

**BOROUGH OF STOCKTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
APPROVED: 4/11/16**

**REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 14, 2016**

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 March 14, 2016. 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. Donald Vandegrift arrived at 7:08PM (after roll call). Mr. Nic Messina was absent. Borough Attorney Michael Butler, Deputy Borough Clerk Donna Griffiths, and Borough Engineer Dennis O’Neal were also present. There were no members of the public present.

Mayor Nemeth opened the meeting to the public for comments. There being no members of the public present, 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 aye.

Discussion – Worman Road Repairs/Resolution No. 2016-34 – Emergency Appropriation - Worman Road Repairs

Engineer O’Neal apprised Mayor and Council of the partial collapse of the embankment as well as a 4 ft. x 10 ft. portion of roadway on Worman Rd. He related that Delaware Township has put up a temporary barricade for safety purposes. Engineer O’Neal has been in contact with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to obtain an emergency permit for an emergency repair, and a contractor was scheduled to start the emergency repair tomorrow. He contacted the Delaware River Canal Commission Executive Director who related that the issue is not within their jurisdiction. However, Hunterdon County, Green Acres, NJ Water Supply, and the New Jersey Conservation Foundation (NJCF) all have easements/interest over the area in question. The NJCF has advised not to do the repair as of yet as they would like to look at it and get back to us. Feedback from the other involved entities will also be needed so the repair project is now on hold as directed by the NJCF.

Engineer O’Neal provided an overview of the area in question, cause of the erosion, and means by which it will be repaired. He advised that a Gabian basket cage will be used for the temporary repair, which could also possibly serve as a permanent fix. It was suggested that dirt be placed over the cage to make it more aesthetically pleasing. Councilman Grecco related that he has been in contact with Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli and was advised that the Borough should seek relief via the NJDOT Municipal Local Aid Grant Program to help with the costs of the repair. Assemblyman Ciattarelli also suggested that perhaps the County could assist the Borough with personnel and/or financial resources. Engineer O’Neal also suggested that the Borough could apply for aid via the Discretionary Aid Program after the work has been completed.

Resolution No. 2016-34 authorizing an emergency appropriation of \$20,000.00 for the Worman Road repairs was presented for approval. Motion was made by Mr. Lipsen with a second by

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Mr. Juncosa to approve the resolution. Roll call: Mr. Grecco-aye, Mr. Juncosa-aye, Mr. Lipsen-aye, Mrs. Steffanelli-aye, Mr. Vandegrift-aye. Motion carried.

Discussion - Hilltop Drive

Engineer O'Neal advised that it would cost approximately \$57,000 (construction costs only) to improve Hilltop Drive from Broad Street to the driveway at the tank. He recommended improvements to the road only noting that changes to the drainage would have an adverse impact on the properties of the residents in that area. Engineer O'Neal related that the New Jersey State Police and Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission are in the process of rebuilding a communications site on Hilltop Drive and have been working with our zoning officer on the project. There has been ongoing discussion with these entities regarding the need for the improvements to the road and their willingness to assist with funding of the repairs. In light of these discussions, Engineer O'Neal suggested that the Borough fill the pot holes for now. Councilman Grecco will solicit quotes for the pot hole repairs. He will also take a look to see if pot hole repairs are needed on any other streets. Councilman Lipsen recommended that the playground pot holes be addressed.

Minutes - February 8, 2016 - Motion by Mr. Lipsen seconded by Mr. Juncosa to approve the minutes contingent upon correction to the following: Page 3 – Discussion – Animal Control Services – change from “Mr. Lipsen asked if animal control officer could attend a future meeting to discuss the role” to “Mr. Grecco asked...”. Motion carried on voice vote – all in favor; Mrs. Steffanelli abstaining.

Discussion ensued regarding the need for Mr. Davis to attend the Council meeting to discuss his role as previously requested. Councilman Vandegrift also requested that Mr. Davis provide written documentation detailing his scope of duties.

Ordinance No. 16-01 – Cable Franchise Renewal – Second Reading/Public Hearing

Attorney Butler advised that the ordinance is currently under review by the Board of Public Utilities so the public hearing will need to be carried. Motion was made by Mr. Lipsen with a second by Mrs. Steffanelli to carry the public hearing to April 11, 2016, at 7:00PM. Motion carried on voice vote – all in favor.

Ordinance No. 16-02 – Delegation of Authority to Approve the Issuance of Raffle Licenses

Motion was made by Mrs. Steffanelli with a second by Mr. Lipsen to approve Resolution 2016-35 – Introduction of Ordinance No. 16-02. Motion carried on voice vote – all in favor. Public hearing scheduled for April 11, 2016, at 7:00 PM.

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

- 2016-36 Homestead Rebate Refund – Block 7.02 Lot 3
- 2016-37 Temporary Budget Emergency Appropriation
- 2016-38 OEM Coordinator

Motion by Mr. Juncosa with a second by Mr. Grecco to approve the resolutions as presented.
Motion carried on voice vote – all in favor.

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

Update – Preservation of Block 2 Lot 10 – Abandoned Graveyard

Attorney Butler advised that a title search has been ordered as directed. He should have the results back within a week or so, and will send an email to Council with the findings as requested.

Council Liaison Reports

Councilman Grecco requested authorization to purchase 4-6 posts/hardware for street signs and approximately six stop sign reflective stickers for a total cost of approximately \$125.00. Mr. Grecco will obtain a quote for these materials and provide same to Administrator/Clerk Hovan for approval and processing. Discussion ensued regarding the bench being purchased for the late Councilman Esposito, specifically, the material that it should be comprised of and where it should be placed. Mayor Nemeth will obtain some catalogues to explore the material options. It was suggested that the bench be placed on Bridge Street, possibly by the market, or in the gardens. Councilman Lipsen will evaluate the suggested sites.

Discussion ensued regarding the trash receptacles outside of Borough Hall belonging to the neighboring property owner/restaurant. Deputy Clerk Griffiths will contact the restaurant owner and request once again that the trash/recycling bins be removed promptly after trash pickup, cleaned, and stored away from the Borough Hall.

Councilman Vandegrift advised that a quote has been obtained for the blinds for the Council meeting room. He has been advised that funds for the blinds will be allocated in the 2016 budget. The blinds may be purchased once the budget is approved.

Councilman Lipsen advised that confirmation has been received by the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission that the gardens on Bridge St. are not within their jurisdiction. Mr. Lipsen and Mr. Grecco will take a look at the gardens to evaluate if the memorial bench can be placed there, and Mr. Lipsen will explore planting options for the area. Councilman Lipsen related that he spoke to Jim Gallagher regarding the condition of the baseball fields and it was agreed that

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work should be done on the fields to prepare them for use for next year. Discussion ensued as to whether a temporary, basketball backboard should be purchased to replace one that is currently at the park but no longer usable. Mayor Nemeth suggested that perhaps another one would be donated to replace the existing one which was donated.

Mayor Nemeth announced the next meeting would be held on April 11, 2016, at 7:00PM. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm on motion by Mr. Juncosa, seconded by Mr. Grecco and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Griffiths, RMC
Deputy Borough Clerk