

**BOROUGH OF STOCKTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
APPROVED: 7/11/16**

**REGULAR MEETING
MAY 9, 2016**

A Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton was called to order by Mayor Timothy Nemeth at 7:04 pm on May 9, 2016. The following members of the Borough Council were present: Mr. Anthony Grecco, Mr. Adam Juncosa, Mr. Aaron Lipsen, Mr. Nic Messina, Mrs. Kate Steffanelli and Mr. Donald Vandegrift. Mrs. Kate Steffanelli was absent. Borough Administrator/Clerk Michele Hovan, Chief Financial Officer Diane McDaniel and Borough Attorney Michael Butler were also present. There were two members 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. Mr. Norm Torkelson reported that he obtained a copy of the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic Management Committee bylaws and forwarded a copy to Ms. Hovan. Mr. Torkelson spoke of ongoing efforts by the group to oppose the Penn East pipeline. Discussion on the proposed pipeline prompted Mr. Messina to distribute a draft resolution that he had planned to discuss later in the meeting. Mr. Messina spoke of the downstream effects that the pipeline could have for Stockton and its water supply. After some additional discussion, Mr. Grecco said that he wanted to learn more about the pipeline project and hear both sides adding that he would like a Penn East representative to speak to the Borough Council. Mr. Lipsen said that he was interested in the impact on the watershed. Mr. Messina said that numerous public meetings on the project have been held, most in the areas with the heaviest impact, such as Delaware and Hopewell Townships. Mr. Messina offered to provide more information so that the discussion could continue next month.

Mr. Charles Soriero, Woolverton Road, said that the Planning Board chair Tom Manning asked him to attend the meeting to ask about the status of the Stockton Market parking agreement with the firehouse. Ms. Hovan said that she was awaiting formal notification from the fire company so that she could provide it to the zoning officer. Mr. Grecco said he would draft a letter. Mr. Grecco also said that he was taking pictures of vehicles parked at the park and that he would like an ordinance restricting parking at the park to recreational purposes only. Mr. Butler guided a brief discussion ensued regarding enforcement and the inability to restrict access to only some at a public park. There being no additional discussion, the meeting was closed to the public on motion by Mr. Vandegrift, seconded by Mr. Messina and carried.

Minutes - the Minutes of the April 11, 2016 Regular Meeting were approved on motion by Mr. Messina, seconded by Mr. Lipsen and carried, with Mr. Grecco abstaining due to his absence.

Ordinance No. 16-01 – Cable Franchise Renewal – Second Reading/Public Hearing
Ms. Hovan read Ordinance No. 16-01 by title and explained that the BPU review of the ordinance was still pending and that the public hearing would be carried until June 13, 2016.

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Ordinance No. 16-03 – Exceed the 2016 Municipal Budget Appropriations Limit and to Establish a Cap Bank – Second Reading/Public Hearing

“ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE 2016 MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK”

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance No. 16-03 by title and explained that the ordinance enables the Borough to adjust the cost of living cap. Mayor Nemeth opened the meeting to the public. There being no comments or questions the meeting was closed to the public on motion by Mr. Vandegrift, seconded by Mr. Messina and carried.

Resolution No. 2016-45, as filed in the Borough Clerk’s office and to adopt Ordinance No. 16-03, was adopted on motion by Mr. Lipsen, seconded by Mr. Juncosa and carried.

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

Ordinance No. 16-04 – Minimum/Maximum Salaries -First Reading

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR AND DETERMINE A SCHEDULE OF MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM SALARIES FOR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance No. 16-04 by title and explained that the provides minimum and maximum salary ranges. Mayor Nemeth opened the meeting to the public. There being no comments or questions the meeting was closed to the public on motion by Mr. Juncosa, seconded by Mr. Vandegrift and carried.

Resolution No. 2016-46, as filed in the Borough Clerk’s office and to adopt Ordinance No. 16-03, was adopted on motion by Mr. Juncosa, seconded by Mr. Messina and carried.

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

Ordinance No. 16-05 – Capital – Permitting for Worman Road Stabilization – First Reading

“CAPITAL ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE SECTION 20 EXPENSES, INCLUDING ENGINEERING COSTS, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE STABILIZATION OF WORMAN ROAD AND ASSOCIATED PERMITTING COSTS AS REQUIRED BY THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, AND THE EXPENDITURE OF \$20,000.00 FROM THE CAPITAL FUND BALANCE FOR THE FINANCING THEREOF”

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Ms. Hovan read Ordinance No. 16-05 by title and explained that the ordinance would provide funding to secure the requisite NJDEP permits necessary for the Worman Road stabilization work. Resolution No. 2016-47, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office and to introduce Ordinance No.16-05, was adopted on motion by Mr. Lipsen, seconded by Mr. Messina, and carried.

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

Ordinance No. 16-06 – Capital – Park Improvements

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

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance No. 16-06 by title and explained that the ordinance provides some requested funding for park priorities for projects of a capital nature. Resolution No. 2016-48, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office and to introduce Ordinance No.16-06, was adopted on motion by Mr. Vandegrift, seconded by Mr. Juncosa, and carried.

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

Ordinance No. 16-07 – Capital – Open Space and Recreation Plan -First Reading

“CAPITAL ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE PLANNING, ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES, ALSO KNOWN AS SECTION 20 EXPENSES, IN CONJUNCTION THE PREPARATION OF AN OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, AND THE EXPENDITURE OF \$8,500.00 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE FINANCING THEREOF”

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance No. 16-07 by title and explained that the ordinance provides funding for the open space plan work with the planner. Resolution No. 2016-49, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office and to introduce Ordinance No.16-06, was adopted on motion by Mr. Grecco, seconded by Mr. Vandegrift, and carried.

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

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Adoption of 2016 Municipal Budget

Ms. Hovan and Ms. McDaniel summarized the highlights of the 2016 Municipal Budget, noting in particular the modest increase of \$.013 increase in the municipal rate, translated to a \$23.14 annual increase for a home assessed at \$185,000. 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. Vandegrift, seconded by Mr. Messina and carried.

Amendment to 2016 Municipal Budget. Ms. Hovan explained that State review prompted some minor cap adjustments. Resolution No. 2016-50, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office, was adopted on motion by Mr. Messina, seconded by Mr. Vandegrift and carried.

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

Adoption of 2016 Municipal Budget - Resolution No. 2016-51, 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

Resolution(s) – the following resolution, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office, was adopted on motion by Mr. Juncosa, seconded by Mr. Grecco and carried.

2016-52 2016 Salaries

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

Claims for Payment – on motion by Mr. Juncosa, seconded by Mr. Vandegrift and carried, the claims for payment were approved.

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

Mayor's Report – Mayor Nemeth reported that the issue of closing the Stockton School arose again, with the school officials citing low enrollment as the leading factor. Mayor Nemeth said that insufficient information has been distributed to the community and that there was no dialogue with the residents although there were rumors about a choice/charter school assuming the Stockton facility. Mr. Grecco said that closing the school was the fear that many had regarding regionalization. Mr. Vandegrift said that he spoke to Board member Jim Gallagher and that he

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did not feel he had been given all of the information. Considerable dialogue ensued and Mayor Nemeth said he hoped that Mr. Gallagher might speak to the Council at an upcoming meeting. On another matter, Mayor Nemeth said that the woman who tended the gardens in the past might again be interested in the work. Mr. Lipsen said that he would contact her.

Council Liaison Reports – Mr. Grecco said that he put a STOP sign up at Ferry Street and that he removed the in-street pedestrian signs on Bridge Street because they get hit too often. In response to a question raised by Mayor Nemeth, Mr. Grecco said he would speak to the owners of the Stockton Deli about crack sealing in front of the store.

Mr. Lipsen said he was concerned that the tarps were still on the canal bank and Mayor Nemeth said he would follow up with the water authority. Mr. Grecco said that he spoke to John Shelsea regarding a 5 ton truck limit and requested signage for Rt. 29 south of Bridge Street. Mr. Lipsen said that he and Mr. Vandegrift met with Rutger's Landscaping and Mr. Grecco said that Sweet Valley Farms is giving an estimate for a firehouse memorial, that maybe they could be contacted as well.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm on motion by Mr. Messina, seconded by Mr. Vandegrift and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Hovan, RMC
Borough Clerk