

**BOROUGH OF STOCKTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
APPROVED: 5/8/17**

**REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 10, 2017**

A Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton was called to order by Mayor Timothy Nemeth at 7:05 pm on April 10, 2017. 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.

The following members of the Borough Council were present: Mr. Tony Grecco, Mr. Adam Juncosa, Mr. Aaron Lipsen, Mrs. Kate Steffanelli. Mr. Nic Messina and Mr. Don Vandegrift were absent. Deputy Borough Clerk Donna Griffiths and Chief Financial Officer Diane McDaniel were also present. There were four members of the public present.

Mayor Nemeth opened the meeting to the public for comments:

Kerry Kirk Pflugh, Director of the Office of Local Government Assistance, Dept. of Environmental Protection, appeared before Council. Ms. Pflugh related that she is visiting Mayors and governing bodies as an advocate for any assistance needed in dealing with environmental issues. This would include development, redevelopment, or clean-up projects as well as assistance with possible funding for projects. Mr. Lipsen related the Borough is in the process of redeveloping the Stockton Borough Park. Ms. Pflugh offered to review the Borough's concept plan for the Park as it may relate to possible Green Acres Funding. In regard to the work being done on the canal bank, Ms. Pflugh related that while we are working collaboratively with the Parks System she would be willing to take a look at that project as well.

Steve Grabowski, Stockton Market, 19 Bridge St., provided an overview of a prior condition of approval he was granted from the planning board as it relates to parking requirements at the Stockton Market. Mr. Grabowski has a lease agreement for parking with the Stockton Fire Department which was a condition of his approval. He would like to terminate the lease with the Fire Department since his vendors are not taking advantage of the parking also noting the financial burden associated with the agreement. Mr. Grabowski related that he attended a Planning Board meeting last week and was directed to address his concern with Council. Mr. Grabowski was informed that any change to the conditions of approval would need to be addressed by the Planning Board. He advised that he would return to the Board and seek a waiver to the condition. Concern was expressed by Mr. Lipsen as to the amount of vendors parking in the Borough Park causing overflow onto the grass.

Chief Rick Hendricks of the Stockton Fire Company appeared before Council. Chief Hendricks wanted to confirm that Council was in receipt of the Stockton Fire Company budget, and requested that any questions be directed to him. It was confirmed that the budget was received, and there were no questions at this time.

Motion was made by Mr. Lipsen with a second by Mr. Juncosa to close the meeting to the public. Motion carried on voice vote – all ayes.

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Ordinance No. 17-02 – Acquisition of Property – Howell Graveyard – Block 2 Lot 10 – Second Reading/Public Hearing / Resolution No. 2017-38

Mayor Nemeth read the ordinance by title. Public hearing was opened. Hearing no comments or questions, motion to close the public hearing was set forth by Mr. Juncosa with a second by Mr. Grecco. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 17-02 and Resolution No. 2017-38 was made by Mr. Juncosa with a second by Ms. Steffanelli. Roll call: Mr. Grecco-aye, Mr. Juncosa –aye, Mr. Lipsen-aye, Ms. Steffanelli-aye. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 17-03 – Capital Ordinance – Water Utility – Second Reading/Public Hearing/Resolution No. 2017-39

Mayor Nemeth read the ordinance by title. Public hearing was opened. In response to questioning by Council, CFO McDaniel advised that this ordinance will cover costs related to repair work for a leak on Rt. 29 as well as repair to the pump house. Hearing no comments or questions, motion to close the public hearing was set forth by Mr. Grecco with a second by Mr. Juncosa. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 17-03 and Resolution No. 2017-39 was made by Mr. Lipsen with a second by Mr. Juncosa. Roll call: Mr. Grecco-aye, Mr. Juncosa –aye, Mr. Lipsen-aye, Ms. Steffanelli-aye. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 17-04 – Exceed Cap Limits/Cap Bank – First Reading/Resolution No. 2017-40/Introduction of Ordinance No. 17-04

Mayor Nemeth read the ordinance by title. CFO Diane McDaniel summarized the intent of the ordinance which is adopted every year in order to exceed our cap bank.

Motion was made by Mr. Juncosa with a second by Mr. Lipsen for the adoption of Resolution No. 2017-40 for the Introduction of Ordinance No. 17-04. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. Public hearing scheduled for May 8, 2017, at 8:00 PM.

Ordinance No. 17-05 – Water Rates – First Reading/Resolution No. 2017-41/Introduction of Ordinance No. 17-05

Mayor Nemeth read the ordinance by title. CFO McDaniel related that this ordinance allows for a 2% increase in the water billing. The last increase was two years ago, and it has been determined that an annual, alternating increase between the sewer and water utility funds is necessary in order to keep up with the basic cost increases. Motion was made by Mr. Grecco with a second by Mr. Juncosa for the adoption of Resolution No. 2017-41 for the Introduction of

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Ordinance No. 17-05. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. Public hearing scheduled for May 8, 2017 at 7:00PM.

Resolutions – the following resolutions, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office, were adopted as follows:

2017-42	Temporary Budget Emergency Appropriation
2017-43	2017 Lawn Maintenance – Award to Sowsian's Landscapes, Hopewell NJ
2017-44	2017 Salaries

Quotes for Lawn Maintenance for 2017 were received as follows:

Tony Szwed Inc., Stockton NJ - \$689.00/cut
Sowsian's Landscapes, Hopewell NJ - \$650.00/cut

It was noted that there was no increase in the price offered for services for 2017 by Sowsian's Landscapes. Members of Council expressed their satisfaction with the reliability and dependability of Sowsian's Landscapes. Suggestion was made for the consideration of procuring a two-three contract for this service going forward.

Motion was made by Mr. Juncosa with a second by Mr. Grecco to approve the resolutions as presented to include award of the 2017 Lawn Maintenance contract to Sowsian's Landscapes. Motion carried on voice vote – all in favor.

Introduction of 2017 Municipal Budget/Resolution No. 2017-45 – Introduction of Budget

CFO McDaniel provided an overview of the budget presented noting a .02 tax increase for 2017. This increase would equate to a \$60.00/year or \$15.00/quarter increase per household.

Ms. McDaniel noted there is not much wiggle room in the budget and related the impact of the following on the budget: emergency appropriations that were allocated for Worman Road repairs resulting in a reduction to the capital improvement fund, increased financial assistance to the Stockton Fire Department and the Rescue Squad, and a slight decrease in tax ratables. In response to questioning by Ms. Steffanelli, CFO McDaniel advised she will explore options for refinancing our debt service, noting, however, that there are specific rules and regulations pertaining to the refinancing of same.

Motion was made by Mr. Grecco with a second by Mr. Juncosa for the adoption of Resolution No. 2017-45/Introduction of Budget. Roll call: Mr. Grecco-aye, Mr. Juncosa-aye, Mr. Lipsen-aye, Ms. Steffanelli-aye. Motion carried. Public hearing is scheduled for May 8, 2017 at 7:00PM.

Claims for Payment – On motion by Mr. Juncosa, seconded by Ms. Steffanelli and carried, the claims for payment were approved; all in favor.

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Discussion – Amendment to Ordinance No. 17-01 – No Smoking in Stockton Park – Request to Add Vaping to Prohibitions

Mayor Nemeth related that request has been received from Hunterdon Prevention Resources for the amendment of our ordinance to include “no vaping” to the prohibitions. Hunterdon Prevention Resources and Hunterdon Medical Center will be providing signs to the Borough which will include this additional prohibition. All were in agreement to add the amended ordinance to the May 8, 2017, meeting agenda for action.

Meeting Open to the Public – Hearing no comments or questions, motion to close the meeting to the public was set forth by Mr. Juncosa with a second by Mr. Lipsen. Motion carried – all ayes.

Mayor’s Report – no report at this time.

Council Liaison Reports

Ms. Steffanelli advised that Brett Ledger will take a look at the Borough’s needs for new flooring for the first floor. Mr. Lipsen advised that Sowsian’s Landscape provided an estimate of \$800.00 for mulching and planting flowers for the four garden areas on Bridge St. It was the consensus that other options should be explored. Deputy Clerk Griffiths will follow up on a complaint received via Mr. Juncosa of lights out on Bridge St. Deputy Clerk Griffiths will follow up on a request from Mr. Grecco for the purchase of six, stop sign overlays. Mr. Grecco advised that Sowsian’s Landscape will be power raking and putting stone down on the ROW to the park as discussed at the last meeting. A purchase order will be generated for an amount not to exceed \$600.00.

Executive Session Resolution 2017-46 – 8:05PM

Motion was made by Mr. Juncosa with a second by Ms. Steffanelli to approve Resolution No. 2017-46 to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussion of the following: Animal Control Services. Motion carried on voice vote – all ayes.

Motion to return to open session was made by Mr. Grecco with a second by Mr. Juncosa. Motion carried on voice vote – all ayes. Matter to remain in executive session. (8:12PM).

Next Meeting

Mayor Nemeth announced the next Council meeting will be held on May 8, 2017, at 7:00PM.

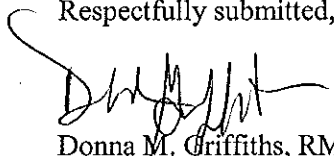
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Motion to adjourn at 8:12PM was made by Mr. Grecco with a second by Mr. Lipsen. Motion carried on voice vote – all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna M. Griffiths, RMC
Deputy Borough Clerk