

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its first Regular Council Meeting for the month of October on Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the 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. Absent was Council President Brian Connely. Officials present were Mayor Nathan Gerace, Chief of Police Michael Hobbs, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, Public Works Director Jay Stidham, Solicitor Anthony Odorizzi and Borough Secretary/Treasurer trainee Timothy M. Ziegler.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Bowman. The invocation was given by Councilwoman Linkevich followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Amentler. The roll was called with six council members present and one absent.

The reading of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on September 19, 2023 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Tonia Sakusky, resigning from her position as Tamaqua Borough Secretary/Treasurer with her last physical work date being Friday October 20, 2023. A recommendation was made to approve the request. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this. The recommendation was so ordered on the motion of Linkevich, seconded by Kunkel and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Austin Fogel, resigning from his position as Water Treatment Plant Operator with his last physical work date being Friday October 6, 2023. A recommendation was made to approve the request. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this. The recommendation was so ordered on the motion of Linkevich, seconded by Hollenbach and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from the Owl Creek Reservoir Commission requesting the use of borough property, and insurance, to hold a Fall Festival and Hayride on Saturday October 14, 2023, from 12:00-11:00 pm, with a rain date of Saturday October 21, 2023. The committee also requested traffic/parking control on Owl Creek Road be provided between 5 pm and 10 pm. They will need to park all vehicles to allow entrance/exit from the upper parking lot. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this. The recommendation was so ordered on the motion of Linkevich, seconded by Kunkel and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from David J Meredith Parade Chairperson from the American Legion Post No. 173 requesting permission to hold the annual Veterans Day Parade on Saturday November 11, 2023 at 10:00 am on Broad St. The event will be coordinated with Chief of Police Michael Hobbs and the Tamaqua Fire Police. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this. The recommendation was so ordered on the motion of Kunkel, seconded by Linkevich and unanimously approved.

Communication was received from Jody Kellner of Tink's Antiques requesting permission to close South Railroad Street from Cottage Avenue to the south end of the Tamaqua Public Library on December 2nd from 4-8 pm for their annual Christmas Market. A recommendation was made to grant the request. 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.

Communication was received from Sue Fulton from the US Department of Veterans affairs recognizing Tamaqua as being selected as a regional site for the 2023 Veterans Day Commemoration. No action was taken by council.

Manager Steigerwalt reported on the Heating Oil Contract bid opening results from October 16, 2023 requesting 35,000 gallons of oil as follows: One bid was received for the No. 2 Heating Oil to be delivered to various borough facilities and volunteer fire companies; the lowest bidder for the fixed price at \$3.399 per gallon was Fegley Oil Company of Tamaqua, PA and the lowest bidder for the floating price at \$0.10 per gallon was Fegley Oil Company of Tamaqua, PA. There was some discussion about this matter. A recommendation was made to award the contract for No. 2 Heating Oil to Fegley Oil Company of Tamaqua, PA at the fixed price of \$3.399 per gallon with an effective date of November 1, 2023 to October 31, 2024. 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, and unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-11

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA, REVISING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

A recommendation was made to adopt the foregoing resolution revising the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) previously allocated to the South Ward Playground improvements to the demolition project at 423 Willing St. in the amount of \$18,491.00. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation to adopt the resolution was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Kunkel, unanimously approved in a roll call vote.

Manager Steigerwalt reported that additional funding will be received from the US Department of Justice and Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC). The original amount of the grant was \$150,000.00 and LISC agreed to increase the amount by another \$50,000.00 totaling \$200,000.00. The additional funding will be used for police software updates, non-expendable program supplies and also social media outreach campaigns. 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, and unanimously approved to accept the additional funds.

Under the Public Safety Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve a request to send Chief Michael Hobbs to Command Leadership Institute training in Wilkes-Barre, PA on January 15-19, 2024 at a cost of \$795.00. 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.

Under the Parking & Traffic Committee Report, a motion was made to approve a handicapped parking space application for 235 Lafayette 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 235 Lafayette Street was so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Under the Parking and Traffic Committee report, a recommendation was made to approve an agreement with Municipal Parking Services Inc, to install five Safety Stick automated parking enforcement devices pending the review of the borough solicitor. 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.

Under the Parking & Traffic Committee, a recommendation was made to amend the agenda to include a motion to close down the triangle between Pine st and Railroad st on October 22, 2023 to have a send off party for Thorn Devlin to attend a international bike racing competition. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Linkevich, and unanimously approved.

Under Neighborhoods, Downtown & Historic District Committee Report, a recommendation was made to approve certificates of appropriateness to add two business signs on the building at 300 Lafayette st, also one sign to 46 Mauch Chunk st. and to replace a window at 204 W. Cottage Ave. 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.

Mayor Gerace reminded council that the Halloween parade would be held on October 24 with a rain date of October 27 and that towing cars will begin at 6:00 pm. Mayor Gerace also reminded council that Trick or Treat in the Tamaqua Borough would be held October 28, 2023 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Mark Bower of 213 Spruce Street expressed concerns about debris running down High Street and said it continues to get worse. There was some discussion regarding this, and Jay Stidham stated he will have the street crew investigate this. Mr Bower also asked about the defective streetlights and inquired as to when the rest will be in place. The remaining defective lights will be repaired as the new ones come in from the vendor.

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

A recommendation was made to accept and file the various reports of 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 Linkevich, 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 approved by a 5-0-1 vote with Councilman Hollenbach abstaining from the approval of voucher #49331 and voucher #49332 .

Under New Business, a recommendation was made to hire Timothy M. Ziegler as Borough Secretary/Treasurer Trainee at a rate of \$24.10 effective October 18, 2023 on a six month probationary period. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

Under New Business, a recommendation was made to hire Lori Patrick as Billing Utility Clerk at a rate of \$17.88 effective October 18, 2023 on a six month probationary period. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Kunkel, seconded by Hollenbach, and unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m. on motion of Linkevich, seconded by Kunkel, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Timothy M Ziegler, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Trainee