



STOCKTON BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES December 18, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Aaron Lipsen., called the regular meeting of the Stockton Borough Council to order on December 18, 2023 at 7:04 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: Brown, Folz, , Kozuhowski, Mann and Mayor Lipsen.

Also present were Township Attorney Michael Butler, Borough Clerk, Laurie A. Courter.

Absent: Hendricks and Hunt.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT – PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mayor Lipsen opened the floor to public comment.

Karen Edwards thanked the council for voting to purchase the school. Reiterating on the support in the sale of the school.

Ilene Foley, Bridge Street-stated that she has some ideas for the school too and is willing to volunteer and group with anyone. Stated her concerns to the parking ordinance and added that parking has been an issue for a long time. Asked that the council consider changing the ordinance as soon as possible so that it protects downtown Stockton and that it remains a river town. Ms. Foley added that the planning board would be happy to make a recommendation for a change.

David Rigo(sp), stated that half of Worman Road is washed out and there is no entrance. Trees are falling down on it weekly. Inquired about when something will be done for Worman Road. Mayor Lipsen clarified some of the details with regards to the road and the parts that are washed out is in the jurisdiction of Delaware Township. The borough is working diligently with JCPL which agreed to do tree trimming. The road will be more than the borough's budget for repairs. Further discussions ensued regarding the involvement of engineers and FEMA and working with Delaware Township's Mayor in resolving the fixture of the road.

Susan Carroll, thanked the mayor for taking time and being prompt and thinking this through with regards to Worman Road but stated her concerns regarding the trees falling onto the road and residents being stuck having to walk to their houses because they can't get through. Discussions of emergency vehicles access ensued.

David Rigo(sp), asked the mayor what his best guess is in how long they are looking at before work begins to repair the road. Mayor Lipsen stated the borough engineer is looking at early spring, but it is in the hands of the DEP.

McDough?(sp) 49 Worman Road asked for clarification on how the fire truck would get through with the barrier in place. Mayor Lipsen explained the fire department with an ATV would remove the barrier so that the fire truck can get through.

Mike Odenwald 19 Rissler Street. Stated his support for the purchase of the Stockton School. Stated that he has been a resident for about two years and is very interested in what's good for this town. The town is the 13th smallest municipality in New Jersey. Mr. Odenwald briefly discussed that he is working on plans and ideas for an economic development plan for the borough.

John Rhinehart, Roxbury NJ, stated that he has been in municipal finance for over 30 years. Stated that he is currently the CFO. Mr. Rhinehart stated that he took the boroughs financial information and projected the impact of the revenues for this town regarding cannabis. Stated that it would truly be a benefit to the town on how they choose to use it.

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

ORDINANCES-2nd Reading Public Hearing/Adoption

Ordinance 23-14

Motion made by Kozuhowski and seconded by Mann to open the public hearing for Ordinance 23-14

Hearing no public comment, motion made by Folz and seconded by Kozuhowski to close the public hearing. All were in favor.

Motion made by Mann and seconded by Kozuhowski to adopt Ordinance 23-14.

Roll call: Brown, Folz, Kozuhowski, and Mann.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

Ordinance # 23-14

Illicit Connection Ordinance

SECTION I. Purpose:

An ordinance to prohibit illicit connections to the municipal separate storm sewer system(s) operated by the Borough of Stockton so as to protect public health, safety and welfare, and to prescribe penalties for the failure to comply.

SECTION II. Definitions:

For the purpose of this ordinance, the following terms, phrases, words, and their derivations shall have the meanings stated herein unless their use in the text of this Chapter clearly demonstrates a different meaning. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words used in the plural number include the singular

number, and words used in the singular number include the plural number. The word “shall” is always mandatory and not merely directory. The definitions below are the same as or based on corresponding definitions in the New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) rules at N.J.A.C. 7:14A-1.2.

- a. Domestic sewage - waste and wastewater from humans or household operations.
- b. Illicit connection – any physical or non-physical connection that discharges domestic sewage, non-contact cooling water, process wastewater, or other industrial waste (other than stormwater) to the municipal separate storm sewer system operated by the [insert name of municipality], unless that discharge is authorized under a NJPDES permit other than the Tier A Municipal Stormwater General Permit (NJPDES Permit Number NJ0141852). Non-physical connections may include, but are not limited to, leaks, flows, or overflows into the municipal separate storm sewer system.
- c. Industrial waste - non-domestic waste, including, but not limited to, those pollutants regulated under Section 307(a), (b), or (c) of the Federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §1317(a), (b), or (c)).
- d. Municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4)– a conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, manmade channels, or storm drains) that is owned or operated by [insert name of municipality] or other public body, and is designed and used for collecting and conveying stormwater. **NOTE:** In municipalities with combined sewer systems, add the following: “MS4s do not include combined sewer systems, which are sewer systems that are designed to carry sanitary sewage at all times and to collect and transport stormwater from streets and other sources.”
- e. NJPDES permit – a permit issued by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to implement the New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) rules at N.J.A.C. 7:14A
- f. Non-contact cooling water - water used to reduce temperature for the purpose of cooling. Such waters do not come into direct contact with any raw material, intermediate product (other than heat) or finished product. Non-contact cooling water may however contain algacides, or biocides to control fouling of equipment such as heat exchangers, and/or corrosion inhibitors.
- g. Person – any individual, corporation, company, partnership, firm, association, or political subdivision of this State subject to municipal jurisdiction.
- h. Process wastewater - any water which, during manufacturing or processing, comes into direct contact with or results from the production or use of any raw material, intermediate product, finished product, byproduct, or waste product. Process wastewater includes, but is not limited to, leachate and cooling water other than non-contact cooling water.
- i. Stormwater – water resulting from precipitation (including rain and snow) that runs off the land’s surface, is transmitted to the subsurface, is captured by separate storm sewers or other sewerage or drainage facilities, or is conveyed by snow

removal equipment.

SECTION III. Prohibited Conduct:

No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged through an illicit connection to the municipal separate storm sewer system operated by the Borough of Stockton any domestic sewage, non-contact cooling water, process wastewater, or other industrial waste (other than stormwater).

SECTION IV. Enforcement:

This ordinance shall be enforced by the Zoning Officer and NJ State Police.

SECTION V. Penalties:

Any person(s) who is found to be in violation of the provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine of \$500-\$1000.

SECTION VI. Severability:

Each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase of this Ordinance is declared to be an independent section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase, and the finding or holding of any such portion of this Ordinance to be unconstitutional, void, or ineffective for any cause, or reason, shall not affect any other portion of this Ordinance.

Ordinance 23-15

Motion made by Folz and seconded by Kozuhowski to open the public hearing for Ordinance 23-15

Hearing no public comment, motion made by Mann and seconded by Brown to close the public hearing, all were in favor.

Motion made by Kozuhowski and seconded by Folz to adopt Ordinance 23-15.

Roll call: Brown, Folz, Kozuhowski, and Mann.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

Ordinance #23-15

Improper Disposal of Waste Ordinance

SECTION I. Purpose:

An ordinance to prohibit the spilling, dumping, or disposal of materials other than stormwater to the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) operated by the so as to protect public health, safety Borough of Stockton and welfare, and to prescribe penalties for the failure to comply.

SECTION II. Definitions:

For the purpose of this ordinance, the following terms, phrases, words, and their derivations

shall have the meanings stated herein unless their use in the text of this Chapter clearly demonstrates a different meaning. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words used in the plural number include the singular number, and words used in the singular number include the plural number. The word “shall” is always mandatory and not merely directory.

- a. Municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4)– a conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, manmade channels, or storm drains) that is owned or operated by [insert name of municipality] or other public body, and is designed and used for collecting and conveying stormwater. **NOTE:** In municipalities with combined sewer systems, add the following: “MS4s do not include combined sewer systems, which are sewer systems that are designed to carry sanitary sewage at all times and to collect and transport stormwater from streets and other sources.”
- b. Person – any individual, corporation, company, partnership, firm, association, or political subdivision of this State subject to municipal jurisdiction.
- c. Stormwater – water resulting from precipitation (including rain and snow) that runs off the land’s surface, is transmitted to the subsurface, is captured by separate storm sewers or other sewerage or drainage facilities, or is conveyed by snow removal equipment.

SECTION III. Prohibited Conduct:

The spilling, dumping, or disposal of materials other than stormwater to the municipal separate storm sewer system operated by **[insert name of municipality]** is prohibited. The spilling, dumping, or disposal of materials other than stormwater in such a manner as to cause the discharge of pollutants to the municipal separate storm sewer system is also prohibited.

SECTION IV. Exceptions to Prohibition:

- a. Water line flushing and discharges from potable water sources
- b. Uncontaminated ground water (e.g., infiltration, crawl space or basement sump pumps, foundation or footing drains, rising ground waters)
- c. Air conditioning condensate (excluding contact and non-contact cooling water)
- d. Irrigation water (including landscape and lawn watering runoff)
- e. Flows from springs, riparian habitats and wetlands, water reservoir discharges and diverted stream flows
- f. Residential car washing water, and residential swimming pool discharges
- g. Sidewalk, driveway and street wash water
- h. Flows from fire fighting activities
- i. Flows from rinsing of the following equipment with clean water:
 - Beach maintenance equipment immediately following their use for their intended purposes; and
 - Equipment used in the application of salt and de-icing materials immediately following salt and de-icing material applications. Prior to rinsing with clean water, all residual salt and de-icing materials must be removed from equipment and vehicles to the maximum extent

practicable using dry cleaning methods (e.g., shoveling and sweeping). Recovered materials are to be returned to storage for reuse or properly discarded.

Rinsing of equipment, as noted in the above situation is limited to exterior, undercarriage, and exposed parts and does not apply to engines or other enclosed machinery.

SECTION V. Enforcement:

This ordinance shall be enforced by the Zoning Officer and NJ State Police.

SECTION VI. Penalties:

Any person(s) who continues to be in violation of the provisions of this ordinance, after being duly notified, shall be subject to a fine of \$100-\$2000.

SECTION VII. Severability:

Each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase of this Ordinance is declared to be an independent section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase, and the finding or holding of any such portion of this Ordinance to be unconstitutional, void, or ineffective for any cause, or reason, shall not affect any other portion of this Ordinance.

SECTION VIII. Effective date:

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption and any publication as may be required by law.

RESOLUTIONS

A motion by Mann seconded by Kozuhowski to adopt Resolution #23-100.

Roll call: Brown, Folz, Kozuhowski, and Mann.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

**Borough of Stockton
Hunterdon County, New Jersey**

Resolution #23-100

**Providing Support For New Jersey Department of Transportation Concept Plans for
Improvements to Mid-Block Crosswalks on Main Street & Risler Street
(NJ Route 29 Mileposts 22.13, 22.24, 22.83, 22.62)**

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) conducted a pedestrian road safety

audit at existing mid-block crosswalks on Risler Street and Main Street (Route 29 Milepost 22.13, 22.24, 22.83, 22.62); and

WHEREAS, NJDOT has initiated a Limited Scope Concept Development (LSCD) study to address the pedestrian safety concerns at these mid-block crosswalks; and

WHEREAS, NJDOT is seeking municipal support for the proposed concept plans included with this resolution; and

WHEREAS, the concept plans to improve pedestrian safety and increase visibility of mid-block crosswalk to motorists include:

- Milepost 22.13, installation of new pedestrian scale street lighting, high visibility crosswalk markings, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades, and new signage; and
- Milepost 22.23, installation of new pedestrian scale street lighting, high visibility crosswalk markings, Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs), ADA upgrades, and new signage; and
- Milepost 22.83, installation of new pedestrian scale street lighting, high visibility crosswalk markings, RRFBs, upgrades to existing advance flashing beacon, ADA upgrades, and new signage; and
- Milepost 22.62, installation of new pedestrian scale street lighting, high visibility crosswalk markings, RRFBs, ADA upgrades, and new signage; and

WHEREAS, on July 19, 2023, NJDOT presented concept plans to the Borough of Stockton to solicit feedback; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council support the design concepts presented to the Borough of Stockton and support NJDOT's efforts to make pedestrian safety improvements within the Borough of Stockton.

WHEREAS, Stockton Borough requests that, if possible, the posts and fixtures be black and as similar as possible to **the** historic style lighting already installed on Bridge Street.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council of Borough of Stockton do hereby support NJDOT's Midblock Crosswalk Improvements, Central limited scope concept development study design concepts for pedestrian safety improvements at existing mid-block crosswalks within the Borough of Stockton included in the resolution.

A motion by Mann seconded by Folz to adopt Resolution #23-101.

Brown commented that this is a benefit to have it and makes sense as a safety valve but not a common practice.

Roll call: Brown, Folz, Kozuhowski, and Mann.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

**Borough of Stockton
Hunterdon County, New Jersey**

Resolution #23-101

**Providing Members of the Stockton Borough Governing Body,
Hunterdon County, State of New Jersey, an Option to Participate in Public Meetings Remotely
by Telephone or Other Electronic Means**

WHEREAS, there may be times when a Council Member cannot physically be present at a meeting of the governing body; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body believes that there should be an option to allow members of the Governing Body to participate in a public meeting remotely by telephone or other electronic means; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body believes that permitting a remote option will balance the needs of Stockton to transact business and of the public to have a meaningful discourse with its elected officials.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stockton do hereby support and approve of council members having an option to participate in public meetings of the Governing Body remotely by telephone or other electronic means when they cannot be physically present.

A motion by Kozuhowski seconded by Brown to adopt Resolution #23-102.

Roll call: Brown, Folz, Kozuhowski, and Mann.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

**Borough of Stockton
Hunterdon County, New Jersey**

Resolution #23-102

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
Fiscal Grant Cycle October 2020-June 2025

FORM 1B

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, The Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Hunterdon;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough of Stockton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Borough Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the South Hunterdon Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2025 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$ <u>3,980.00</u>
Cash Match	\$ <u>995.00</u>
In-Kind	\$ <u>2,985.00</u>
2. The Borough Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

A motion by Mann and seconded by Folz to adopt Resolution #23-103.

Roll call: Brown, Folz, Kozuhowski, and Mann.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution #23-103**

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A GENDER-INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE POLICY

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Borough of Stockton to treat the public, all employees, prospective employees, appointees, and volunteers with respect; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Borough of Stockton has determined that in order to advance its policy of respect towards the public, its employees, appointees, and volunteers, it will adopt a gender-inclusive language policy.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ADOPTED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that:

Section 1: A gender-inclusive language policy, a copy of which is attached to this Resolution, is hereby adopted by the Borough of Stockton.

Section 2: A copy of the gender-inclusive language policy shall be kept on file in Borough Hall and will be available to the public.

Section 3: This resolution shall take effect immediately.

A motion by Folz and seconded by Brown to adopt Resolution #23-104.

Roll call: Brown, Folz, Kozuhowski, and Mann.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

**Borough of Stockton
Hunterdon County, New Jersey**

**RESOLUTION 23-104
CANCELLATION OF CAPITAL BALANCES**

WHEREAS, certain General Capital Improvement appropriation balances remain dedicated to projects now completed or no longer deemed necessary; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to formally cancel said balances;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton that it hereby authorizes the Chief Financial Officer to cancel the following unexpended and dedicated balances of General Capital Appropriations:

<u>Ordinance</u> <u>No.</u>		<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Cancelled</u>
14-04	F	Contaminant Remediation	\$ 499.00
21-03	F	Water Improvements	\$ 24,681.86

A motion by Koz seconded by Mann to adopt Resolution #23-105.

Roll call: Brown, Folz, Kozuhowski, and Mann.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

MINUTES

Motion made by Mann and seconded by Kozuhowski to approve the regular meeting minutes from November 20, 2023, all were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Discussion / Update on Worman Road**

Mayor Lipsen stated that he discussed this topic earlier in the beginning of the meeting. Will hopefully have a meeting with residents early in January one on one.

- **Discussion / Update on Tier A Stormwater Update**

Mayor Lipsen stated that they contracted with an engineering company to prepare our stormwater ordinance. The SPP ordinance should be completed by January 1st to allow us to apply for \$50,000 in grants to comply with the requirements.

Planning board members have completed their required training this year. The Emergency Management Coordinator cleaned the storm drains and is hopefully now meeting the DEP requirements. A tab on our webpage coming soon by new a webhost operator for Tier A stormwater information. The brough is looking at different options for leaf cleanup which is part of Tier A requirements. Mayor Lipsen stated that they are still working on a garbage bid for late winter early spring.

- **Discussion / Update on Stockton School**

Attorney Butler stated that this will be discussed later in executive session and added that they are still close to the closing and is working with the school district attorney. The closing could potentially happen this Friday. Mayor Lipsen added that we were able to get snow plowing and snow clearing of school in the current snow bid contract.

- **Discussion / Parking**

Mayor Lipsen stated he looked at the parking ordinances from the 70, 80s and it will take a little time for us to look at some of the ordinances and decide if we want to discuss it more. Kozuhowski inquired about meter parking as a revenue source and asked has it ever bene discussed. Lipsen stated that the last time it was discussed was ten years ago and would need to have enforcement which we would probably have to hire someone to do it, and a cost analysis would need to be done. Parking could be a topic of discussion in the new year.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Discussion -Lorraine Smith Pollinator Gardens (Mayor Lipsen recused)**

Mayor Lipsen stated that he noticed on the plans the plantings are put in the ball field. Copies didn't come out that well. Suggested to bring it back to the committee next year and meeting with Ms. Smith with the location. Mann stated that they can work on this, and he doesn't think she (Ms. Smith) isn't locked into anything. Consensus was to send it to the park and grounds committee.

- **Discussion: Changing Ordinance Regarding Parking Requirements**

Mayor Lipsen stated at the planning board meeting he discussed if council would like the board to look at this issue in the examination of the master plan. This needs to be a council decision and if we sent it to the planning board he can write a letter asking them if they would look into it. Kozuhowski stated that parking is a major issue and once spring and summer markets open, we will have an influx of people and need some sort of enforcement. He noticed that the Stockton liquor store took three spots in which they said they are private, but they are public spots, they don't have the authority to do that. Kozuhowski encouraged the planning board to look into this issue. Brown stated he didn't think the planning board was involved with repealing the parking ordinance. Lengthy discussions ensued regarding the parking ordinance and what options they would have and having it part of the reexamination report.

MAYORS REPORT, BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee Reports

Infrastructure Report- Mayor Lipsen stated that they are starting to look at new meters based on council and public input, and they will be in the budget for next year. There will be a meeting tomorrow at 4:15 regarding billing. Mayor Lipsen stated he met with residents from Delaware Township in Brookville section. Mayor Lipsen asked for council if we were able to apply for grant funding with Delaware Township if possible, being this is an extraordinary situation, and ask if there were any council objection, no objections noted.

Mayor Lipsen discussed the drainage under bridge, he contacted USDA and DEP, the State and county, and everyone is saying no cannot dredge out creek. Mayor Lipsen asked if it was ok with council that he coordinate with Delaware Township and the Engineer to encourage the DOT to get a special permit. No objections noted.

Public Safety- Mayor Lipsen-stated that members of council and residents are invited to attend Stockton Fire Company meeting in Sergeantsville on January 11th at 7pm. Mayor Lipsen strongly encourages the public to attend. The council can attend as this is an information session both Stockton and Sergeantsville will be there.

Community Outreach-Mayor Lipsen stated that they should start talking about events for next year like a Rummage Sale, and a Welcome Wagon for new residents and an easter egg hunt. Mann suggested to set up a meeting with residents who express interest to take part.

Mayor Lipsen stated to council members, if they have any final end of year project for them to get purchase orders generated by end of this week, otherwise it goes into next year's budget. There is a good amount of money left in our fund balance. It's been a very frugal year.

Mayor Lipsen stated that the cannabis issue raised earlier tonight, it is now up to council on how they want to proceed. Mayor Lipsen stated that if they want to opt in and get a lot of community input and do an investigation on our part. Up to council on how quickly you want to move or not move.

Mayor Lipsen announced that the reorganization meeting is scheduled for January 3rd and the regular January meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 17th. Mayor Lipsen stated he will ask direction from the council if and when they want to discuss these issues and added that the borough has a lot in fire right now. Kozuhowski responded that there is enough on our plate right now, we have pertinent issues that need more attention than pot income revenue.

Brown added that there is a tremendous resource in the planning board in getting their feedback on issues related to zoning. Kozuhowski asked Attorney Butler if the council asks the zoning board do we have to be already opted in, Mr. Butler responded no you don't have to be opted in. Butler added that a lot of cannabis ordinances are zoning ordinances. This is a very fair question to ask the planning board to look at the issue.

Mayor Lipsen ended his statements by thanking members of the public for coming to meetings and sharing ideas and being part of the democratic process. Thanked the council members and professionals and stated that it's been an interesting year in so many years and gives credit to everyone for getting this far.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Lipsen opened the floor to public comment.

Eilen Foley thanked Brown for noticing the ordinance is a lot different than other parking issues. Something that needs to be addressed before the whole reexamination and would like to have it changed back. Thanked that mayor for all of the work he has done for the borough this year.

Mike Odenwald 19 Rissler Street -thanked the mayor for helping with the waterway next to his house. They were pulling timber out of the drain. Was able to get DOT out, they cleared the entire thing and hasn't been done in 50 years. Stated for clarification, regarding a cannabis dispensary that the most minimal income would generate \$144,000 a year to Stockton. Learned a lot regarding parking and stated that a large majority of businesses such as Stockton Inn will have their own parking. Parking meters would be difficult. Reiterated his interest in funding a bocci ball court in the borough. Stated that he would personally offer a donation to make that happen.

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

Vouchers

Motion to pay bills made by Kozuhowski and seconded by Brown.

Roll call: Brown, Folz, Kozuhowski, and Mann.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

Folz, expressed his concerns with the parking like Ms. Foley on Bridge Street, there are plenty of times with events that happen and people park in front of his house and he doesn't have parking available at all.

(name in audible) 22 Rissler Street, asked for an update on stormwater plans or studies. Mayor Lipsen stated we talked about Tier A requirements. No updates on NRCS. It could take upwards to a year to hear back. Delaware Township was asked to endorse our letter and he believes they did but not 100 percent clarity though. An email was sent this month to NRCS but no other information on this. In the new year we will look to follow up with all that again. We had two meetings with the county and on the to do list is to reach back out to them and make some proposals. With the stormwater path coming though Wilson Drive it's a good idea to talk to them again while we are waiting for stuff to get started.

Berland(sp), asked if there are any considerations of water sources coming across properties to keep free of debris. Mayor Lipsen stated that he did send pictures to the DOT and asked them to look at them with it flooding over there. Another thing we are looking to do with Brookville residents is to go higher up the ladder to get things moving. Bertland stated that upstream a lot of dead trees are falling and not being cleared and it's causing problems and clogs culverts and other features. It needs to be considered of the overflow on Route 29 and other locations. Mayor Lipsen stated that in the new year they talk to different agencies about these issues. Discussions of clearing of trees and getting an ordinance in place ensued.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion by Kozuhowski and seconded by Mann to approve Resolution #23-106 was unanimously approved by voice vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 23 – 106**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 Council of Stockton Borough, 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:
 - Contractual-Professional Services
 - Property Acquisition

The discussion is anticipated to take approximately 30 minutes. 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 Mann and seconded by Kozuhowski to exit the executive session was unanimously approved by voice vote.

The council was in Executive Session from 8:13 PM–9:19 PM.

Mayor Lipsen announced for Committee appointments next year, to reach out to him for consideration.

ACTION ON ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action is being taken.

NEXT MEETING

January 3, 2024 (Re-Organization), at 7:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 PM.

Laurie A. Courter

Laurie A. Courter, Borough Clerk

Approved: