



## STOCKTON BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 17, 2024 – 7:00 P.M.

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Mayor Aaron Lipsen., called the regular meeting of the Stockton Borough Council to order on June 17, 2024 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 transmitted 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: Councilperson William Brown, Councilperson Fisher (*via telephone*) Councilperson Peter Folz(*via telephone*), Council President Thomas Hunt, Councilperson Ken Kozuhowski (*via telephone*), Councilperson Michael Mann, Mayor Aaron Lipsen, Borough Attorney Lisa Maddox and Borough Clerk, Laurie A. Courter

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Hunt and seconded by Brown to approve the May 20, 2024, meeting minutes, all were in favor except for the following recusing themselves: Fisher and Mann.

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

Mayor Lipsen opened the floor to public comment.

Stephen Giocondo, Glenwood Lane, inquired about the off-street parking ordinance that's been postponed. Stated that he read through it and there's a lot of discussion about only non-residential buildings. Stated that he knows its being rescinded but in the rescinding of it if there is a single-family residential house or multi residential house in commercial zone, asked if that applies to that structure as well. Attorney Maddox responded that she believed so because those buildings are not subject to the building application requirements. Mr. Giocondo asked if you're in a commercial residential zone and an applicant wants to turn single family house into a bicycle rental shop-and rent to the public and perhaps draw any number of customers into the borough, would they require planning board to consider parking requirements. Attorney Maddox explained that any and every application essentially that would go before the planning board would trigger this requirement.

Adam Juncosa, 2 Stockton Sergeantsville Road, discussed the off-street parking ordinances and stated that if it is a multi-family residence in residential commercial zone, if you're renting that requires off street parking it is in the current 1976 ordinance. Stated that he was part of council when this ordinance was being repealed. Explained why this ordinance was done. Stated that the council and land use board work out some method solving the issue we are trying to solve. Stated that the current planning schedule for parking was likely not written for Stockton, it was taken from some other town, which is fine, but this one does not fit into Stockton's geography. Discussed how every business in Stockton does not have the correct amount of parking and gave examples of the Stockton Inn and the Stockton Market. Discussed the process of any business thinking of coming into Stockton and citing the process and the costs for engineers and planners for an application before the planning board. Every meeting is hundreds and if not thousands of dollars out of pocket. Any family would like to own a business that may have to go through is a huge amount of capital before going through this. Discussion of getting solutions for those businesses for parking ensued. Mayor Lipsen stated that these are issues we need to explore and discuss on the council and planning board levels. Attorney Maddox explained that this ordinance would be the first step and it's not a solution but starts with council directing the planning board that there needs to be more done.

Eileen Foley-11 Bridge Street, stated that she believes the restaurant on Bridge Street since its existence wouldn't deal with any parking problems. All of the parking will be addressed in the master plan and putting this ordinance back into place would be a good thing.

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

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Email-Received from M. Odenwald; Re: Social Media Awareness
- Email-Received from M. Odenwald; Economic Development Plan.

Mayor Lipsen gave the following statement:

The Stockton Borough Council opted out of the sale of cannabis by Ordinance No. 21-04. At this time, the Borough Council will not schedule presentations by any potential cannabis businesses seeking to operate in the Borough. The reason for this is that Ordinance No. 21-04 prohibits all types of cannabis businesses from operating in the Borough. As long as cannabis businesses are prohibited from operating in the Borough it is premature and unproductive for the Council to consider presentations by any specific cannabis businesses seeking to operate in the Borough and it could corrupt the process if the Borough were to ever choose to move forward on the issue. If the Council chooses to further explore the issue, discussion of cannabis would start casually with Borough Council members and members of the community. Presentations by vendors would likely not be accepted until and unless Ordinance 21-04 were to be repealed. Brown stated that he concurred with the analysis and states that it's putting the cart before the horse to consider applications at this juncture.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Stockton Inn Address Change**

Mayor Lipsen stated that the Stockton Inn has requested to change their address to 1 Main Street and that is how they plan on doing their business, which is looked at with significant branding. Lipsen

stated that there are a couple of ways to do this-give them the address change and for tax map purposes they would remain 1 South Main Street, they would need to notify first responders and others that need to be notified. Another way would be an official address change, which is more complicated, we have a North Main and South Main and we would need to create a Main Street address. After lengthy discussions and option #1 being the most favored, Mayor Lipsen stated that they can check and make sure option #1 doesn't make formal changes to the tax maps and added that the borough will not be paying for any signage.

## **ORDINANCES**

### **ORDINANCES 1st Reading:**

24-08 Noise -Postponed to the July 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **ORDINANCES-2nd Reading**

24-07 Off Street Parking (Adjourned to July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, meeting)

Attorney Maddox explained the purpose of the ordinance which establishes a fine for violation of an ordinance. Ms. Maddox stated that this would supersede what was in place and added that it was prudent to put one in place. This is standard for code books. Main difference is the amount of fine. The maximum fine is \$2000 with the courts having discretion upon a conviction.

Motion made by Hunt to approve Ordinance 2024-09 on first reading, motion seconded by Mann.  
Roll call: Brown, Fisher, Folz, Hunt, Kozuhowski, and Mann.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

### **ORDINANCE # 24-09**

#### **AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON ESTABLISHING GENERAL PENALTIES AND FINES FOR VIOLATING ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:49-5, the Borough Council may prescribe penalties for the violation of ordinances it has passed and may have the authority to pass and which do not have specific penalties prescribed therein; and

**WHEREAS**, at this time the Borough Council seeks to adopt an ordinance for the purpose of prescribing such penalties that apply to existing ordinances with no specific penalties, and ordinance which it may in the future adopt that do not have specific penalties, for violations thereof.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stockton in Hunterdon County, New Jersey as follows:

#### **Section 1. General Penalty**

Whenever in any ordinance of the Borough of Stockton, any act is prohibited or is made or declared to be unlawful or an offense, or whenever in any ordinance the doing of any act is required or the failure to do an act is declared to be unlawful, where no specific penalty is provided therefor, the violator of any such provision of the ordinance shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$2,000, by imprisonment for a period not exceeding 90 days, or be required to perform community service for a period not exceeding 90 days or by a combination of such fine, imprisonment and/or community service.

## **Section 2. Continuing Violations**

Each day any violation of any ordinance shall continue or shall have continued shall constitute a separate offense, unless otherwise provided in the subject ordinance.

## **Section 3. Repeat Offenses**

Any person who is convicted of violating an ordinance within one year of the date of a previous violation of the same ordinance and who was fined for the previous violation, shall be sentenced by the court to an additional fine as a repeat offender pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40:49-5.

## **Section 4. Failure to Pay Fines**

Any person convicted of violating any ordinance, and who is in default of the payment of any fine imposed for the violations may, in the court's discretion, be imprisoned for a term not exceeding 90 days or be required to perform community service for a period not exceeding 90 days.

## **Section 5. Severability**

Each section, subsection, sentence, clause, and phrase of this ordinance is declared to be an independent section, subsection, sentence, clause, and phrase, and 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 6. Repealer**

All ordinances or parts thereof inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

## **Section 7. 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.

## **ORDINANCES-2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Public Hearing/Adoption** 24-06 Improvements-Water and Sewer Utilities

Motion to open pub hearing made by Brown and seconded by Hunt, all were in favor.

Mayor Lipsen explained that this just allows Stockton to use the capital fund to pay for water and wastewater expenses to be paid out of the capital fund instead of using the yearly budget.

Public comment:

Michele Purcell, Bridge Street-stated that she was curious about the specific things concerning water and sewer, curious about the things that are being taken care of. Mayor Lipsen responded that it will take care of the following, which was read from the ordinance, water sewer line infiltration, sewer pump upgrades, sewer pump generator replacement. Ms. Purcell stated that she requests that public safety be a priority.

Hearing no further public comment, the motion made by Hunt and seconded by Mann to close the public portion, all were in favor.

Motion made by Mann and seconded by Hunt to adopt Ordinance 24-06.

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

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

#### **ORDINANCE 2024-06**

### **AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON AUTHORIZING GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WATER AND SEWER UTILITIES AND APPROPRIATING \$140,000 THEREFOR FROM UTILITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stockton in Hunterdon County,

New Jersey as follows:

**Section 1.** The Borough of Stockton in Hunterdon County (“Borough”) is hereby authorized to undertake work in furtherance of improvements to its Water and Sewer Utilities, and specifically the procurement of goods and services necessary to complete said improvements (the “Work”).

**Section 2.** The improvements authorized to be included within the Work shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following projects:

- Water and sewer line infiltration investigation and repair;
- Sewer pump station upgrades;
- Sewer pump station generator replacement;
- Lead, copper, galvanized, and damaged water line replacement
- Fire hydrant repair and replacement;
- Well wiring upgrades;
- Well repair and/or installation of a new well;
- Water system treatment and chemical storage upgrades;
- Water storage tank repairs;
- Water valve repairs and replacement;
- Water meter replacement and repairs;
- Water meter reading equipment; and

**Section 3.** The Work authorized by Sections 1 and 2 of this ordinance shall be undertaken as a general improvement, the entire cost of which shall be contributed and borne by the Borough as a general expense, and no part of said cost shall be specially assessed against any property. The total cost of said Work shall not exceed \$140,000 unless this ordinance is amended.

**Section 4** It is hereby determined and stated that the undertaking of the Work (hereinafter “Purpose”) is not a current expense of the Borough; and that the total estimated cost of said Purpose shall not exceed \$140,000.

**Section 5.** The sum of \$140,000 is appropriated for said Purpose from Utility Improvement Capital Fund and now available therefor under a budget or budgets of the Borough previously adopted.

**Section 6.** The capital budget is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of an inconsistency therewith and the resolutions promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government Services as on file with the Borough Clerk and is available for public inspection.

**Section 6.** This ordinance shall take upon adoption and publication as provided by law.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

Motion made by Hunt and seconded by Mann to approve Resolution 24-57

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

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

### **RESOLUTION 2024-57**

### **RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING PROCESSING HOURS FOR OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT REQUESTS**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Stockton has limited staffing to handle the volume of Open Public Records Requests; and,

**WHEREAS**, NJSA 47:1A-5 sets special circumstances allowing times during which records may be inspected, examined, copied; accessed and copy fees; in the case of a municipality having a population of 5,000 or fewer according to the most recent federal decennial census, during not less than six regular business hours over not less than three business days per week or the entity's regularly-scheduled business hours, whichever is less; and in the event of a holiday, inclement weather, or any other unforeseen cause, that the clerk's office may be closed, the office will post the hours to comply with the aforementioned statute, and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough Council of Stockton Borough, in the County of Hunterdon and the State of New Jersey, hereby sets the hours for review and processing Open Public Records Requests for the following days and times:

Mondays and Thursdays 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Fridays 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Motion made by Hunt and seconded by Mann to approve Resolution 24-58

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

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

**RESOLUTION 2024-58  
SALARY-DEPUTY FINANCE**

**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 2024, effective January 1, 2024:

Deputy Finance

7,210.00

Motion made by Mann and seconded by Hunt to approve Resolutions 24-59 and 24-60.

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

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

**Stockton Borough Council  
Resolution #24-59**

**ABC License Renewal – Tilch Fine Wines, LLC**

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**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey has reviewed an application for renewal of a Plenary Retail Consumption License for the twelve-month period ending June 30, 2025 for the following licensed premise:

Tilch Fine Wines, LLC d/b/a Stockton Fine Wines  
15-17 Bridge Street  
Stockton Borough, New Jersey 08559  
License Number 1023-44-002-008

**WHEREAS**, no timely written objection has been filed with the office of the Stockton Borough Clerk related to this licensed premise; and

**WHEREAS**, the applicant is qualified to be licensed according to all statutory, regulatory, and local government laws and regulations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Stockton Borough Council does hereby grant a one-year renewal to the above listed licensed premise.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Stockton Borough Clerk is authorized to execute a license and to issue the license certificate to Tilch Fine Wines, LLC.

**Stockton Borough Council  
Resolution #24-60**

**ABC License Renewal – Strackhouse Restaurant, LLC**

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**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey has reviewed an application for renewal of a Plenary Retail Consumption License for the twelve-month period ending June 30, 2025 for the following licensed premise:

Strackhouse Restaurant, LLC d/b/a The Stockton Inn  
1 Main Street  
Stockton Borough, New Jersey 08559  
License Number 1023-33-001-011

**WHEREAS**, no timely written objection has been filed with the office of the Stockton Borough Clerk related to this licensed premise; and

**WHEREAS**, the applicant is qualified to be licensed according to all statutory, regulatory, and local government laws and regulations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Stockton Borough Council does hereby grant a one-



year renewal to the above listed licensed premise.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Stockton Borough Clerk is authorized to execute a license and to issue the license certificate to Strackhouse Restaurant, LLC.

Motion made by Hunt and seconded by Mann to approve Resolution 24-61.

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

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

**STOCKTON BOROUGH  
APPOINTING QPA  
RESOLUTION #2024-61**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3 permits an increase in the bid threshold if a Qualified Purchasing Agent is appointed as well as granted the authorization to negotiate and award such contracts below the bid threshold; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.A.C. 5:34-5 et seq. establishes the criteria for qualifying as a Qualified Purchasing Agent; and

**WHEREAS**, Diane Soriero McDaniel possesses the designation of Qualified Purchasing Agent as issued by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Committee desires to take advantage of the increased bid threshold to \$40,000; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Borough Committee of the Borough of Stockton, Hunterdon County, New Jersey desires to increase its bid threshold to \$40,000.00; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Borough Committee hereby appoint Diane Soriero McDaniel as the Qualified Purchasing Agent to exercise the duties of purchasing agent pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A: 1 1-2(30), with specific relevance to the authority, responsibility, and accountability of the purchasing activity of the contracting unit; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:34-5.2 the Stockton Borough Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution and a copy of Diane Soriero McDaniel 's certification to the Director of Local Government Services.

Motion made by Hunt and seconded by Brown to approve Resolution 24-62.

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

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

**STOCKTON BOROUGH  
BID THRESHOLD  
RESOLUTION #2024-62**

**WHEREAS**, the recent changes to the Local Public Contract Law afforded local contracting units the ability to increase the bid threshold up to Forty-Four Thousand Dollars (\$44,000.00); and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A.40A: 1 1-36) permits an increase in the bid threshold if a Qualified Purchasing Agent is appointed, as well as granted the authorization to negotiate and award such Contracts below the bid threshold; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.A.C. 5:34-5, et. seq., establishes the criteria for qualifying as a Qualified Purchasing Agent under New Jersey Law; and

**WHEREAS**, Diane S. McDaniel possesses the designation and is certified as a Qualified Purchasing Agent, as issued by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in accordance with N.J.A.C.5:34-5, et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, Stockton Borough desires to take advantage of the increased bid threshold that will provide certain benefits of efficiency and economics to the Borough.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough Committee of the Borough of Stockton, that the Borough Committee hereby formally increases it bid threshold to \$44,000.00 along with a quote threshold of \$6,600.00.

Motion made by Hunt and seconded by Mann to approve Resolution 24-63.

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

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

**Borough of Stockton  
Resolution #2024-63  
NJDOT Grant**

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the Borough Committee of the Borough of Stockton to submit a grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the full lengths of North Railroad Avenue, South Railroad Avenue and Bridge Street project.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Borough Committee of the Borough of Stockton formally approves the grant application for the above stated project.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of Borough of Stockton.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of Borough of Stockton and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement

Motion made by Brown and seconded by Mann to approve Resolution 24-64.

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

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

#### **RESOLUTION 2024-64**

### **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FILING CLAIMS IN PFAS CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENTS AND EXECUTION OF LEGAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH LAW FIRMS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Stockton is committed to maintaining safe drinking water for the users of its water system; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and United States Environmental Protection Agency have designated per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (“PFAS”), also referred to as “forever chemicals,” as contaminants for which testing, treatment and remediation are necessary to ensure the safety of the public water systems; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a pending multi-district litigation (“MDL”) which is being overseen by the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina, including settlements to resolve claims involving PFAS contamination in Public Water Systems’ Drinking Water by various Defendants, including 3M company (“3M”); E.I. Du Pont de Nemours and company, Dupont de Nemours inc., the Chemours company, the Chemours company fc, llc, and Corteva, inc. (collectively, “Dupont”); Tyco Fire Products and Chemguard, Inc. (collectively, “the Tyco Defendants”); BASF Corporation (“BASF”); and other potential defendants; and

**WHEREAS**, these settlements are designed to resolve claims for PFAS contamination in Public Water Systems’ Drinking Water; and

**WHEREAS**, the 3M and DuPont Settlements have obtained Final Approval by the MDL Judge, the Tyco Settlement has received preliminary approval, the BASF Settlement is awaiting approval, and there are additional potential defendants which may likewise enter into settlements under the MDL; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Stockton is listed as a Phase One Public Water System eligible to file claims in the settlements; and

**WHEREAS**, Phase One Public Water System Settlement Claims Forms must be filed no later than July 12, 2024 for the 3M and DuPont Settlements; and

**WHEREAS**, by Resolution 24-55, Council appointed several Council members to investigate these settlements and possibly select a law firm to pursue these claims under the MDL on the Borough’s behalf; and

**WHEREAS**, Council members recommend that the Borough participate in the MDL by submitting claims under the 3M and DuPont settlements, as well as settlements to be approved involving the other defendants; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough has also met with Cossich, Sumich, Parsiola & Taylor LLC, who works jointly with Baron & Budd, P.C. on the MDL (collectively the “Law Firms”), for purposes of their assuming joint legal responsibility to represent the Borough in pursuing the Borough’s claims under these settlements; and

**WHEREAS**, there shall be no out-of-pocket expenses or costs to the Borough for its pursuit of these claims, and the fees paid to the Law Firms shall be based on a contingent fee arrangement whereby the Law Firms would be entitled to twenty-five percent (25%) of any net recovery after deduction of costs and expenses.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stockton as follows:

1. The “Whereas” clauses are incorporated herein as fully restated.
2. The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute a Legal Services Agreement with the law firms of Baron & Budd, P.C. and Cossich, Sumich, Parsiola & Taylor LLC (“Law Firms”) to assume joint legal responsibility to represent the Borough for purposes of pursuing the Borough’s claims under the settlements with Defendants 3M and Dupont, the Tyco Defendants, Defendant BASF, and other defendants that may settle their claims under the MDL. The terms of the Legal Services Agreement shall be subject to the approval of the Borough Attorney prior to execution.
3. There shall be no out-of-pocket expenses or costs to the Borough for the services provided under the Legal Services Agreement with the Law Firms, and the fees paid to the Law Firms shall be based on a contingent fee arrangement whereby the Law Firms would be entitled to twenty-five percent (25%) of any net recovery after deduction of costs and expenses.

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

### **Committee Reports**

#### Community Outreach Committee:

Mann gave the following report: the committee is moving ahead with the blood drive for June 29<sup>th</sup> looking to get more people to come forward to volunteer. Would like to make this a success as a first effort for a major project, Mann asked to pass the word on the event and if anyone needs more information to contact him. It is scheduled from 9am-2pm at the Delaware Township Middle and Elementary school in the gymnasium.

Mayor Lipsen added that the Stockton Fire Company Car Show is Friday July 19<sup>th</sup>. Buy some hot dogs and see some cars and crab cakes.

#### Parks and Buildings Committee:

Fisher reported they had rebar driven into wheel stoppers at the playground. Leaves were removed from the play area. An ADA compliance swing was installed and thanked Franklin family for painting the veteran’s bench and weeding and installing small flags. The flagpole will be painted, and a new flag will be installed. Borough hall needs a new certificate of occupancy changing it from a meeting space to offices and has been inquiring with architects.

#### Infrastructure Committee:

The Borough is planning to apply for an NJDOT grant for street repaving. The Infrastructure Committee review the conditions of the streets and recommended Bridge Street and both North and South Railroad Avenues. Discussion ensued and it was agreed to recommend those streets pending

the engineer's recommendation. Brown stated that if we go with repaving Bridge Street and Railroad Avenue we don't need to pay for pothole and crack sealing, so there will be a cost savings with that. Mayor Lipsen reported that he is in communication with NJDOT and stated that they are going to have the engineer come down and give a tour. Mayor Lipsen reported that if we want to proceed with stop lights the cost will be \$250,000 and our matching fees would be between \$50,000-\$75,000. Worman Road still needs approval by the NJDEP, talked to engineer and they are waiting for the endangered species review, asked NJDEP to expedite that process for the report.

Mayor Lipsen asked if any council members will be available this Thursday from 6-10 pm. There's a special meeting with the county to give municipal officials insight in Office of Emergency Management process.

### OEM

Patrick and Sharon Eckert gave the following update:

They had a meeting with other coordinators within the county. Bad news is we are going to have increased hurricanes this year, the oceans are so warm now and more since last year. There have been a lot of tornadoes around with weather as well. Reminded everyone of the alerts from the county. Heat alerts have started and first one of many.

There are cooling centers opening up and you can contact him, and they can send them to correct cooling centers. There are two in Lambertville. They are still getting in groove of things going from EMS to Emergency Management. The email is up. If you go to the website and sign up for alerts, it will take you to the county website and there you can sign up for the alerts. Sharon added that the link is easy to sign up for, it's a text alert if something was to happen in Stockton the county would send an alert.

Brown reported that the New Jersey State Development plan is not forthcoming yet-there's nothing to cross accept, it's on hold and Hunterdon is managing it.

Hunt reported that the trails that have been created in the park are getting cleaned up and are more attractive now. Suggested to add a sign if high winds are in affect you don't want to go in there, trees could be falling down, just to be cautious.

Mayor Lipsen discussed getting a meter in an unnamed tributary that causes flooding in our town that can give OEM alerts. Lipsen stated he is trying to set up a call with DEP.

Lipsen-reported on another issue of trees, in which one fell across the creek in playground. It's been trimmed back a bit, but it could get dislodged. There are dead trees up on Hilltop and they did get an estimate.

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

Mayor Lipsen opened the floor to public comment.

Michele Purcell, 7 Bridge Street, stated she had two things, one is to follow up regarding flyers for blood drive and remind her of dates. Second thing she is curious of the noise ordinance what is it and what we need to do in meantime. What are the public steps? Mayor Lipsen stated that it would be introduced at next meet and then after that a public hearing will be scheduled for public input. Ms. Purcell addressed the correspondences from Odenwald. Mayor Lipsen explained regarding the correspondences he sent to council. Attorney Maddox added that they were both related to his proposed economic development plan, which the council made a decision not to go forward. With

regards to social media awareness, it's the same situation with it being another method Odenwald was seeking to get his idea out in public.

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

### **NEXT MEETING**

July 15, 2024

The location of future meetings was discussed with the firehouse being used for the next meeting (July 15<sup>th</sup>). Hunt reported that the Prallsville Mill (stone building) will be available for all remaining dates of the council meetings except for the July meeting. There is no cost, it is only a matter of setting it up promptly. The Clerk was directed to advertise the meetings being held at the Prallsville Mill.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mann and seconded by Hunt to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

*Laurie A. Courter*

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Laurie A. Courter, Borough Clerk