



## **STOCKTON BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES March 20, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.**

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Mayor Aaron Lipsen., called the regular meeting of the Stockton Borough Council to order on March 20, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. Mayor Lipsen announced that this meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of this meeting was faxed to the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Trenton Times, was posted on the Borough Website, posted on the door at the Municipal Building and filed with the Borough Clerk.

### **ROLL CALL**

Present: Councilman William Brown, Councilman Peter Folz, Councilwoman Rebecca Hendricks, Councilman Thomas Hunt, Council President Michael Mann, Mayor Aaron Lipsen, Township Attorney Michael Butler, Deputy Clerk Tiffany Crivelli

Absent: Councilman Ken Kozuhowski

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Lipsen led those in attendance in the pledge to the nation's flag.

### **PROCLAMATION MAKING APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup> GLORIA GAREFINO DAY**

#### **Declaring April 2<sup>nd</sup> Gloria Garefino Day**

**WHEREAS**, Gloria Garefino was born in Stockton Borough on April 2, 1931, and was one of the thirteen children of Clementi and Madeline Garefino; and

**WHEREAS**, Gloria Garefino has been one of Stockton Borough's most beloved residents and neighbors for more than ninety years; and

**WHEREAS**, Gloria Garefino was the proprietor of the popular and successful business, Gloria's Beauty Shop, in Stockton Borough for more than fifty-seven years; and

**WHEREAS**, Gloria Garefino was a founding member of the Stockton Playground Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, Gloria Garefino was an active member of the Stockton Civic Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, Gloria Garefino is the past-president and one of the longest serving and most active members of the Stockton Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary; and

**WHEREAS**, Stockton Borough has been enriched by the many decades of entrepreneurship and tireless volunteer work of Gloria Garefino.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY PROCLAIMED**, by Mayor Aaron Lipsen and the entire Borough of Stockton Council, that:

**April 2<sup>nd</sup> of Each Year be Declared “Gloria Garefino Day”**

**BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED**, that the Stockton Borough Council hereby encourages all citizens to recognize Gloria Garefino’s extraordinary contributions to our community.

**OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT – PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Mayor Lipsen opened the floor to public comment.

Jacob Gilinger, Riesler Road, thanked Parks Committee and the Volunteers for the bird houses that were placed at Stockton Park. Mr. Gilinger also noted that the sign is down at Woolverton Road and County Rt 523 need to be replaced.

Hearing no other members of the public speak up, Mayor Lipsen closed the floor to public comment.

**ORDINANCES**

**Introduction to Ordinance No. 2023-02**

Mayor Lipsen read Ordinance No. 2023-02 by title.

A motion by Hunt, seconded by Folz to introduce Ordinance No. 2023-02 and move forward with a public hearing set for April 17, 2023, was approved by roll call vote.

*Brown: Yes; Folz: Yes; Hendricks: Yes; Hunt: Yes; Mann: Yes*

**Ordinance No. 2023 - 02**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE PRESCRIBING CHARGES, RENTALS, RULES AND REGULATION FOR THE MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM FOR THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

BE IT ORDAINED, BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY that the foregoing Ordinance be amended as follows:

Section IV is amended to read: The following rates are hereby adopted for the use of water in the Borough of Stockton Water System based on meter readings:

All size meters: A rate of \$3.85 per thousand gallons

Section VII. Flat Rates - is amended to read:

The flat rate user charge per year for all size meters is \$400.00 (currently \$300.00)

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion by Brown, seconded by Hunt to approve the December 20, 2022 Regular Session and January 17, 2023 Executive Session, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

*Brown: Yes; Folz: Yes; Hendricks: Yes; Hunt: Yes; Mann: Yes*

February 22, 2023 Regular Session – TABLED to April 17, 2023

### **RESOLUTIONS**

A motion by Folz, seconded by Hunt to approve Resolutions #23 – 40 through #23 -44 was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

*Brown: Yes; Folz: Yes; Hendricks: Yes; Hunt: Yes; Mann: Yes*

#### **Resolution #23 – 40 Appointment of Deputy Registrar**

**WHEREAS**, Monica Orlando was reappointed to serve in the office of Local Registrar of Vital Statistics for the Borough of Stockton for a three (3) year term which expires December 31, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the Local Registrar has recommended the appointment of Tiffany Crivelli as the Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics for a term commencing March 31, 2023 and expiring June 30, 2023; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that Tiffany Crivelli be and is hereby appointed to the position of Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics for a term expiring on June 30, 2023.

#### **Resolution #23 – 41 Appointment of Deputy Clerk**

**WHEREAS**, Tiffany Crivelli was reappointed to serve in the office of Deputy Borough Clerk for the Borough of Stockton for a three (3) month term which expires March 31, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Clerk has recommended the reappointment of Tiffany Crivelli as the Deputy Borough Clerk for staffing and office needs, for a term expiring June 30, 2023.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that Tiffany Crivelli be and is hereby appointed to the position of Deputy Borough Clerk for a term expiring on June 30, 2023.

#### **Resolution #23 – 42 Authorize Third Partial Payment – Diamond Construction**

**WHEREAS**, Diamond Construction has been contracted for work on Hilltop Drive and Moore Street Road Improvements Project; and

**WHEREAS**, Diamond Construction has requested third partial payment for work completed through October 31, 2022 in the amount of \$231,473.04; and

**WHEREAS**, Borough Engineer Denis Pollack has recommended to the Borough Council, in a correspondence dated November 17, 2022, that this payment be made.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that payment is authorized to be paid to Diamond Construction for work completed through October 31, 2022 on the Hilltop Dive and Moore Street Road Improvements Project.

Contract Award Amount:	\$ 440,197.25
Percentage of Work Completed	100%
Amount of work completed:	\$ 429,836.72
Less 2% Retainage	\$ 8,596.73
Less Amount Payment Invoice No. 1	\$ 96,715.96
Less Amount Payment Invoice No. 2	\$ 93,050.99
<b>Amount Due Invoice No. 3:</b>	<b>\$ 231,473.04</b>

Diamond Construction  
 35 Beaverson Blvd Suite 12C  
 Brick, NJ 08723

**Resolution #23 – 43  
 Authorizing Payment of Municipal Obligations**

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stockton find and declare that certain municipal obligations have come due and are now payable; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stockton further find and declare that said obligations have been itemized on the annexed schedules, which are hereby attached and deemed part of this Resolution.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stockton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey does hereby authorize payment of said municipal obligations, in accordance with the recommendations of the Chief Financial Officer and the Treasurer in the amount of \$367,914.92.

**Resolution #23 – 44  
 2023 Salaries and Wages**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton that the below salaries, wages or compensation shall be paid to the officers and employees of the Borough of Stockton for the year 2023, effective January 1, 2023 except as noted:

Mayor	\$ 2,166.09
Council Member	\$ 1,496.59
Borough Clerk	\$20,000.00
Deputy Borough Clerk	\$10,300.00
Tax Assessor	\$ 6,758.51
Tax Collector	\$10,846.93
Utility Collector	\$ 4,120.00
Chief Financial Officer	\$23,175.00
QPA	\$ 3,000.00
Special Projects Coordinator	\$ 26.00/hr
Zoning Officer/Flood Plain Adm.	\$ 7,710.00
Construction Office Control Person	\$ 2,339.69
Land Use Secretary	\$ 5,000.00
Magistrate	\$ 2,784.09
Prosecutor	\$ 2,228.32
Public Defender	\$ 636.66
Animal Control Officer	\$ 994.92
Water & Sewer Director/Operator	\$28,706.60
Water Supervisor	\$ 6,964.42
Meter Reader	\$ 1,672.55

### OLD BUSINESS

- Discussion / Update on Worman Road** – Mayor Lipsen stated he contacted the engineer regarding an update but has not received on yet. Mayor Lipsen noted that the Mayor of Delaware Township had taken a tour of the road and also had concerned with opening access. Councilman Hunt stated he spoke with residents who asked to have the road moved. Councilman Hunt stated there are more steps to explore with FEMA to make the road more durable. Councilman Hunt noted he would speak with the Engineer and get an estimate to report back at a later time. Mayor Lipsen noted that FEMA covers 90% of expenses. Councilman Hunt stated the current road is unstable and needs to be stabilized regardless.
- Discussion on Tier A Stormwater Requirements** – Mayor Lipsen that FEMA raised the requirements which caused the Tier Change and noted the Tier change causes more expenses to be incurred by the Borough to be in compliance. Mayor Lipsen noted that the NJDEP has provided an assistance grant which provides \$75,000 which can be used towards a street cleaner and to remap of the stormwater system amongst various other required items. Mayor Lipsen stated the Borough would consider a shared service for some of the requirements to help keep costs down.
- Discussion on Water Authority Riverbank Stabilization Project** – Mayor Lipsen stated that grouting was deemed unfavorable and that a permit would be needed to remove the trees. Mayor Lipsen noted adding fill was not permitted by NJDEP, but that the bank would

need to be leveled out and native grasses planted to avoid erosion. Mayor Lipsen noted there were some concerns of the area not being as stable as it could be if fill was added.

Councilman Brown noted that phase 1 of the repair would take place on the west bank shortly after the project is put to bed. Councilman Brown stated that the tarps should be gone by the end of the year.

- **Discussion / Update on NJDOT Communications Regarding Traffic Calming, Crosswalks, Rt 29 Repaving, and Drainage Issues** – Mayor Lipsen stated that the issues pertaining to Rt 29 had been mentioned to NJDOT but there has been no response yet. Mayor Lipsen also noted there is a list of items that are trying to be coordinated with the repaving project.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Discussion on NJDOT Night Construction Repair of the Bridge Street Canal Bridge** – Let it be noted for the record, Councilman Folz recused himself from the discussion. Mayor Lipsen stated that the small canal bridge will be detoured to South Railroad Avenue. Mayor Lipsen noted the project should be approximately two to three days long. Mayor Lipsen reported the night construction was most beneficial due to traffic and business operations during the day.
- **Discussion on April 2 Gloria Garefino Day Celebration** – Mayor Lipsen reports that there will be a celebration for Gloria Garefino located at the Stockton Fire House on April 2, 2023 at 1pm.
- **Discussion on the Borough Playground Park: Celebrating the Life of Cheryl Kennedy in June** – Mayor Lipsen stated that Dr. Kennedy, a Borough resident, passed away recently in December. Mayor Lipsen noted she was a doctor at UMDNJ, professor at Rutgers University, and on the Borough Planning Board for 30 years. Mayor Lipsen stated that Dr. Kennedy's son, Ian, would like to have a celebration of life open to the community. Borough Attorney Butler advised to not move forward until a formal proposal for the event is received.
- **Discussion on the Reformation of Stockton Borough Historical Commission** – Mayor Lipsen noted there has been discussion from residents of reforming the Historical Commission. Mayor Lipsen asked the Council to consider someone to become a Liaison if the commission is reformed.
- **Discussion on Marriage License Update** – Mayor Lipsen reported there were some concerns with the marriage form located on the Borough Website. Mayor Lipsen noted that the concern was addressed and would be discussed in more detail in Executive Session under Attorney / Client Privilege and Possible Litigation.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Thank You letter from retired Borough Clerk, Michele Hovan
- Letter from Holcombe Descendants

**MAYORS REPORT, BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Mann noted that the Community Outreach Committee would be at the Prallsville Mill on April 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM to have residents come and discuss how everyone can best come together for the needs of the Borough and for various ways for the residents to volunteer.

Councilwoman Hendricks advised the Finance Committee is finalizing the budget and will have the introduction of the budget in April at the Borough Council Meeting, followed by the public hearing and adoption of the budget at the May Borough Council Meeting.

Councilman Hunt reports that the Building and Grounds Committee is going to leave the signs where the State Park and Stockton Park meet for now and work on other items of concern within Stockton Park to make it safe. Councilman Mann added that Buildings and Grounds also met with Mr. Sowsian and advised to not mow all the area as some were marked to become pollinator garden areas.

Mayor Lipsen stated he was exploring various options for street line painting on Borough maintained roadways.

Mayor Lipsen reported the Borough has been looking into various grants to help fund various items such as stormwater management and water line replacements. Mayor Lipsen also noted a request for assistance letter has been drafted to be sent to FEMA.

Mayor Lipsen stated a tour was completed of Glenwood Lane regarding a possible drainage issue, and that a future site tour may occur regarding upstream stormwater runoff, which would also include representatives from Delaware Township.

**OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Mayor Lipsen opened the floor to public comment.

Elain Johnson, Ferry Street, inquired about who is responsible for bridge repair and keeping stream borders clear.

Hearing no other members of the public speak up, Mayor Lipsen closed the floor to public comment.

**NEXT MEETING**

Monday, April 17, 2023 at 7:00 PM, Regular Meeting

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion by Mann, seconded by Brown to approve resolution #23-45 was unanimously approved by voice vote.

**RESOLUTION #23 – 45**

**TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**WHEREAS**, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

**WHEREAS**, this governing body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Committee of Kingwood Township, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the hereinafter specified subject matter.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
  - a. Litigation
  - b. Attorney-Client Privilege
  - c. Real Estate Acquisition

The discussion is anticipated to take approximately 1 hour. Action may be taken.

3. It is intended at this time that the above-stated subject matter will be made public when the matter has been resolved.
4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

A motion by Folz, seconded by Mann to exit Executive Session was unanimously approved by voice vote.

The committee was in Executive Session from 7:58 PM to 8:55 PM.

**ACTION ON ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Folz and seconded by Hunt to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.

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Tiffany Crivelli, Deputy Clerk

Approved: August 15, 2023