

**BOROUGH OF STOCKTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
APPROVED:**

**REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 9, 2020**

The March Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton was called to order by Mayor Timothy Nemeth at 7:02 pm on March 9, 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. Nic Messina, Mr. Paul Bergquist and Mr. Donald Vandegrift. Mr. Michael Mann was absent. Borough Administrator/Clerk Michele Hovan was also present. There were five members of the public present.

Mayor Nemeth opened the meeting to the public. Ms. Anna Rivkin, 10 North Main, said that she was in attendance hoping to hear about preparations for the pandemic. Mayor Nemeth said that he was in contact with Hunterdon County OEM and other mayors and that they were receiving regular briefings but that so far, no action has been announced. There being no additional questions or comments, the meeting was closed to the public on motion by Mr. Juncosa, seconded by Mr. Vandegrift and carried.

Minutes:

The meeting Minutes for the February 10 Regular Meeting were tabled for approval in April on motion by Mr. Lipsen, seconded by Mr. Juncosa and carried.

Resolutions – Ms. Hovan briefly explained the resolutions offered for adoption. The following resolutions, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office and listed below, were adopted on motion by Mr. Vandegrift, seconded by Mr. Messina and carried.

2020-31	Domestic Violence Policy
2020-32	2020 Salaries
2020-33	Support for Rt. 29 Alexauken Creek Road Bridge to Washington Street
2020-34	Support for Stockton Fire Department Lease Purchase

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

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

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

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Discussion - Stockton Park Master Plan

Mr. Vandegrift presented the plan delivered by the Borough's contracted landscape architect, John Thomas. Mr. Vandegrift said that the overall plan connects the park to the Prallsville Mill, essentially removing the boundary, and connects to the towpath. Mr. Vandegrift explained that the overgrown memorial plaza would be enhanced and there would be trails throughout. He described a clear meadow area, with the creation of additional woodlands and the removal of invasive species. Additional features included a new pavilion, possible installation of a boat dock and restoration of the court. In response to a question raised by Mr. Lipsen regarding path materials, Mr. Vandegrift said that was currently unknown but that the cost of materials may be a determining factor. He also said that Mr. Thomas is developing cost estimates for project elements that will be useful in the pursuit of grant funds. Mr. Vandegrift also mentioned that he intended to present the master plan to the Planning Board at its last meeting but that a quorum was not present.

Mr. Lipsen said that he has been concerned about the playground area for a long time and he would like to see additional focus on that feature. He said that he developed an alternate plan of sorts, adding that the plan as presented might be a bit overboard with the meadows portions. General discussion ensued. Mr. Bergquist questioned what the Council's appetite was for elements in the plan that may not be affordable. Mr. Vandegrift explained that the idea was to fund as much of the project via grant funds as possible. Mr. Juncosa stated that all of the plan elements reflect preferences of the residents via the survey conducted a couple years ago.

Mayor Nemeth opened the meeting to the public. Mr. Tom Sherman, Ferry Street, said that he has a lot of experience developing small parks and would love to help out, adding that connecting the park to the Mill is a very good idea. He said that he could help out with developing some of the cost estimates and explained how the overall improvement would be a benefit to the residents and visitors to the area. Mr. Eric Trautman said that he was concerned about the costs and suggested that the Borough could receive revenue by renting out a pavilion. He added that the Borough consider adding as much parking as possible.

Mr. Vandegrift said that another step is to invite Mr. Thomas to a public session and that the goal is to clarify which elements are priorities. Mr. Trautman said that a volunteer park clean-up effort would help reduce costs, adding that his nephew owned a skid steer and would probably help.

Mayor Nemeth said that goal is to both adopt the plan and put in motion plans to develop. Additional discussion regarding parking followed. There being no additional comment, the meeting was closed to the public on motion by Mr. Lipsen, seconded by Mr. Vandegrift and carried.

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Council Liaison Reports

Mr. Vandegrift reported that he was awaiting estimates for signs with the new logo and thought they may run a couple hundred dollars. He also reported on two downed signs and said that he looked forward to the Bridge Street curb repair work to be completed in the spring.

Mayor Nemeth announced that the next meeting would be held on April 13, 2020 at 7pm. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm on motion by Mr. Juncosa, seconded by Mr. Lipsen, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Hovan, RMC
Borough Clerk