

**BOROUGH OF STOCKTON  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
APPROVED:**

**REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 14, 2022**

The March 14, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton was called to order by Mayor Timothy Nemeth at 7:02 pm. 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 Administrator/Clerk 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 4 members of the public present.

Mayor Nemeth the meeting to the public. There being no questions or concerns, the meeting was closed to the public on motion by Mr. Juncosa, seconded by Mr. Mann and carried.

Minutes - the meeting minutes of the February 14, 2022 Regular Meeting were approved on motion by Mr. Lipsen, seconded by Mr. Mann, and carried.

Ordinance No. 22-01 – Second Reading/Public Hearing – Special Emergency Appropriation  
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION OF \$25,0000 FOR THE PREPARATION AND EXECUTION OF A COMPLETE PRGRAM OF REVALUATION OF REAL PROPERTY FOR USE OF THE TAX ASSESSOR OF THE BOROUGH OF STOCKON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance No. 22-01 by title and explained that it was not new funding but rather a reallocation to be funded via emergency appropriation per the auditor's recommended instead of via the capital ordinance adopted previously. She said the same scenario applies to Ordinance No. 22-02 that follows for the Master Plan Reexamination Report and Fair Share Housing Update.

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. Mann, seconded by Mr. Vandegrift and carried.

Resolution No. 22-31, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office and to adopt Ordinance No. 22-01, was adopted on motion by Mr. Vandegrift, seconded by Mr. Juncosa and carried.

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

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Ordinance No. 22-02 – Second Reading/Public Hearing – Special Emergency Appropriation  
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION OF \$30,0000 FOR THE ENGAGEMENT OF SPECIAL CONSULTANTS FOR THE PREPARATION OF A MASTER PLAN RE-EXAMINATION REPORT AND FAIR SHARE HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE FOR THE MASTER PLAN FOR THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance No. 22-02 and referred to her prior explanation regarding the reallocation of funds.

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. Mann, seconded by Mr. Vandegrift and carried.

Resolution No. 22-32, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office and to adopt Ordinance No. 22-02, was adopted on motion by Mr. Mann, seconded by Mr. Vandegrift and carried.

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

Ordinance No. 22-03 – Second Reading./Public Hearing – Water Capital  
CAPITAL ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF NEW OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS FOR USE BY THE STOCKTON BOROUGH WATER UTILITY, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, AND THE EXPENDITURE OF \$50,000.00 FROM THE WATER UTILITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE FINANCING THEREOF

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance No. 22-03 and said that unlike the first two ordinances, this one was new money, and it funds water system infrastructure repairs as needed. She said that system breaks and repairs are funded out of water capital and the last one was now depleted due to the cost of the with the new hydrant so this new one replenishes that account.

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. Mann and carried.

Resolution No. 22-33, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office and to adopt Ordinance No. 22-03, was adopted on motion by Mr. Juncosa, seconded by Ms. Hendricks and carried.

Roll Call:       Ayes: Juncosa, Hendricks, Kozuhowski, Lipsen, Mann, Vandegrift

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Absent: None  
Abstain: None

Resolutions - the following Resolutions No. 2022-34 and 2022-35, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office and listed below. Ms. Hovan explained the resolutions, including the bid status for the revaluation project and that the emergency funds allocated in response to Hurricane Ida that were not spent in 2021 are being funded. She added that ongoing Ida costs need to be funded either in the 2022 budget or by bond ordinance. On motion by Mr. Mann, seconded by Mr. Juncosa and carried, Resolutions 2022-34 and 2022-35 were adopted.

2022-34	Authorization to bid – Revaluation Project
2022-35	Cancellation of Storm Emergency Appropriation Balances

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

Claims for Payment - the Claims for Payment, as attached, were approved on motion by Mr. Juncosa, seconded by Mr. Lipsen and carried.

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

Discussion - Worman Road Repairs

Ms. Hovan explained that she and the Borough Engineer have been working with FEMA for many months to ready this repair for funding assistance and that it has cleared the local hurdle for funding and now is at FEMA's next level to gain approval for the 75% reimbursement assistance. She said that while there are no guarantees before the final paperwork is approved, there appears to be no reason why the 75% reimbursement will not be realized. She explained that the repairs are a matter of public safety and also that the area requires NJDEP permitting which increases the costs and that a bond ordinance will be prepared for introduction next month. She said that the Borough closed the road and apparently residents opened it by moving the cones so she asked the County for help to close it better than the Borough could. Ms. Hovan said that the area could be closed for months to come by the time the bond is adopted and the project is bid and constructed. In response to a question raised by Mr. Kozuhowski about liability, Ms. Hovan said that there is considerable documentation that the Borough has declared the area unsafe for travel but that doesn't mean it couldn't be sued if someone went through anyway and got hurt, adding that the Borough has Tort Claim protection so it would be difficult for someone to be successful in litigation.

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Mayor Nemeth opened the meeting to the public. Ms. Elaine Johnson, 3 Ferry Street, asked if the Borough could install cement barriers to block travel. Ms. Hovan said that she asked the County for that too, and was told they couldn't do that because of emergency services reasons but that they would do all they could, which are the measures in place right now. Mayor Nemeth said that he would try to see if there was something else that could be done. There being no questions or comments, the meeting was closed to the public on motion by Mr. Mann, seconded by Mr. Vandegrift and carried.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Nemeth said that the next meeting, April 11th, would be in person at Borough Hall and that this is the last Zoom meeting.

Council Liaison Reports

Mr. Lipsen said that he met with John Sowsian regarding some project requests for the Streets & Roads and Parks Committees and that he would be providing estimates. He confirmed that the signs were installed so the check could be mailed and also said that Mr. Sowsian cleaned out the gardens on Bridge Street. He also reported that the grants committee has been talking to the NJDEP but that they haven't met with them yet. Mr. Lipsen also reported that the engineer submitted a proposal for \$6300 for assistance to the USDA grant program. Mr. Vandegrift said that he and Mr. Lipsen should pursue talks with the USDA before bringing in the engineer to limit the expenses.

Mr. Juncosa said that the park clean-up day could be scheduled and agreed with Ms. Hovan that it could be useful to combine efforts and promote Bag Up NJ at the same time. Ms. Hovan said that the Borough could order bags and t-shirts and asked for a press release to post it to the website. Mr. Mann said that he would draft the press release. Mr. Juncosa said he would follow up with Ms. Hovan regarding a vendor for the bags and shirts.

Mayor Nemeth announced the Council would be entering into executive session next and that the meeting would be adjourned at the conclusion of the closed session.

Executive Resolution No. 2022-30 (NJS-10:4-12b(7) Litigation, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office and to discuss a matter of litigation (Pasicznyk/Nestor v. Borough of Stockton), was adopted on motion by Mr. Mann, seconded by Mr. Kozuhowski and carried. Mayor Nemeth left the meeting due to recusal for the matter to be discussed when the Council entered closed session at 7:39pm.

The meeting was finally adjourned at 8:05pm on motion by Mr. Lipsen, seconded by Mr. Mann and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Hovan, RMC  
Borough Administrator/Clerk

**List of Bills - (All Funds)**

Meeting Date: 04/18/2022 For bills from 03/14/2022 to 04/18/2022

Vendor	Description	Payment	Check Total
<b>Current Fund</b>			
674 - COMCAST	PO 6047 2 S Main St.	265.75	265.75
848 - Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott	PO 6057 general Legal Fees	387.50	387.50
848 - Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott	PO 6058 Pasicznyk/Nestor Legal Expenses	367.40	367.40
59 - Elizabethtown Gas	PO 6031 Natural Gas Bill - Town Hall	217.26	217.26
667 - JCP&L	PO 6048 Bridge St. Lighting	14.24	14.24
667 - JCP&L	PO 6049 Master Invoice	840.92	840.92
667 - JCP&L	PO 6050 Rt. 29	38.72	38.72
910 - Kate Deemer	PO 6037 Office Cleaning - Feb March	416.00	416.00
876 - NJ ADVANCE MEDIA LLC/NJN	PO 6051 Legal Ad	173.71	173.71
831 - Office Concepts Group	PO 6039 Name Plate	29.00	29.00
671 - Republic Services	PO 6041 recycling/trash	6,365.51	6,365.51
692 - S Hunterdon Regional Schools	PO 6043 school tax	90,933.00	90,933.00
852 - Sowsian's Landscaping	PO 6045 FEB 2022 - salted roads /snow removal	830.00	830.00
196 - Treasurer, St of New Jersey	PO 6044 BFCE Registration	191.00	191.00
10 - Treasurer-State of NJ	PO 6046 NJDEPE Discharge Permit - Renewal	500.00	500.00
<b>Water Utility Fund</b>			
674 - COMCAST	PO 6029 4 Hillop Drive	56.04	56.04
779 - Diane McDaniel	PO 6053 postage W/s	40.00	40.00
498 - George S. Coyne Chem. Co.	PO 6028 Soda Ash #50	1,050.00	1,050.00
667 - JCP&L	PO 6034 water-Hilltop Dr Water Tank - Electric	1,861.15	1,861.15
667 - JCP&L	PO 6035 water- Wilson Drive Electric	63.58	63.58
669 - Joseph Finkle & Son Inc.	PO 6032 supplies	88.16	88.16
53 - One Call Concepts, Inc.	PO 6040 MARK OUT	12.87	12.87
703 - Q.C. Labs/Eurofins	PO 6036 water testing - Jan 2022	933.56	933.56
727 - Stockton Postmaster	PO 6055 Water/Sewer Postage	80.00	80.00
<b>Water Capital</b>			
746 - Richard E Yard Plumbing & Heating I	PO 6042 replace fire hydrant	1,795.00	1,795.00
<b>Sewer Utility Fund</b>			
674 - COMCAST	PO 6030 60 S. Main St.	180.78	180.78
779 - Diane McDaniel	PO 6054 postage W/s	40.00	40.00
667 - JCP&L	PO 6033 sewer	1,060.27	1,060.27
706 - Lambertville Municipal Utilities Au	PO 6038 Sewer Service 12/21/2021-3/20/2022	21,497.68	21,497.68
727 - Stockton Postmaster	PO 6056 Water/Sewer Postage	80.00	80.00
TOTAL			130,409.10

Summary By Account

ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	CURRENT YR	APPROP. YEAR	NON-BUDGETARY	CREDIT
100003	Cash -Northfield			0.00	101,570.01
101402	Regional School District Tax Levy			90,933.00	
10AF10	Municipal Clerk OE	304.94			
10AG10	Governing Body OE	29.00			
10AT10	Assessment of Taxes OE	46.69			
10DA10	Legal Services OE	754.90			
10EG10	Public Buildings & Grounds OE	416.00			
10FB10	Planning Board OE	13.08			
10IR10	Public Works OE	500.00			
10NR20	Contracted Services-Snowplowing	830.00			
10RC10	Recycling OE	1,232.98			
10TD10	Street Lighting	893.88			
10TE10	Garbage & Trash Removal	5,132.53			
10TI10	Telephone	265.75			
10TJ10	Natural Gas	217.26			

ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	CURRENT YR	APPROP. YEAR	NON-BUDGETARY	CREDIT
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TOTALS FOR	Current Fund	10,637.01	0.00	90,933.00	101,570.01
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003	Cash- Northfield			0.00	4,185.36
20WF10	Water OE	4,185.36			
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TOTALS FOR	Water Utility Fund	4,185.36	0.00	0.00	4,185.36
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210008	Cash- Northfield			0.00	1,795.00
212404	21-03 I/a Funded Water Improvements			1,795.00	
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TOTALS FOR	Water Capital	0.00	0.00	1,795.00	1,795.00
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300003	Cash- Northfield			0.00	22,858.73
30SF10	Sewer OE	22,858.73			
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TOTALS FOR	Sewer Utility Fund	22,858.73	0.00	0.00	22,858.73
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Total to be paid from Fund 10 Current Fund	101,570.01
Total to be paid from Fund 20 Water Utility Fund	4,185.36
Total to be paid from Fund 21 Water Capital	1,795.00
Total to be paid from Fund 30 Sewer Utility Fund	22,858.73
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	130,409.10

#### Checks Previously Disbursed

11522	R & L Data Centers Inc.	PO# 6052	**BANK DRAFT	Payroll processing	359.80	4/15/2022
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					359.80	

Totals by fund	Previous Checks/Voids	Current Payments	Total
Fund 10 Current Fund	359.80	101,570.01	101,929.81
Fund 20 Water Utility Fund		4,185.36	4,185.36
Fund 21 Water Capital		1,795.00	1,795.00
Fund 30 Sewer Utility Fund		22,858.73	22,858.73
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BILLS LIST TOTALS	359.80	130,409.10	130,768.90
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