disapproves of the parking ordinance. There was no action from council on this matter.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the following: street sweeping program has concluded with only regular sweeping on Thursdays and Fridays; our next council meeting will be on Wednesday, May 18th at 7 pm due to the election; bids were advertised for the garbage contract with opportunity for a one, two, three, four and five year period; a bid for a private sale of parcel no. 65-15-0061.000 was also advertised; has been in contact with the CBG program and the new contact due to Karen Parrish retiring; reported on a letter from Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau regarding the private sale of 502 Rolling Mill Ave, 253 Brown St and 150 Penn St, there were no objections for the sales; has been in contact with Pocono Spray Patch Inc. and Councilman Bowman requested to stay in contact with them to make sure they complete the

project in Owl Creek; there was much discussion on the South Ward playground status and their committee; and finally Council President Connelly wanted to thank everyone for helping clean up the playground including but not limited to the following organizations: Raiders Step Up, Tamaqua Y Not, CARES, local scout troops, etc.

Under Public Safety Committee Report, a recommendation was made to hire Ryan Kennedy as a part-time police officer, effective immediately. 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 approve a request to send patrolman Karl Harig to a “Basic Homicide Investigation” course at the Hershey State Police Academy in September 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 Bowman, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Under Public Safety Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve a request to send Sergeant Thomas Rodgers to a “Less Lethal Impact Munitions Instructor” course in Walnutport on June 13th at a cost of \$275. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion by Bowman, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Under Parking and Traffic Committee Report, a recommendation to approve a handicapped parking space application for 28 East Elm Street. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion by Amentler, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Under Parking and Traffic Committee Report, a recommendation to approve an updated list of handicapped parking spaces. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion by Amentler, seconded by Linkhorst, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to hire Carl Yaccino as a full-time Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator at a pay rate of \$25.84 per hour. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered by Bowman, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to hire Lonnie Ahner as a full-time Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator at a pay rate of \$24.00 per hour. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered by Bowman, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to set the hourly pay rate for the Utility Clerk at \$20.00 per hour effective May 1st. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered by Bowman, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to set the hourly pay rate for the Secretary/Receptionist at \$21.30 per hour effective May 1st. There

was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered by Bowman, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Under the Finance, Wage and Salary Committee Report, a recommendation was made to set the hourly pay rate for part-time General Maintenance workers at \$12.50 per hour plus \$0.25 per hour for each year of service effective May 1st. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered by Bowman, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Under the Recreation and Youth Committee Report, a recommendation was made to hire Alexis Buchala, Logan Hess, Marcus Roseland and Nicholas Wall 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 recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Amentler, 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 Lara McHugh as pool clerk 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 motion to amend the agenda, as well as the recommendation to hire Lara McHugh as pool clerk were so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Bowman, and unanimously approved.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

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

No unfinished business.

Under New Business, a recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include a motion to negotiate the sale of the 1989 Caterpillar 953 Track Loader to a local municipality. 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 negotiate the sale of the Track Loader were so ordered on motion of Bowman, seconded by Amentler, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, Councilwoman Linkevich reported that she will be applying for a PA DCED Greenways Trails and Recreation Grant, the application due date is May 31st; if granted the Bungalow Project could get \$250,000.00.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:29 p.m. on motion of Bowman, seconded by Amentler, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Tonia Collevchio, Borough Secretary/Treasurer