

**BOROUGH OF STOCKTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
APPROVED: 4/13/15**

**REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 9, 2015**

A Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton was called to order by Mayor Timothy Nemeth at 7:08 pm on March 9, 2015. The following members of the Borough Council were present: Mr. Tony Grecco, Mr. Adam Juncosa, Mr. Aaron Lipsen, Mr. Nic Messina and Mrs. Kate Steffanelli. Mr. Donald Vandegrift was absent. Borough Attorney Michael Butler, Borough Engineer Dennis O'Neal and Borough Administrator/Clerk Michele Hovan were also present. There were no 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. There being no questions or comments, the meeting was closed to the public on motion by Mrs. Steffanelli, seconded Mr. Lipsen and carried.

Discussion – Ferry Street Drainage Issues

Mayor Nemeth said that he asked Mr. O'Neal to speak in response to the email he received from Mr. Lipsen regarding drainage at and near his property on Ferry Street. Mr. Lipsen left the dais at that time to sit in the audience. Mr. O'Neal said that the issue, as reported to him, was that the snow plow contractor wasn't plowing far enough into the swale and also that water was accumulating at the Lipsen driveway. Mr. O'Neal said that he would speak to the contractor about clearing the asphalt swale and then described the swale for the benefit of all. Mr. O'Neal said that when the road was repaved, they asked for the asphalt swale to be installed to help direct the water and that there is no drainage system on the street. Mr. O'Neal added that drainage in the area was difficult because there can't be a direct discharge into the canal. Mr. O'Neal said that the right-of-way extends to the end of the road, and then NJDEP owns a small strip before the D&R Canal Commission piece to the canal. Mr. O'Neal said that if the Borough wanted to install drainage on the street, they'd need permission from the Canal Commission and that when Mill Street was reconstructed, he was told that Mill Street would be the last such discharge opportunity for the Borough.

Mr. Lipsen said that he has elderly in-laws that live in the house and that conditions are treacherous at times for them because of the grade change with the driveway and the road. Mr. Lipsen asked if the contractor could scrape the blade toward the other side of the street and added that the prior owner of the property used to make sure the swale area was always cleared. Mr. Lipsen said that the new owner doesn't do that and that he was forced to shovel so that water would not collect. Discussion ensued regarding the conditions. Mr. Grecco said that he witnessed the problem after the last storm. Mr. Lipsen said that his mother-in-law said that the town told her years ago that drainage would be installed. Mr. O'Neal said that he never said that and was surprised that she remembered it that way because the options for a drainage solution were so difficult. Mrs. Steffanelli asked if there was another solution available so that Mr. Lipsen wouldn't have to clear the swale and Mr. Lipsen said that if the plow went further, another 700 square feet, it would help. Mr. O'Neal said that he would talk to the Borough's contractor and that he didn't see any reason why that couldn't be done. Discussion continued regarding storm drains and a stand pipe for the fire department. Mr. Grecco said that the department would benefit the town and the tanker task force if a stand pipe was on Ferry. Mr. O'Neal said that

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NJDEP approval would be required for the stand pipe. Mr. Grecco and Mr. O’Neal discussed water volume and the water table and the requirements at different times of the year.

Mr. O’Neal said that the first step is to seek D&R Canal Commission approval to drain to the canal and added that some of the runoff comes from Mr. Lipsen’s driveway and not just the street. Mr. O’Neal said that Lot 15 across from the Lipsen’s appears lower than the road and that he would take a closer look when there is no snow on it. Mr. O’Neal said that the swale could be cut but the Lipsen driveway was already higher than it. Mr. Lipsen said that the water pipe was near the driveway and Mr. O’Neal said he would ask Mr. Ent if it could be lowered. Mr. O’Neal added that he thinks that in most seasons, the swale functions as designed, but when the snow is blocking the runoff, water has nowhere to go. Mr. O’Neal again said that he would ask the contactor to clear the swale. Mayor Nemeth said that not every street has a drainage system. Mr. Grecco said that softening the driveway might be the best solution compared to seeking NJDEP permits for the discharge. In response to a question, Mr. O’Neal estimated at least \$30,000-\$50,000 for a drainage solution if the permits could be acquired. Mr. Lipsen said that the issue wasn’t the drainage as much as it was the access and that the scraping was a nuisance. Mr. O’Neal said he would take another look in the spring and report back to Council then. Mr. Lipsen returned to the dais.

Minutes – the minutes of the February 9, 2015 regular meeting were approved on motion by Mr. Messina, seconded by Mrs. Steffanelli and carried.

Ordinance No. 15-02 – Water Rate Ordinance – Second Reading/Public Hearing
“AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE PRESCRIBING CHARGES, RENTALS, RULES AND REGULATION FOR THE MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM FOR THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY”

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance No. 15-02 by title and explained that the water and sewer adjustments of 5% were recommended and necessary to meet rising costs of both utilities. Ms. Hovan reminded all that the last increase for either utility was in 2008 and that she and CFO Diane McDaniel would be carefully monitoring the need for adjustment based on forecasts at least every two years. 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 by Mr. Messina and carried.

Resolution No. 2015-37, as filed in the Borough Clerk’s office and to adopt Ordinance No. 15-02, was adopted on motion by Mr. Messina, seconded by Mr. Lipsen and carried.

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

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Ordinance No. 15-03 – Sewer Rate Ordinance – Second Reading/Public Hearing

“AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 04-08 ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SEWER CHARGES AND RENTALS FOR THE USE OF THE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM OF THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON" ADOPTED BY THE STOCKTON BOROUGH COUNCIL ON MAY 12, 2008”

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance No. 15-03 by title and said the description for Ordinance No. 15-02 carries to 15-03. 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. Lipsen, seconded by Mr. Messina and carried. Resolution No. 2015-38, as filed in the Borough Clerk’s office and to adopt Ordinance No. 15-03, was adopted on motion by Mr. Juncosa, seconded by Mr. Lipsen carried.

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

Resolutions

Resolution Nos. 2015-39 and 2015-40, as filed in the Borough Clerk’s office and as listed below, were adopted on motion by Mr. Messina, seconded by Mr. Grecco and carried.

2015-39	Commending Norwescap/50 th Anniversary Community Action
2015-40	Budget Appropriation Transfers

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

Claims for Payment – The Claims for Payment, as attached, were approved on motion by Mr. Messina, seconded by Mrs. Steffanelli and carried.

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

Appointment – Planning Board

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Mayor Nemeth appointed Mr. Vandegrift as the Planning Board Class III member for the unexpired term to expire on 12/31/15. On motion by Mr. Messina, seconded by Mr. Lipsen and carried, the appointment was confirmed.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Nemeth reported that Delaware Township Police were in full force addressing supplemental police coverage, that it is in effect for a year and to be reviewed at the conclusion of the year. Mayor Nemeth said that he was meeting with the County Engineer regarding drainage issues and the trash rack on Wilson Drive. Mayor Nemeth also announced that the "Meet the Mayor" event at the Stockton Market was scheduled for March 13th and that the rummage sale for the Stockton School would be held on Saturday and Sunday (3/14-15)

Liaison Reports

Mr. Grecco inquired about flow tests for the fire hydrants and referred to Mr. Ent for the information. Mr. Grecco re-introduced the topic of the stand pipe for Ferry Street and said he would obtain an estimate for it. Additional discussion regarding Ferry and the stand pipe ensued.

Chief Rick Hendricks and other firemen entered the meeting at 8:27pm. Chief Hendricks explained that the fire department prepared a 5-year plan and requested Council's continued financial assistance with it. Chief Hendricks said that the department was grateful for past support and that it was looking for all the help it could get with annual costs, particularly since the contributions from Delaware Township were lessened from prior years because of the manpower and recourse issues with the Stockton Rescue Squad and their having to contract elsewhere for EMS coverage. Chief Hendricks explained the dual alert status with Flemington and Lambertville. The Chief distributed one set of budget request and Ms. Hovan said she would scan and forward to all the next day.

Mr. Lipsen reported that the parks and recreation committee needed to pick a date for the clean-up day and that the committee was working on ball field plans, including talks with private schools and potential sponsors. Mr. Lipsen said that the committee is considering a master park plan versus immediate tasks, like cutting back brush and adding infield mix.

Mr. Messina announced that there is a Stockton Facebook page created by a resident that was nicely done. Mrs. Steffanelli encouraged others to visit the page and also the one she created for Stockton Park.

Mayor Nemeth announced the next meeting would be held on April 13, 2015. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm on motion by Mr. Grecco seconded by Mr. Messina and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Hovan, RMC
Borough Clerk