

**BOROUGH OF STOCKTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
APPROVED:**

**REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 11, 2021**

The August Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton was called to order by Mayor Timothy Nemeth at 7:04 pm on October 11, 2021. 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. Ms. Michele Hovan called the roll. The following members of Council were present: Ms. Rebecca Hendricks, Mr. Adam Juncosa, Mr. Aaron Lipsen, Mr. Michael Mann, Mr. Messina, and Mr. Donald Vandegrift. Borough Attorney Michael Butler and Borough Administrator/Clerk Michele Hovan were also present. There were 11 members of the public present.

Mayor Nemeth announced that the discussion on the Stockton Park Master Plan is postponed until the November 8 meeting. He then opened the meeting to the public. Ms. Elaine Johnson, 3 Ferry Street, asked if the revised park plan, one that would have been a result of a meeting in the park, would be posted to the Borough's website and if public comment would be solicited before it is voted on. A brief discussion followed, with Mr. Juncosa stating that when the revised plan is received it will be posted for all to review, but that the Borough may not receive it in advance of the November meeting. Eileen Foley, 11 Bridge Street, asked if it is necessary to vote on the park plan before voting so that the residents could review it for awhile, also noting that there may be more pressing needs, like storm drain clearing. Mr. Vandegrift said that the plan will not reflect a commitment to spend money, rather serving as a list of priorities in the time to come. He acknowledged Ms. Foley's point about public safety issues and also said that while there is no hurry to adopt the plan at the next meeting, Council would like to adopt one as soon as it can and that a vote will come based on the discussion and comments received. Mr. Ken Kozuhowski, 72 South Main Street, thanked the Stockton Fire Department and to Mayor Nemeth and Mr. Lipsen for helping residents during the storm. He said that the dumpsters in the park were overflowing and was concerned about it. Ms. Hovan said that she just learned that the dumpsters were still there, that they should have been removed already, and is in the process of addressing the issue.

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

Approval of Minutes: June 14, 2021 Regular Meeting, September 13, 2021 Regular Meeting. The June 14, 2021 meeting minutes were approved on motion by Mr. Mann, seconded by Mr. Juncosa and carried. The September meeting minutes were tabled until November.

Resolution(s)

Resolution No. 2021-53 - BAN Sale Determination and Award, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office, was adopted on motion by Mr. Mann, seconded by Mr. Lipsen and carried.

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

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2020 Municipal Audit

Ms. Hovan said that she is in her 16th year in the Borough and that this is the first time she is aware of that the Borough had a clean audit, meaning no substantive recommendations or errors, and that CFO Diane McDaniel, the finance committee, and everyone involved in Borough operations time, deserve much credit for the progress and for the excellent report. She added that the governing body's role now is to acknowledge receipt of the audit and the recommendations (of which there are none) and to sign the affidavit that gets filed with the State.

Resolution No. 2021-54, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office and to accept the 2020 Municipal Audit, was adopted on motion by Mr. Juncosa, seconded by Ms. Hendricks, and carried.

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

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

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

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

Mayor's Report/Council Liaison Reports

Mr. Juncosa said that the picnic tables donated by Lorraine Smith were in the process of being assembled and will be delivered to the park. Mr. Mann suggested that placement be reviewed to make sure they are not in the flood zone. Mr. Lipsen, speaking as a member of the public, said that the playground area was not flooded in the last storm and additional discussion focused on Hurricane Ida's unique characteristics. Mr. Vandegrift said that the bleachers and the basketball poles hadn't been removed yet. Ms. Hovan and Mr. Vandegrift both said that they would follow up on the work. Mr. Messina said that he knew of a person with community service obligations and was hoping to have him satisfy them by doing some work in the park. After a brief discussion, Mr. Messina said he would find out more about the individual's order and how Stockton could assist.

Resolution No. 2021-55 (NJS - 10:4-12b(7) Litigation (Pasicznyk/Nestor v. Borough of Stockton)

Ms. Hovan said that upon adoption of the resolution to enter executive session, the governing body members that are recused as well as members of the public could exit the meeting and that meeting would be adjourned at the conclusion of the closed session. Mayor Nemeth thanked the

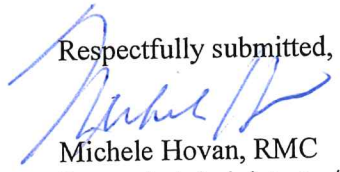
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members of the public for attending, and noted that he and Mr. Messina were recused from the executive discussion. Resolution No. 2021-55, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office and to enter executive session was adopted on motion by Mr. Mann, seconded by Mr. Vandegrift and carried. The public portion of the meeting ended at 7:35pm. The executive session concluded at 8:12 pm on motion by Mr. Lipsen, seconded by Mr. Mann and carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Michele Hovan, RMC
Borough Administrator/Clerk

