

**BOROUGH OF STOCKTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
APPROVED: 2/14/2022**

**REORGANIZATION/REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 3, 2022**

The 2022 Reorganization and Regular January Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton was called to order by Mayor Timothy Nemeth at 7:04 pm on January 3, 2022. The meeting was held online using Zoom technology due to the COVID-19 pandemic. 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.

Borough Attorney Michael Butler administered the Oath of Office to Kenneth Kozuhowski for a 3-year term as Borough Councilman through December 31, 2024.

Borough Attorney Michael Butler administered the Oath of Office to Aaron Lipsen for a 3-year term as Borough Councilman through December 31, 2024.

Ms. Michele Hovan called the roll. The following members of Council were present: Ms. Rebecca Hendricks, Mr. Adam Juncosa, Mr. Kenneth Kozuhowski, Mr. Aaron Lipsen, Mr. Michael Mann, and Mr. Donald Vandegrift. Borough Attorney Michael Butler was also present. There were 10 members of the public present.

Mayor Nemeth opened the floor for nominations for Council President. Mr. Mann nominated Mr. Lipsen. Mr. Kozuhowski seconded the motion. Mr. Juncosa nominated Mr. Vandegrift. Mr. Butler asked for a vote on the Lipsen motion. Mr. Lipsen was unanimously voted as Borough Council President through December 31, 2022.

Remarks from Mayor Nemeth

Mayor Nemeth said that 2021 was difficult and interesting but that much work did get done. He said that 2022 is the last year of his term and he doesn't know what the future holds but that it has always been his great wish that when he leaves, he does so knowing it is in good shape for the next person. He thanked the Council and the professionals for their continued dedication to the community.

Reorganization Resolutions - the following Resolutions Nos. 2022-01 through 2022-23, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office and listed below, were adopted on motion by Mr. Mann, seconded by Mr. Vandegrift and carried.

2022-01	Consent Agenda
2022-02	Schedule of Regular Meetings
2022-03	Rules of Order
2022-04	Official Depositories
2022-05	Official Newspapers
2022-06	Appointments
2022-07	Temporary Budget
2022-08	Interest & Penalty Rates for Delinquency Charges
2022-09	Defense of Tax Appeals
2022-10	Stipulations and Rollback Appeals

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2022-11	Authorized Signatories
2022-12	Refunds and Cancellations Under \$10
2022-13	Annual Tax Sale
2022-14	Fee for Insufficient Check Funds
2022-15	Investment of Funds
2022-16	Risk Management Consultant
2022-17	Statewide Insurance Fund Commissioner
2022-18	Borough Attorney
2022-19	Bond Counsel
2022-20	Borough Engineer
2022-21	Maintenance of Tax Maps
2022-22	Borough Auditor
2022-23	Public Agency Compliance Officer

Roll Call: Ayes: Juncosa, Hendricks, Kozuhowski, Lipsen, Mann, Vandegrift
 Absent: None
 Abstain: None

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Nemeth opened the meeting to the public. Ms. Elizabeth Garson, introduced herself as Nic Messina's fiance, said she was there to hear something about Nic since there was no formal goodbye. Mr. Vandegrift said there was a big send-off at the last meeting and Mayor Nemeth said there was a resolution adopted in his honor. Mr. Nic Messina, 2 Church Street, said he didn't understand his sewer bill. Ms. Hovan asked him to reach out and that staff would be able to answer any questions he may have. Ms. Kathy Kline, 2 Old Prallsville Road, said that her property and two others are impacted by the stream and that during Ida there was significant damage. Ms. Kline said that the County did come in and repair the road and cleared some portion of her property but the stream needs to be dredged, in her opinion. She said that she had been in contact with the State and the DRCC and that she hears that the problem isn't theirs. She said she heard that years ago there was work higher up on 523 and that may have worsened the problem. She asked the Council for help in finding resources in where to go next for help. Ms. Hovan said that she sent the email she received from Ms. Kline to the Borough Engineer and that he has reached out to NJDOT but that there was no response yet. Mr. Vandegrift suggested that a decent engineering study might help to develop a solution even though that he suspected that study would be very costly. In response to a question raised by Ms. Hovan, Ms. Kline said that she not eligible for a FEMA claim since her house was not damaged. Ms. Hovan said that the 523 water issue has been discussed over and over again with the County and with Delaware Township - and even with FEMA of late - and that the 523 drainage problem is a much bigger issue than it may appear, likely costing millions and probably requiring federal assistance. Mr. Vandegrift suggested that Stockton conduct an engineering study to identify solutions. Ms. Hovan said that such a study would likely span multiple jurisdictions but that if Stockton wanted to fund it or seek funding for a study, the Borough Council could authorize the expenditure. Discussion continued. Mr. Juncosa and Ms. Kline discussed what could be "fixed" in Stockton Borough regarding the

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stream. Mr. Vandegrift and Mr. Kozuhowski said the same issue with a stream is at Brookville Hollow. Mr. Vandegrift pressed that Stockton join Lambertville in petitioning for help and said he would make some calls. Mr. Lipsen said he would contact Milford and Titusville. Mr. Lipsen said that the grants committee is trying to find a grant to "size up" the problem, adding that there is another area near the Prallsville Mills with water issues.

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 of December 16, 2022 were approved on motion by Mr. Mann, seconded by Ms. Hendricks, with Mr. Juncosa due to absence and Mr. Kozuhowski ineligible to vote.

Resolutions - the following Resolutions Nos. 2022-24 and 2202-25, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office and listed below, were adopted on motion by Mr. Juncosa, seconded by Mr. Kozujowski and carried.

2022-24	Adoption of County Hazard Mitigation Plan
2022-25	Personnel – Deputy Borough Clerk

Roll Call: Ayes: Juncosa, Hendricks, Kozuhowski, Lipsen, Mann, Vandegrift
 Absent: None
 Abstain: None

Ms. Hovan said that the Claims for Payment were pulled due to no internet access at Borough Hall to enable final processing.

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. Lipsen asked about Mr. Kozuhowski's committee assignments and Ms. Hovan reminded all that the appointments list approved earlier in the agenda included Mr. Kozuhowski taking Mr. Messina's former roles for Water/Sewer and Streets/Roads. Mr. Lipsen said the grants committee was working on a grant for the 523 drainage issue and asked if it was feasible. Mr. Mann said that the Borough Engineer was willing to donate time and asked if he could proceed. Ms. Hovan said that if there was no cost there was nothing to budget for. Mayor Nemeth said it was okay to proceed. Mr. Mann said that the grant, if awarded, could realize between \$2,000-\$5,000 and that it might help with future grants and studies. He said the window was narrow to apply but that he should be able to get it done.

Mr. Vandegrift reported that the bleachers were removed and that the poles on the court were removed as well as an old road sign. He added that he was awaiting a bid for concrete pads for the benches and that the work would be covered by donation. Mr. Mann suggested planning a park clean-up outing to get the community interested in the park. Mayor Nemeth suggested working with the civics committee for that project. Mr. Vandegrift suggested contacting John

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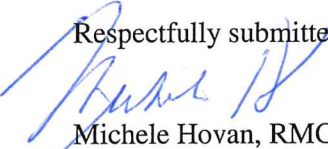
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Sowsian for additional work. Ms. Hovan reminded all that plans for projects should be communicated as soon as possible so that they can be funded in the 2022 budget.

Mayor Nemeth announced the next meeting would be held on February 14, 2022, via Zoom, at 7pm. On motion by Mr. Juncosa, seconded by Mr. VAndegrift and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Michele Hovan, RMC
Borough Administrator/Clerk