

**BOROUGH OF STOCKTON  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
APPROVED: 11/14/16**

**REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 10, 2016**

A Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton was called to order by Mayor Timothy J. Nemeth at 7:11 pm on October 10, 2016. The following members of the Borough Council were present: Mr. Adam Juncosa, Mr. Aaron Lipsen, Mr. Nic Messina, Mrs. Kate Steffanelli and Mr. Donald Vandegrift. Mr. Anthony Grecco was absent. Borough Administrator/Clerk Michele Hovan and Borough Attorney Michael Butler were also present. There were four 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. Anticipating that the persons present wanted to discuss the Stockton School, Mayor Nemeth referred to a letter prepared by Stockton school board representative Jim Gallagher that provided historical information on the Stockton School and urged Council to request that the South Hunterdon Regional School Board revisit the Stockton Borough School's future in their facilities plan options. Mayor Nemeth said that the primary issue was that the CHOICE program is not being pursued, resulting in lowered attendance and that the decisions being made by the school board were not considering Stockton residents' input. Mr. Gallagher by way of letter, and Mayor Nemeth, suggested that the school board conduct public outreach into the Stockton community prior to reaching any conclusions. Ms. Sarah Bisaro, 13 South Main Street, said that post-regionalization, Stockton Borough School lost teachers and its principal and that the early grades are being directed to West Amwell, leaving no feeder grades to maintain enrollments. Ms. Bisaro said that just 24 students attend Stockton Borough School now and that out of the ten original options that the school board was considering, just three were left and none of them included Stockton Borough School remaining open. Ms. Bisaro said that the closure of the school could affect property values and the quality of life for Stockton residents. Mr. Dave Pasternik, of Church Street, said he was a former member of the Board and that his wife was on the PTO. Mr. Pasternik asserted that the study was flawed; and that the decreased enrollment was due to the CHOICE program being ignored; that it's been in decline since Suzanne Ivans left and that they've abolished pre-K at the school. Mr. Pasternik noted that the school was on the historic registers and that over \$300k had been secured in grants from the NJ Historic Trust to renovate the school. Mr. Pasternik cited ratings and comparisons with Princeton charter school and said that the superintendent was "killing one of the state's most high performing schools." Mr. Vandegrift inquired if Stockton parents were happy about sending their kids to West Amwell and asked who has the authority to make decisions regarding the CHOICE program. Mr. Pasternik said that there is a 20-mile radius from which students can enroll by CHOICE and that the decision was being made by the superintendent. Ms. Marie Passalacqua, 11 Woolerton Road asked if there was a long term vision for the school as she has a vested interest in it because of her child and she considers Stockton School a "hidden jewel" of the community. In response to a question raised by Mr. Vandegrift, Mrs. Steffanelli said that there was social media presence via the "Friends of Stockton School" Facebook page. Ms. Karen Edwards, 17 Risler Street, said she realized that Council could not make these decisions for the school but asked that it get involved prior to the school board's next meeting. Mayor Nemeth said that the PTO was distributing flyers regarding the issue. Mrs. Steffanelli said that her children attend West Amwell and that the after-care program is a big plus for her family. Mayor Nemeth said

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that the Stockton residents were promised a voice in the future of Stockton School during the regionalization talks. Discussion continued. On motion by Mr. Juncosa, seconded by Mr. Vandegrift and carried, the Stockton Borough Council adopted a resolution, to be known as Resolution No. 2016-76, requesting that the South Hunterdon Regional School Board provide Stockton residents with a public forum to express their opinions and concerns regarding the future of the Stockton Borough School, and that they relay their objectives regarding the CHOICE program.

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

Mrs. Steffanelli added that there was an issue with the Crossing Guard and the flashing light and Mayor Nemeth said he was in contact with school officials and that the issue was being resolved. There being no further questions or comments the meeting was closed to the public on motion by Mrs. Steffanelli seconded by Mr. Juncosa and carried.

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

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance No. 16-01 by title and explained that there has been communication with Comcast regarding the BPU review and that it is anticipated that the public hearing on the ordinance could be held next month if the issues were resolved. On motion by Mr. Juncosa and seconded by Mr. Lipsen and carried, the public hearing was carried to the November 14, 2016 meeting..

Ordinance No. 16-08 – Bond – Glenwood Avenue Improvements – First Reading  
(Re-introduction)

“BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF GLENWOOD LANE, APPROPRIATING \$300,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$300,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COSTS THEREOF, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY”

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance No. 16-08 by title and explained that it funds the Glenwood Avenue Road Improvements Project. 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. 2016-70, as filed in the Borough Clerk’s office and to adopt Ordinance No. 16-08 was adopted on motion by Mr. Juncosa, seconded by Mr. Vandegrift and carried unanimously.

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

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Ordinance No. 16-09 – Bond – Pump Station Emergency Repairs/Second Reading/Public Hearing  
“BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR SEWER PUMP STATION/EMERGENCY REPAIR, APPROPRIATING \$30,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$30,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COSTS THEREOF, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY”

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance No. 16-09 by title and explained that the ordinance funds the facility repairs caused by the power surge in advance of the receipt of any insurance claims.

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. 2016-71, as filed in the Borough Clerk’s office and to adopt Ordinance No. 16-09 was adopted on motion by Mr. Juncosa, seconded by Mr. Vandegrift and carried unanimously.

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

Ordinance No. 16-10 – Water Capital – Facility/System Improvements – First Reading  
“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 \$15,000.00 FROM THE WATER UTILITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE FINANCING THEREOF”

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance No. 16-10 by title and explained that the ordinance funds the new roof for the well house, adding that several estimates and types were provided for Council’s consideration. Ms. Hovan said that the decision did not have to be made until the funding is in place regarding the roof type. Resolution No. 2016-72, as filed in the Borough Clerk’s office and to introduce Ordinance No. 16-10 was adopted on motion by Mr. Vandegrift seconded by Mr. Lipsen carried unanimously.

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

Resolutions: Resolution Nos. 2016-73 and 2016-74, as listed below and as filed in the Borough Clerk’s office, were adopted on motion by Mr. Vandegrift, seconded by Mr. Lipsen and carried unanimously:

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2016-73 BAN Certificate of Determination and Award

2016-74 Best Practices Checklist 2016 Submission

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Nays: None  
Absent: Grecco  
Abstain: None

Ms. Hovan said that the letter was mailed as requested regarding the site plan requirement for the improvements near the crosswalk. Resolution No. 2016-75 - Support for Rt. 29 Mid-Block Crosswalk, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office, was adopted on motion by Mr. Vandegrift, seconded by Mr. Juncosa and carried.

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

Claims for Payment – the claims for payment, as attached, were approved on motion by Mr. Lipsen, seconded by Mr. Juncosa and carried unanimously.

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

Discussion/Update(s) - Howell Graveyard - Mt. Amwell Project Agreement - Mr. Butler said that he spoke to the organization's counsel regarding the agreement and that he believes they will accept the condition of a not-to-exceed \$10,000 cap on legal expenses and that they would assume responsibility over that amount should the petitioning process so warrant. Mr. Butler said a new agreement was forthcoming.

Mayor Nemeth said that he was asked by a resident to consider designation Stockton Park as a Tobacco-Free Public Park but asked that the discussion be tabled until the requestor could appear.

Mayor Nemeth announced that the next meeting would be held on November 14, 2016. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm on motion by Mr. Lipsen, seconded by Mr. Vandegrift, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Hovan, RMC  
Borough Clerk