

**BOROUGH OF STOCKTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
APPROVED: 8/14/17**

**REGULAR MEETING
MAY 8, 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, Mr. Nic Messina, Mrs. Kate Steffanelli. and Mr. Don Vandegrift. Borough Administrator/Clerk Michele Hovan and Chief Financial Officer Diane McDaniel were also present. There was one member of the public present.

Mayor Nemeth opened the meeting to the public for comments. There being no questions or comments, the meeting was closed to the public on motion by Mr. Juncosa, seconded by Mr. Messina and carried.

Minutes – the meeting minutes of the April 10, 2017 Regular Meeting were approved on motion by Mrs. Steffanelli, seconded by Mr. Lipsen and carried, with Mr. Messina and Mr. Vandegrift abstaining due to absence.

Ordinance No. 17-04 – Exceed Cap Limits/Cap Bank – Second Reading/Public Hearing

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance No. 17-04 by title and explained that its passage enables the cost of living adjustments to the cap base and also permits the banking of unused allowances. 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. Vandegrift and carried.

Resolution No. 2017-47/Adoption of Ordinance No. 17-04 was adopted on motion by Mr. Lipsen, seconded by Mr. Juncosa and carried unanimously.

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

Ordinance No. 17-05 – Water Rates – Second Reading/Public Hearing

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance No. 17-05 by title, explain that it provides for a 2% increase in water utility user fees, the first such adjustment in 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. Vandegrift and carried.

Resolution No. 2017-48/Adoption of Ordinance No. 17-05 was adopted on motion by Mr. Grecco, seconded by Mr. Lipsen and carried unanimously.

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

Ordinance No. 17-06 – Amendment to Ordinance No. 17-01 – No Smoking in Stockton Park
First Reading

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance No. 17-06 by title and explained that the amendment includes language for electronic cigarettes or vaping, as omitted from the ban that was adopted earlier in the year. Mayor Nemeth explained that the organization petitioning for the ordinance already made up signs and they included “no vaping.” In response to a question by Mr. Juncosa regarding anti-smoking aids, such as nicotine gum, Ms. Hovan said that technically, the ordinance would prohibit that use. More discussion followed to include the effect of electronic cigarettes, inclusion of cigars, nicotine gum, etc. Mr. Vandegrift suggested that the language could be modified; Mayor Nemeth said the ordinance could be introduced while language modifications are considered. On motion by Mrs. Steffanelli, seconded by Mr. Messina and carried, Ordinance No. 17-01 was introduced, with Mr. Vandegrift voting in opposition.

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

2017 Municipal Budget – Public Hearing/Adoption

Ms. Hovan and Ms. McDaniel summarized the budget highlights and noted the \$.02 cent increase per \$100 in assessed valuation. They noted the emergency fire and rescue appropriations, the reduction of capital improvement funds and several adjustments due to expressed priorities.

On motion by Mr. Juncosa, seconded by Mrs. Steffanelli and carried, Resolution No. 2017-50 – Self-Examination of 2017 Municipal Budget was adopted.

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

Mayor Nemeth opened the meeting to the public regarding the 2017 Municipal Budget. There being no questions or comments, the meeting was closed to the public on motion by Mr. Juncosa, seconded by Mr. Vandegrift carried. On motion by Mr. Juncosa, seconded by Mr. Vandegrift and carried, the 2017 Municipal Budget (Resolution No. 2016-51) was adopted.

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

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Absent: None
Abstain: None

Resolutions – the following resolution, as filed in the Borough Clerk’s office, was adopted on motion by Mr. Vandegrift, seconded by Mr. Lipsen and carried.

2017-52 Award of Contract – Glenwood Lane Road Improvements

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

Discussion – Revisions to Licensing and Keeping of Dogs Ordinance

Ms. Hovan explained that the current ordinance contained a maximum number of dogs that was perhaps ill-fitting to the community as some households have more and may not license them if they believe they are “illegal.” Following a brief discussion, Council agreed to revisit the matter at the next meeting.

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

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Nemeth said that he was working on the Crime Watch request for six signs in town. Discussion for the locations included the park, firehouse, tow path, Stockton Market. Mrs. Steffanelli mentioned a recent crime report in Lambertville; Mr. Juncosa noted that people were breaking into unlocked cars.

Council Liaison Reports

There was a brief discussion regarding the school closing and expected future use of the building. Ms. Hovan said that she ordered a title search from the attorney and was awaiting the results. Mr. Grecco inquired of the new crosswalk status and Ms. Hovan said it was approved, now awaiting installation. Ms. Hovan also reported that the Borough Engineer reported the bridge weight limit signs to the NJDOT and that the response was positive. In response to a request by the Woolverton Inn to Mayor Nemeth for a new sign, Ms. Hovan said that the owners should contact the zoning officer for approval. Mr. Grecco discussed the idea of a community bulletin board on Route 29.

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Mr. Lipsen reported on a meeting he and Ms. Hovan attended with the NJ Water Authority and the status of repairs on the river banks. Mr. Lipsen said that the issue is still under review and that the NJWA prepared several scenarios of possible resolve. Mr. Lipsen stressed the need to protect the townfolk while the NJWA stressed the protection of its resources and investments. A lengthy conversation ensued, and Mr. Lipsen suggested that the community petition for faster, permanent resolve and he discussed options for engaging the community. Mr. Lipsen also suggested that the County, Governor's office and Congress all be targeted for financial assistance. The discussion continued and letters to those units of government were considered. Mr. Lipsen said he would be interested in pursuing the letter writing campaign. Council recommended against formal action.

Next Meeting

Mayor Nemeth announced the next Council meeting will be held on June 12, 2017, at 7:00PM.

There being no additional discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm on motion by Mr. Messina, seconded by Mr. Juncosa and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Hovan, RMC
Borough Administrator/Clerk