

**BOROUGH OF STOCKTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
APPROVED:**

**REORGANIZATION/REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 6, 2020**

The 2020 Reorganization and January Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton was called to order by Mayor Timothy Nemeth at 7:07 pm on January 6, 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. There were seven members of the public present.

Oaths of Office - Councilmen

Borough Administrator/Clerk Michele Hovan administered the Oath of Office to Adam Juncosa, Borough Councilman, for a 3-year term to expire December 31, 2022.

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All in attendance congratulated the re-elected council members.

Roll Call

The following members of the Borough Council were present: Mr. Adam Juncosa, Mr. Aaron Lipsen, Mr. Michael Mann and Mr. Donald Vandegrift. Mr. Paul Bergquist and Mr. Nic Messina were absent. Borough Administrator/Clerk Michele Hovan was also present.

Election of Council President

Mayor Nemeth called for nominations for Council President. Mr. Lipsen nominated Mr. Messina. Mayor Nemeth asked if there were any other nominations and there were none. Mayor Nemeth closed the floor. On motion by Mr. Lipsen, seconded by Mr. Mann and carried unanimously, Mr. Messina was elected Council President for a term of one year expiring on December 31, 2020.

Reorganization Resolutions

The following Resolutions numbered 2020-01 through 2020-24, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office and listed below, were adopted on motion by Mr. Juncosa, seconded by Mr. Mann and carried unanimously:

2020-01	Consent Agenda
2020-02	Schedule of Regular Meetings
2020-03	Rules of Order
2020-04	Official Depositories
2020-05	Official Newspapers
2020-06	Appointments
2020-07	Temporary Budget
2020-08	Temporary Budget for Debt Service
2020-09	Interest & Penalty Rates for Delinquency Charges
2020-10	Defense of Tax Appeals
2020-11	Stipulations and Rollback Appeals

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2020-12	Authorized Signatories
2020-13	Refunds and Cancellations Under \$10
2020-14	Annual Tax Sale
2020-15	Fee for Insufficient Check Funds
2020-16	Investment of Funds
2020-17	Risk Management Consultant
2020-18	Statewide Insurance Fund Commissioner
2020-19	Borough Attorney
2020-20	Bond Counsel
2020-21	Borough Engineer
2020-22	Maintenance of Tax Maps
2020-23	Borough Auditor
2020-24	Public Agency Compliance Officer

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

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Nemeth opened the meeting to the public.

Mr. Rick Hendricks, Chief of the Stockton Fire Company, thanked the Mayor and Council for their support for new equipment and inquired of next steps. Ms. Hovan requested that the quotes be reaffirmed since time has passed and said that purchasing could commence in February. Mayor Nemeth said that the Borough is moving forward and asked that discussions continue regarding long-term fire protection, too. Chief Hendricks said that the chiefs meet regularly and that a subcommittee with the town and the fire department could meet as early as February. There was a brief discussion about who would serve on the subcommittee and Mr. Lipsen and Mr. Mann expressed interest.

Mr. John Kuiphoff presented Council with revised renderings of the Borough logo and there was much enthusiasm with the work, and just minor adjustments requested. Mr. Vandegrift suggested the work be accepted and the logo adopted, pending receipt of the final version. Mr. Vandegrift made the motion to accept, Mr. Mann seconded and the logo was accepted unanimously. Mayor Nemeth and members of Council thanked Mr. Kuiphoff for his hard work on the project. In response to a question raised by Ms. Hovan, Mr. Kuiphoff said that no copyright or trademark agreement was necessary, that the work was his gift to the community.

On motion by Mr. Vandegrift, seconded by Mr. Juncosa and carried, the meeting was closed to the public.

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Minutes:

Mr. Juncosa said that there was an error in the listed attendees and Ms. Hovan said she would correct. The meeting minutes for the October 14, 2019 Regular Meeting (Mr. Mann & Mr. Messina ineligible due to absence) were approved as amended on motion by Mr. Vandegrift, seconded by Mr. Juncosa and carried.

The meeting minutes for the November 11, 2019 Regular Meeting (Mr. Bergquist ineligible due to absence) and the December 9, 2019 Regular Meeting were approved on motion by Mr. Vandegrift, seconded by Mr. Mann and carried.

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. Mann and carried.

2020-25	2021 Municipal Alliance Funding Application
2020-26	Appropriation Reserves

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

Claims for Payment – the claims for payment, as attached, were approved on motion by Mr. Juncosa, seconded by Mr. Vandegrift and carried unanimously. Ms. Hovan noted that the payment to Dannucci Roofing was added for approval.

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

Discussion – Order to Implement a Municipal-Wide Revaluation

Ms. Hovan reported that Hunterdon County has ordered a revaluation for the Borough in 2020 and that they have determined that Stockton’s valued are in need of correction and revision, resulting in an unequal distribution of the tax burden. There was some discussion and the Borough Council asked if the order could be appealed. Ms. Hovan said that she would consult with the Borough’s Tax Assessor on the matter and seek her input.

Mayor Nemeth opened the meeting to the public. Chief Hendricks asked if the fire department could utilize the property at 40 N. Main for training as it is being demoed. Ms. Hovan said that the request is common and hoped the Borough could accommodate. She added that she is unaware of the status of demolition and has been trying to find out and will continue to do so. Chief Hendricks also asked Council to set aside March 7th for their annual dinner, adding that invitations would follow.

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There being no questions or comments, the meeting was closed to the public on motion by Mr. Lipsen, seconded by Mr. Vandegrift and carried.

Remarks by Mayor Timothy J. Nemeth

Mayor Nemeth thanked the Borough Council for their hard work in 2019 and said that he would like to work on creating more order in 2020 for improved efficiency. He asked if Council members would forward items to Ms. Hovan that they would like addressed ahead of the meetings, if possible. Mayor Nemeth said that was looking forward to the year ahead.

Council Liaison Reports

Mr. Vandegrift asked if there was an update regarding the water quality and Mayor Nemeth said that sampling was underway at certain sites. Mr. Lipsen again asked about the low pressure situation on N. Railroad and asked if Mr. Ent could attend the next meeting.

Mr. Mann commented that the building was looking much better. Mr. Lipsen said that he emailed Mr. Mann about teenagers kicking doors on the park shed and that a fire pit and temporary shelter was installed. Mayor Nemeth asked if the State Police were contacted. Mr. Lipsen asked if the appreciation letter to Niece Lumber was sent and Ms. Hovan said that she believed the Deputy Clerk sent one after the December meeting.

Mr. Vandegrift said that he met with Architect John Thomas regarding the park plan and presented plans depicting meadows and paths, said that the basketball court could be saved and that the next step was to present to the Canal Commission for comment as well as to the Prallsville Mills. In response to a question raised, Mr. Vandegrift said that there will be multiple chances for the public to comment.

Mr. Juncosa reported that the toilet issue at Borough Hall was finally resolved and that he was working on street sign repairs.

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