

**BOROUGH OF STOCKTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
APPROVED: 5/11/2020**

**REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 10, 2020**

The February Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton was called to order by Mayor Timothy Nemeth at 7:09 pm on February 10, 2020. 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. Ms. Hovan called the roll. The following members of Council were present: Mr. Adam Juncosa, Mr. Aaron Lipsen, Mr. Michael Mann, Mr. Paul Bergquist and Mr. Donald Vandegrift. Mr. Nic Messina was absent. Borough Administrator/Clerk Michele Hovan and Borough Attorney Michael Butler were also present. There were seven members of the public present.

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.

Discussion: Stockton Fire Company (miscellaneous items)

Chief Rick Hendricks distributed the fire department's annual budget request that included a 5-year plan. He asked that Council members review the request at their leisure and that he'd be willing to discuss any questions that may arise. Chief Hendricks also reported that the fire department had assembled representation for the subcommittee to discuss long term needs. Mayor Nemeth said that Mr. Messina and Mr. Bergquist would serve in addition to him and Ms. Hovan. Fire Department President Eric Trautman distributed invitations to the annual dinner, to be held on March 8th. Mr. Trautman mentioned that the Christmas trees hadn't been removed and Mr. Bergquist said that he would contact T&T about removing the trees. Mr. Jim Kuhn, 9 Mill Street and Fire Department Treasurer, said that he was in discussion with a leasing company, known as "Lease 2" for the truck financing and that the application requires a resolution from the governing body that the truck is for a public benefit. Mr. Butler said that he would review the request and that the Council could consider the resolution in March.

Discussion: Stockton Civic Committee

Mr. Karl Darby, representing the Stockton Civic Committee said that the group would like the Council to affirm that volunteers are covered should an incident occur, even if unlikely. Mr. Darby said that one member uses a bucket truck to hang the holiday lights for the town. In response to a question by Mayor Nemeth, Mr. Darby said that he's been doing the holiday lights for 40 years and is looking for the next generation to take over. Mr. Darby said that in addition to the lights, the group also coordinates other events, such as with the Easter Bunny. Ms. Hovan explained that volunteers performing Borough tasks are covered under the Borough's umbrella policy. After some discussion, it was decided that a liaison from Council would benefit the group and Mr. Mann volunteered to fill that role. Ms. Hovan suggested that the post be listed on the reorganization agenda going forward. After additional discussion, it was affirmed that the volunteers were covered, similar to Borough employees.

Discussion: Water Utility Update (Ferriero Engineering)

Mr. Denis Pollak, Borough Engineer, said that the Borough contracted with CDM Smith to analyze the ph in the water; that the letter said "lead" by category but the issue was really that

**BOROUGH OF STOCKTON
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FEBRUARY 10, 2020**

there was a copper "hit." Mr. Pollak said that the hit was likely due to an adjustment with the zinc orthophosphate but cautioned waiting until the results were in. Mr. Pollak also said that he was working with Matt Muhall, the Borough's contracted hydrogeologist regarding possible well sites and that it appears the best site is by the cistern. Mr. Pollak said that the site has electric and the well could pump right into the cistern, with the only issue being if NJDEP would approve due to area size. He added that he would prepare a letter to NJDEP regarding the site. Mr. Pollak also said that the water director mentioned a need for a gate valve. In response to a question raised by Ms. Hovan, Mr. Pollak said that it would take a year or more for approvals and the rough cost would run \$750k to \$1M to install the well. Mr. Pollak said that if another letter to residents was required to go out, he would ask Mr. Ent to revise the language about lead and copper so that it was less confusing.

Mr. Pollak also reported that the sewer flows have declined drastically since the grout repairs were made on the identified main locations and said that the next step would be to survey connections to see if residents were pumping sumps pumps directly into the sanitary sewer.

Discussion: Revaluation Order

Ms. Hovan reported that she consulted with the Borough Assessor and that the Assessor agreed that the revaluation should proceed as her analysis was consisted with the County Assessor's. Ms. Hovan said that she was advised that the Borough would not prevail if it challenged the order. Following a brief discussion, Ms. Hovan said that she would prepare an ordinance for introduction at the next meeting to fund the project.

Absent: Bergquist, Messina
Abstain: None

Minutes:

The meeting Minutes for the January 6, 2020 Reorganization/Regular Meeting were approved on motion by Mr. Juncosa, seconded by Mr. Mann and carried, with Mr. Bergquist abstaining due to absence.

Resolutions – the following resolutions, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office and listed below, were adopted on motion by Mr. Juncosa, seconded by Mr. Bergquist and carried.

- 2020-27 Shared Services Agreement w/ Delaware Twp. for Construction Code Services
- 2020-28 Appropriation Reserves
- 2020-29 Support for HCVSD Grant Application to Convert Hunterdon County Polytech to a Full-time 4-Year School

Roll Call: Ayes: Bergquist, Juncosa, Lipsen, Mann, Vandegrift
 Nays: None
 Absent: Messina
 Abstain: None

Claims for Payment – the claims for payment, as attached, were approved on motion by Mr. Mann, seconded by Mr. Vandegrift and carried unanimously, with the understanding that

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payments to Pleasant Valley for the shed and Niece Lumber for the fencing be included if all of the documentation was remitted.

Roll Call: Ayes: Bergquist, Juncosa, Lipsen, Mann, Vandegrift
 Nays: None
 Absent: Messina
 Abstain: None

Correspondence: Annual Report for Howell Graveyard
Ms. Hovan noted that the annual report had been remitted and distributed.

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.

Council Liaison Reports

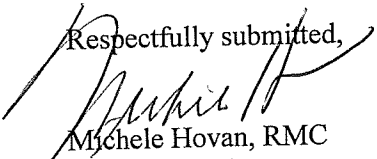
Mr. Mann said that there was an event scheduled at the Prallsville Mills for February 29th and invited all members to attend. Mr. Mann said that he would send the invitation to the Deputy Clerk for distribution.

Mr. Vandegrift said that the park plan was ready for discussion and action and that he would like to get the schedule underway, possibly with public comment in April. After a brief discussion, Mr. Vandegrift said that he would send the information to the Planning Board Secretary for the Borough to review at its next meeting. Mr. Vandegrift said that other partners in the effort might be the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission and the Scenic By-way.

Mr. Bergquist reported that the hazard pruning was completed on Bridge Street but said that next time they'd need to cone off the area so that folks did not park where the work was to be done.

Mayor Nemeth announced that the next meeting would be held on February 10, 2020 at 7pm. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm on motion by Mr. Mann, seconded by Mr. Vandegrift, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Michele Hovan, RMC
Borough Clerk