

**BOROUGH OF STOCKTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
APPROVED: 10/12/15**

**REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2015**

A Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton was called to order by Mayor Timothy Nemeth at 7:01 pm on August 10, 2015. The following members of the Borough Council were present: Mr. Tony Grecco, Mr. Adam Juncosa, Mr. Aaron Lipsen, Mr. Nic Messina and Mr. Donald Vandegrift. Mrs. Kate Steffanelli was absent. Borough Attorney Michael Butler and Borough Administrator/Clerk Michele Hovan also present. There was one member of the public present.

Mayor Nemeth read the “Sunshine Statement” indicating the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act and led the flag salute. Mayor Nemeth opened the meeting to the public. There being no questions or comments, the meeting was closed to the public on motion by Mr. Juncosa, seconded Mr. Lipsen and carried.

Presentation – Preservation of Block 2, Lot 10 – Abandoned Graveyard

Mr. David Redding of the Mt. Amwell Project, a 501c3 organization, said that his group is interested in preserving historic sites, one of them having been identified as Block 2, Lot 10 in Stockton between Woolverton and Worman Roads. Mr. Redding said that statute allows towns to acquire abandoned sites and that the deed search turned up no owner. Mr. Redding said the oldest tombstone in the graveyard was from 1732 and that many were of the same era. Mr. Redding said that if the Borough would acquire the site, the group would maintain it and help to preserve it. Mr. Grecco said that it was a lawsuit waiting to happen if the Borough owned it. General discussion followed and Mr. Messina said he would talk to the NJ Conservation Foundation to see if they would be interested in ownership. Mr. Butler said that he would research the issue and asked Mr. Redding to send some additional information to him. Mr. Grecco asked how much would be spent in attorney’s fees for the project. Mayor Nemeth thanked Mr. Redding for his time and said that Council would investigate its options.

Mr. Grecco asked Mr. Butler about the status of the letter about the Mill Street inlets. Mr. Butler said that he is hoping for a response. Mr. Grecco said that the work is not up to spec; that he saw the spec and saw the work and it isn’t right. Mr. Vandegrift said that the Borough Engineer did not specifically state that the work was not up to spec. Mr. Lipsen said that if the Borough Engineer needs to certify that the work was inferior there is time to do that.

Ordinance No. 15-07 – First Reading – Water Capital Ordinance – Utility Improvements

“CAPITAL ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF NEW OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS FOR USE BY THE STOCKTON BOROUGH WATER UTILITY, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, AND THE EXPENDITURE OF \$10,000.00 FROM THE WATER UTILITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE FINANCING THEREOF”

Ms. Hovan explained that the ordinance and the subsequent ordinance for the sewer utility would fund major repairs to the water and sewer infrastructure. Ms. Hovan said that the age of the

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systems are showing - main breaks, leaks, etc. – and that funding from the capital improvement funds have historically been utilized for these projects. Ms. Hovan said that the last round of capital appropriation for the systems was over three years ago.

Mayor Nemeth opened the meeting to the public. There being no questions or comments the meeting was closed to the public on motion by Mr. Messina, seconded by Mr. Lipsen and carried.

Resolution No. 2015-62, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office and to adopt Ordinance No. 15-07, was adopted on motion by Mr. Vandegrift, seconded by Mr. Messina and carried.

Roll Call: Ayes: Grecco, Juncosa, Lipsen, Messina, Vandegrift
 Nays: None
 Absent: Steffanelli
 Abstain: None

Ordinance No. 15-08 – First Reading – Sewer Capital Ordinance – Utility Improvements
“CAPITAL ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF NEW OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS FOR USE BY THE STOCKTON BOROUGH SEWER UTILITY, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, AND THE EXPENDITURE OF \$10,000.00 FROM THE SEWER UTILITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE FINANCING THEREOF”

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance No. 15-08 by title. Mayor Nemeth opened the meeting to the public. There being no questions or comments, the meeting was closed to the public on motion by Mr. Messian, seconded by Mr. Juncosa and carried.

Resolution No. 2015-63, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office and to adopt Ordinance No. 15-08, was adopted on motion by Mr. Juncosa, seconded by Mr. Vandegrift and carried.

Roll Call: Ayes: Grecco, Juncosa, Lipsen, Messina, Vandegrift
 Nays: None
 Absent: Steffanelli
 Abstain: None

Resolutions Liquor License Renewal – Stockton Inn
Resolution No. 2015-64, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office, was adopted on motion by Mr. Messina, seconded by Mr. Lipsen and carried.

Roll Call: Ayes: Grecco, Juncosa, Lipsen, Messina, Vandegrift
 Nays: None
 Absent: Steffanelli
 Abstain: None

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Claims for Payment – The Claims for Payment, as attached, were approved on motion by Mr. Vandegrift, seconded by Mr. Lipsen and carried.

Roll Call: Ayes: Grecco, Juncosa, Lipsen, Messina, Vandegrift
 Nays: None
 Absent: Steffanelli
 Abstain: None

Council Liaison Reports – Mr. Grecco said that the State should repair the handicap crosswalk in front of the Stockton Inn but did not believe the Borough should pay its Engineer to contact them. A short discussion followed about the specs and the uniformity of highway improvements. Mr. Lipsen asked if further thought has been given to a permanent dedication to Neal Esposito and said that ideas discussed were a bench with a briefcase either in front of Borough Hall or in the park. Mr. Grecco said that he did not think the Borough should pay but that funds could be donated. Mr. Lipsen said that he had contacted the Borough Planner and hoped to convene a meeting with the park committee to discuss Green Acres processes and a planning document. Mr. Lipsen said that the work on the gardens was done but that continued maintenance was required. A discussion followed regarding the Canal Commissions' property and if the Borough should even be maintaining the gardens. Mr. Grecco suggested the landscaper from the farmer's market be contacted to see if he would donate services. Mr. Lipsen said he would contact the Canal Commission. Mr. Lipsen reported that he filed a report with the NJ State Police for the broken glass incident in the playground and that he referred the tree quotes to the water and sewer department for the tree on Broad.

Mayor Nemeth announced the next meeting would be held on October 12, 2015. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm on motion by Mr. Vandegrift, seconded by Mr. Messina and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Hovan, RMC
Borough Clerk