



STOCKTON BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Date: April 15, 2024 – 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Aaron Lipsen called the regular meeting of the Stockton Borough Council to order on April 15, 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 Peter Folz, Council President Thomas Hunt, Councilperson Ken Kozuhowski, 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.

Mayor Lipsen led a moment of silence for Dale Haberle, son of former Stockton Borough Councilmember Joan Haberle and stepbrother of Beth Steffanelli.

CORRESPONDENCE

Marc Guttelman/Dave Pasicznyk: Safety of Pedestrians on Church Street. Mayor Lipsen reported on the truck traffic going up the street and stated that the top of the roadway has been cleared and sign installation has been approved. Hunt asked if there is signage proposed or formerly present at the entry of Broad Street and bottom of Church Street. Mayor Lipsen responded yes, they had been there, but the Church Street sign was taken out due to the contractors stating it was in a bad spot; the other one on Broad Street was taken out by hurricane Ida. Discussions ensued regarding ideas of how to divert the truck traffic.

Joanna Slagle, PP/AICP:-Parking Memorandum - Mayor Lipsen reported that the Planning Board is suggesting that the Borough Council repeal Ordinance 18-01. Mayor Lipsen stated that this will be discussed at the next meeting once they receive a formal letter from the Planning Board. Hunt agrees with the mayor's approach to wait for a letter from the attorney and take it into consideration.

Resident Complaint: parking issue-on Glenwood Lane. Mayor Lipsen spoke with the zoning officer; he said he would look into it and deal with it. Kozuhowski suggested having the zoning officer provide a report and make a sound judgement decision based on the report.

OLD BUSINESS

Water Meters: Brown gave the following report.

Everyone is aware that we are very fortunate to have Water Operator Mr. Ent helping and doing a lot of work on the water sewer. He has identified a vendor that is selling meters for about \$212 per meter and adds in the touch pads with a reader outside, which is an additional seven dollars. He recommends getting 12 meters. That would be under \$2600. Mr. Ent has a process where he can repair old meters and refurbish them. It's very cost-effective. Start off with 12 and repair some of those 12 that are being replaced. After its first round, see where the borough stands and possibly replace with refurbished meters. Brown recommends to go with this and starting to resolve those meters with recording problems immediately. Lipsen added that these are less than half the cost and double the lifespan as the meters discussed at the last meeting and are basically the same we have been using, so we have a stockpile of replacement parts. The Infrastructure Committee would like to go ahead to order 12 meters. No objections were heard. Lipsen announced we will move forward with this plan.

NEW BUSINESS

Resignation of Michelle Trivigno

Mayor Lipsen stated the tax assessor is retiring and we accept the resignation. She has served the borough for many years. She will be deeply missed, and her last day is at the end of May. Lipsen suggested having a proclamation at the next meeting.

Lawn and Property Maintenance RFP 2024: Mayor Lipsen stated that there are two different tiers and explained the two tiers of maintenance on the Request for Proposal (RFP). Mayor Lipsen stated that the grounds committee can make a final decision and wanted to get borough council's opinion on this. Kozuhowski stated that he appreciated the way it was written. Discussions ensued detailing the RFP and what the borough expects. Hunt asked if the current contractors can participate in the RFP. Lipsen stated this can be discussed in executive session. Mayor Lipsen stated that they will have the attorney put in the legal language and ask the infrastructure committee for input before the RFPs go out.

Flood Policy Renewal: Mayor Lipsen reported that the borough's insurance is recommending that they raise our coverage. Mayor Lipsen stated that they could have an argument to not raise the coverage. Brown asked if this was due to FEMA raising the flood plain. Lipsen responded that the insurance company felt the coverage was too low. They want to increase the coverage from \$230,000 to \$500,000. Discussions ensued regarding FEMA updating their flood maps and New Jersey doing its own remapping in which they have taken in much more current precipitation than the FEMA maps. New Jersey contends that it is much more up to date. FEMA process is slow. Brown asked that the engineer be involved and assess the borough's risk. Questions were raised concerning the cost of having the engineer involved. Lipsen suggested having the zoning officer involved which wouldn't cost the borough anything, and he is also the flood plain officer, and suggested keeping existing coverage as-is.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT – PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mayor Lipsen opened the floor to public comment.

Steve Giocondo, Glenwood Lane, read in the record a statement regarding the letter he sent to the borough concerning the removal of a vehicle that was parked on Glenwood Lane. Mr. Giocondo stated his concerns that include a safety hazard to the neighborhood. He believes that the vehicle impedes fire rescue and police and emergency services. For eight months in 2023, this vehicle did not move and had vegetative overgrowth. Impedes traffic and had a flat tire until an auto tech inflated the tire and charged battery and only to have it brought back to the lane a few days later. This neighbor does not live on the lane and has plenty of room to store it on their property and asks the borough to take immediate action to remove it. Mr. Giocondo also

requested to have an ordinance for on-street parking at the next meeting. Stated that there appears to be no provision in our ordinances that prevents vehicles with plates and registration from parking on the street for any length of time. Lipsen responded that they will wait to hear from the zoning officer and safety committee and will let them know what the zoning officer finds out. Kozuhowski asked Mr. Giocondo to send him an email because he would like to walk through the area and get a personal hands-on view of the situation and will make himself available and anyone else to address the situation in person.

Gerald Levin 9 Brookville Hollow Road: expressed his concerns over the tree removal ordinance. Stated he sees exclusions for different types of properties but doesn't see any for farms. Mr. Levin stated he is the owner of a 39-acre farm and explained the situations of trees forming shadows over some parts of his crops where he will need to take those trees down, and he uses the wood for firewood. He stated that he understands the intent of the ordinance but that, in his case, the ordinance should not be applicable. According to ordinance, he must wait until there is damage to a structure before he can take a tree down. Mr. Levin expressed his hopes that the council will reconsider the exclusions and add a farm of a certain size so that there won't be a negative impact on the ordinance, and it won't be as pronounced.

Mayor Lipsen explained that this is a required ordinance from the DEP. All municipalities must pass similar ordinances. Attorney Maddox explained the requirements of the ordinance and stated that she foresees future amendments. Ms. Maddox added that this ordinance doesn't necessarily take into consideration every municipality in the state. There is an exception for situations and gave an example of Christmas tree farms. Farming hasn't been in any ordinance from DEP. To change it tonight would be considered a substantial change, and we would not be able to adopt this evening as required by the DEP. The borough does not have the time to postpone; it needs to be adopted May 1st. Lengthy discussions ensued on what the borough could do for farmers.

Gerald Levin stated that it gives the appearance that the DEP is saying that statewide we don't want new farms or existing farms to expand in any way. Hard to believe the state would want to do that. Mr. Levin thanked all members of the council for their willingness to participate in the community and work out these issues as a community and thanked them for dedicating their time.

Mike Odenwald, Risler Street: discussed cannabis and having the council look again at the opt-out option and to think about opting in. Mr. Odenwald invited people who have tremendous insights in cannabis industry, but that they are not affiliated with him, but they are people he recognizes who have a micro level look in the state. He has an economic plan he has written to propose for Stockton. He stated he is very excited to share and hopes the council will love it. Mr. Odenwald requested 30 minutes to present his plan at the May meeting.

Patricia Walker, Lambertville resident, came tonight to offer some insight of cannabis. She is a cannabis consultant and advocate of cannabis and has been in it for 16 years. Came here to offer support and perspective to Mr. Odenwald. Stated that she has yet to see a town that has not benefited to the economic aspect. Stated that she is enthusiastic about this. Hoping to bring the same enthusiasm to Stockton and offer herself as a resource with knowledge and back Michael's request to be present at the next meeting.

Hugh Giordana 57 Argyle Street, Blackwood, NJ: stated that he is here to speak in regard to Michael's request to have a meeting to present his plan but not only to cannabis, but a plan to create good jobs. He represents UFCW Union. This industry is a unionized industry that comes with good wages and benefits, it's a good career. They represent not only in New Jersey but around the US and Canada. They are the official labor union that represents workers in US and Canada. Mr. Giordana stated he wants to make sure that if an industry comes to this state, the workers are treated with dignity. The people in Stockton would get hired and get the first opportunity if any other licenses they would also have opportunity to go there. Stated that he hopes to be on agenda to speak about cannabis at the next meeting.

Mayor Lipsen responded that a request for presentation in a municipality like ours would be after the municipality had made the decision to opt in. The borough is not looking to open up and seek presentations from multiple people at this time. It was the consensus of Council if this is to move forward, to hold open discussions at a public meeting for anyone who supports opt-in and opt-out options, to be fair and have open transparency and not favor individuals on the subject. Attorney Maddox suggested having a public meeting about this subject if Council were interested in opting in. Have planner and public weigh in and get community input. Lipsen recommended starting small and if council members want it then to put it on agenda and have a discussion and public can comment. Hunt asked whether Odenwald could make a presentation related to the general discussion of cannabis. Brown expressed concerns regarding litigation and not giving appearance of an advantage to an interested party.

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

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCES 1st Reading:

Motion made by Folz and seconded by Brown to approve on first reading Ordinance 24-05.

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

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

ORDINANCE 24-05 CALENDAR YEAR 2024

ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 2.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton in the County of Hunterdon finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2024 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council hereby determines that a 3.5 % increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$5,354.65 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS the Borough Council hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton, in the County of Hunterdon, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2024 budget year, the final appropriations of the Borough of Stockton shall, in accordance with this

ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5 %, amounting to \$5,354.65, and that the CY 2024 municipal budget for the Borough of Stockton be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

ORDINANCES-2nd Reading

24-02 Tree Removal-Replacement Ordinance

Motion made by Kozuhowski and seconded by Mann to open the public hearing for Ordinance 24-02, all were in favor.

Public hearing: Hunt stated that he would like the borough to consider taking some of the issues to DEP and farm bureau and see what kind of leverage they may offer us to bring relief to a farmer. Kozuhoski agreed and encouraged everyone to support the farmers. Mayor Lipsen stated that we don't have a choice in passing this due to some significant penalties if we don't pass it this evening.

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

Motion to adopt Ordinance 24-02 made by Hunt and seconded by Kozuhowski.

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

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

Ordinance # 24-02

Tree Removal-Replacement Ordinance

SECTION I. Purpose:

An ordinance to establish requirements for tree removal and replacement in the Borough of Stockton to reduce soil erosion and pollutant runoff, promote infiltration of rainwater into the soil, and protect the environment, public health, safety and welfare.

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 ordinance clearly demonstrates a different meaning. When consistent 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 use of the word "shall" means the requirement is always mandatory and not merely directory.

- A. “Applicant” means any “person”, as defined below, who applies for approval to remove trees regulated under this ordinance.
- B. “Critical Root Radius (CRR)” – means the zone around the base of a tree where the majority of the root system is found. This zone is calculated by multiplying the diameter at breast height (DBH) of the tree by 1.5 feet. For example: a tree with a 6” DBH would have a $CRR = 6'' \times 1.5' = 9'$.
- C. “Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)” means the diameter of the trunk of a tree generally measured at a point four and a half feet above ground level from the uphill side of the tree. For species of trees where the main trunk divides below the 4 ½ foot height, the DBH shall be measured at the highest point before any division.
- D. “Hazard Tree” means a tree or limbs thereof that meet one or more of the criteria below. Trees that do not meet any of the criteria below and are proposed to be removed solely for development purposes are not hazard trees.
1. Has an infectious disease or insect infestation;
 2. Is dead or dying;
 3. Obstructs the view of traffic signs or the free passage of pedestrians or vehicles, where pruning attempts have not been effective;
 4. Is causing obvious damage to structures (such as building foundations, sidewalks, etc.); or
 5. Is determined to be a threat to public health, safety, and/or welfare by a certified arborist or Licensed Tree Expert (LTE).
- E. “Person” means any individual, resident, corporation, utility, company, partnership, firm, or association.
- F. “Planting strip” means the part of a street right-of-way between the public right-of-way and the portion of the street reserved for vehicular traffic or between the abutting property line and the curb or traveled portion of the street, exclusive of any sidewalk.
- G. “Resident” means an individual who resides on the residential property or contractor hired by the individual who resides on the residential property where a tree(s) regulated by this ordinance is removed or proposed to be removed.
- H. “Street Tree” means a tree planted in the sidewalk, planting strip, and/or in the public right-of-way adjacent to the portion of the street reserved for vehicular traffic. This also includes trees planted in planting strips within the roadway right-of-way, i.e., islands, medians, pedestrian refuges.
- I. “Tree” means a woody perennial plant, typically having a single stem or trunk growing to a considerable height and bearing lateral branches at some distance from the ground.
- J. “Tree Caliper” means the diameter of the trunk of a young tree, measured six (6) inches from the soil line. For young trees whose caliper exceeds four (4) inches, the measurement is taken twelve (12) inches above the soil line.
- K. “Tree removal” or “removal” means to kill or to cause irreparable damage that leads to the decline and/or death of a tree. This includes, but is not limited to, excessive pruning, application of substances that are toxic to the tree, over-mulching or improper mulching, and improper grading and/or soil compaction within the critical root radius around the base of the tree that leads to the decline and/or death of a tree. Removal does not include responsible pruning and maintenance of a tree, or the application of treatments intended to manage invasive species.

SECTION III. Regulated Activities:

A. Application Process:

1. Any person planning to remove a street tree with DBH of 2.5” or more, or any other tree with DBH of 6” or more on private property, shall submit a Tree Removal Application to the Borough Zoning Officer. No tree shall be removed until municipal officials have reviewed and approved the removal.
2. Applicants shall pay an application fee of \$20.00 or \$10.00 per tree, whichever is higher.

B. Tree Replacement Requirements

1. Any person who removes one or more street tree(s) with a DBH of 2.5” or more, unless exempt under Section IV, shall be subject to the requirements of the Tree Replacement Requirements Table below.
2. Any person who removes one or more any other tree(s) with a DBH of 6” or more per acre, unless otherwise exempt under Section IV, shall be subject to the requirements of the Tree Replacement Requirements Table below.
3. The species type and diversity of replacement trees shall be in accordance with a list of the types of permitted trees created by the Borough and maintained in the office of the Borough Clerk, which may be updated as necessary from time to time.
4. Replacement tree(s) shall:
 - a. Be replaced in kind with a tree that has an equal or greater DBH than tree removed or meet the Tree Replacement Criteria in the table below;
 - b. Be planted within twelve (12) months of the date of removal of the original tree(s) or at an alternative date specified by the Borough;
 - c. Be monitored by the applicant for a period of two (2) years to ensure their survival and shall be replaced as needed within twelve (12) months; and
 - d. Not be planted in temporary containers or pots, as these do not count towards tree replacement requirements.

Tree Replacement Requirements Table:

Category	Tree Removed (DBH)	Tree Replacement Criteria	Replacement Fee
1	DBH of 2.5” (for street trees) or 6” to 12.99” (for other trees)	Replant 1 tree in with minimum caliper of 1.5” for each tree removed	\$250
2	DBH of 13” to 22.99”	Replant 2 trees with minimum caliper of 1.5” for each tree removed	\$500
3	DBH of 23” to 32.99”	Replant 3 trees with minimum caliper of 1.5” for each tree removed	\$750

4	DBH of 33" or greater	Replant 4 trees with minimum caliper of 1.5" for each tree removed	\$1,000
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C. Replacement Alternatives:

1. If the municipality determines that some or all required replacement trees cannot be planted on the property where the tree removal activity occurred, then the applicant shall do one of the following:
 - a. Plant replacement trees in a separate area(s) approved by the Borough.
 - b. Pay a fee in accordance with the above Table for each tree removed. This fee shall be placed into a fund dedicated to tree planting and continued maintenance of trees.

SECTION IV. Exemptions:

Except as specifically provided below, all persons shall comply with the permit and fee requirement and tree replacement standard outlined above. While the following categories are exempt from the requirements above, the person removing the trees shall submit sufficient documentary evidence (such as photographs or written advice from an arborist or LTE) demonstrating the exemption prior to the tree removal:

- A. Residents who remove less than four (4) trees per acre that fall into category 1, 2, or 3 of the Tree Replacement Requirements Table within a five-year period;
- B. Tree farms in active operation, nurseries, fruit orchards, and garden centers;
- C. Properties used for the practice of silviculture under an approved forest stewardship or woodland management plan that is active and on file with the Borough;
- D. Any trees removed as part of a municipal or state decommissioning plan. This exemption only includes trees planted as part of the construction and predetermined to be removed in the decommissioning plan;
- E. Any trees removed pursuant to a New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved environmental clean-up, or NJDEP approved habitat enhancement plan;
- F. Approved game management practices, as recommended by the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife; and
- G. Hazard trees.

SECTION V. Enforcement:

This ordinance shall be enforced by the Zoning Officer or said officer’s designee, during the course of ordinary enforcement duties.

SECTION VI. Violations and Penalties:

Any person(s) who is found to be in violation of the provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to a minimum fine of \$50 and maximum fine of \$1,000 per violation.

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 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.

Motion made by Mann and seconded by Brown to open the public hearing for Ordinance 24-04, all were in favor.

Council comments: Mayor Lipsen stated that this is another DEP-required ordinance. Hunt thanked the hardworking Infrastructure Committee for their contribution to this. Lipsen thanked the attorney and the engineer also. Lipsen discussed that he had a comment from a local resident to add in the ordinance about underground drainage regarding basement flooding. Discussions ensued regarding the content of the ordinance the requirements.

Hearing no public comments, motion to close the public hearing was made by Kozuhowski and seconded by Hunt; all were in favor.

Motion made by Mann and seconded by Hunt to adopt Ordinance 24-04.

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

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-04

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING STORMWATER CONTROL IN THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON AND REPLACING ORDINANCE NO. 21-01 ADOPTED ON MARCH 2, 2021

WHEREAS, by Ordinance No. 21-01, the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton adopted new stormwater management regulations; and

WHEREAS, the County of Hunterdon has recently notified the Borough that Ordinance No. 21-01 was never formally approved by the County Planning Board, as required by N.J.A.C. 7:8-4.4; and

WHEREAS, coincidentally in July 2023, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection published a simplified Model Stormwater Control Ordinance to assist municipalities in revising their municipal stormwater control ordinances to reflect amendments to the Stormwater Management rules at N.J.A.C. 7:8; and

WHEREAS, based on the foregoing, the Borough Council seeks to adopt a new ordinance for purposes of stormwater control and to ensure its full compliance with the current requirements of N.J.A.C. 7:8, as may be amended.

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

Section I. Scope and Purpose.

A. Policy Statement

Flood control, groundwater recharge, and pollutant reduction shall be achieved through the use of stormwater management measures, including green infrastructure Best Management Practices (GI BMPs) and nonstructural stormwater management strategies. GI BMPs should be utilized to meet the goal of maintaining natural hydrology to reduce stormwater runoff volume, reduce erosion, encourage infiltration and groundwater recharge, and reduce pollution. GI BMPs should be developed based upon physical site conditions and the origin, nature and the anticipated quantity,

or amount, of potential pollutants. Multiple stormwater management BMPs may be necessary to achieve the established performance standards for green infrastructure, water quality, quantity, and groundwater recharge.

B. Purpose

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish minimum stormwater management requirements and controls for “major development” and “minor development,” as defined below in Section II.

C. Applicability

1. This ordinance shall be applicable to the following major developments:
 - i. Non-residential major developments and redevelopment projects; and
 - ii. Aspects of residential major developments and redevelopment projects that are not pre-empted by the Residential Site Improvement Standards at N.J.A.C. 5:21 et seq.
2. This ordinance shall also be applicable to all major developments undertaken by the Borough of Stockton.
3. Applicability of this ordinance to major developments shall comply with last amended N.J.A.C. 7:8-1.6, incorporated herein by reference.
4. This ordinance shall be applicable to minor developments as defined in Section II below.

D. Compatibility with Other Permit and Ordinance Requirements

Development approvals issued pursuant to this ordinance are to be considered an integral part of development approvals and do not relieve the applicant of the responsibility to secure required permits or approvals for activities regulated by any other applicable code, rule, act, or ordinance. In their interpretation and application, the provisions of this ordinance shall be held to be the minimum requirements for the promotion of the public health, safety, and general welfare.

This ordinance is not intended to interfere with, abrogate, or annul any other ordinances, rule or regulation, statute, or other provision of law except that, where any provision of this ordinance imposes restrictions different from those imposed by any other ordinance, rule or regulation, or other provision of law, the more restrictive provisions or higher standards shall control.

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 ordinance 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 used in this ordinance shall be the same as the last amended Stormwater Management Rules at N.J.A.C. 7:8-1.2, incorporated herein by reference.

“Exempt development” means any development that creates an increase of less than 1,750 square feet of impervious area and disturbs less than 2,500 square feet of land. Further, an exempt development shall not meet the definition of “minor development.”

“Minor development” means any development that results in the creation of an increase of 1,750 square feet or more of impervious area or one that disturbs more than 2,500 square feet of land. Further, a minor development shall not meet the definition of “major development” in N.J.A.C. 7:8-1.2.

Section III. Design and Performance Standards for Stormwater Management Measures:

- A. Exempt Developments. Any project meeting the definition of “exempt development” shall be exempt from the provisions of this ordinance.
- B. Minor Developments. Any project meeting the definition of “minor development” shall be designed to include the following stormwater management measures:
 - 1. Water Quality. Soil erosion and sediment control measures shall be installed in accordance with the “Standards for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control in New Jersey,” as may be amended from time to time.
 - 2. Rate/Volume Control. Seepage pits or other infiltration measures shall be provided with a capacity of three (3") inches of runoff for each square foot of new impervious area. Stone used in the infiltration devices shall be two and one-half (2 1/2") inches clean stone and design void ratio of 33% shall be used. The infiltration measures shall be designed with an overflow to the surface which shall be stabilized and directed to an existing stormwater conveyance system or in a manner to keep the overflow on the developed property to the greatest extent feasible. If the new impervious surface is not roof area, an equivalent area of existing roof may be directed to the infiltration system. This shall be permitted where the existing roof is not already directed to infiltration devices.
- C. Major Developments. Design and performance standards for stormwater management measures for major development are intended to minimize the adverse impact of stormwater runoff on water quality and water quantity and loss of groundwater recharge in receiving water bodies. Design and performance standards for stormwater management measures shall comply with last amended N.J.A.C. 7:8-5, incorporated herein by reference.

Section IV. Solids and Floatable Materials Control Standards:

- A. Site design features identified under Section III above, or alternative designs in accordance with Section III above, to prevent discharge of trash and debris from drainage systems shall comply with the following standard to control passage of solid and floatable materials through storm drain inlets. For purposes of this paragraph, “solid and floatable materials” means sediment, debris, trash, and other floating, suspended, or settleable solids. For exemptions to this standard see Section IV.A.2 below.
 - 1. Design engineers shall use one of the following grates whenever they use a grate in pavement or another ground surface to collect stormwater from that surface into a storm drain or surface water body under that grate:
 - i. The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) bicycle safe grate, which is described in Chapter 2.4 of the NJDOT Bicycle Compatible Roadways and Bikeways Planning and Design Guidelines; or
 - ii. A different grate, if each individual clear space in that grate has an area of no more than seven (7.0) square inches, or is no greater than 0.5 inches across the smallest dimension. Note that the Residential Site Improvement Standards at N.J.A.C. 5:21 include requirements for bicycle safe grates.

Examples of grates subject to this standard include grates in grate inlets, the grate portion (non-curb-opening portion) of combination inlets, grates on storm sewer manholes, ditch grates, trench grates, and grates of spacer bars in slotted drains. Examples of ground surfaces include surfaces of roads (including bridges), driveways, parking areas, bikeways, plazas, sidewalks, lawns, fields, open channels, and stormwater system floors used to collect stormwater from the surface into a storm drain or surface water body.

- iii. For curb-opening inlets, including curb-opening inlets in combination inlets, the clear space in that curb opening, or each individual clear space if the curb opening has two or more clear spaces, shall have an area of no more than seven (7.0) square inches, or be no greater than two (2.0) inches across the smallest dimension.
2. The standard in IV.A.1. above does not apply:
- i. Where each individual clear space in the curb opening in existing curb-opening inlet does not have an area of more than nine (9.0) square inches;
 - ii. Where the municipality agrees that the standards would cause inadequate hydraulic performance that could not practicably be overcome by using additional or larger storm drain inlets;
 - iii. Where flows from the water quality design storm as specified in the last amended Stormwater Management rules at N.J.A.C. 7:8 et seq. are conveyed through any device (e.g., end of pipe netting facility, manufactured treatment device, or a catch basin hood) that is designed, at a minimum, to prevent delivery of all solid and floatable materials that could not pass through one of the following:
 - a. A rectangular space four and five-eighths (4.625) inches long and one and one-half (1.5) inches wide (this option does not apply for outfall netting facilities); or
 - b. A bar screen having a bar spacing of 0.5 inches.

Note that these exemptions do not authorize any infringement of requirements in the Residential Site Improvement Standards for bicycle safe grates in new residential development (N.J.A.C. 5:21-4.18(b)2 and 7.4(b)1).

- iv. Where flows are conveyed through a trash rack that has parallel bars with one-inch (1 inch) spacing between the bars, to the elevation of the Water Quality Design Storm as specified in N.J.A.C. 7:8; or
- v. Where the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection determines, pursuant to the New Jersey Register of Historic Places Rules at N.J.A.C. 7:4-7.2(c), that action to meet this standard is an undertaking that constitutes an encroachment or will damage or destroy the New Jersey Register listed historic property.

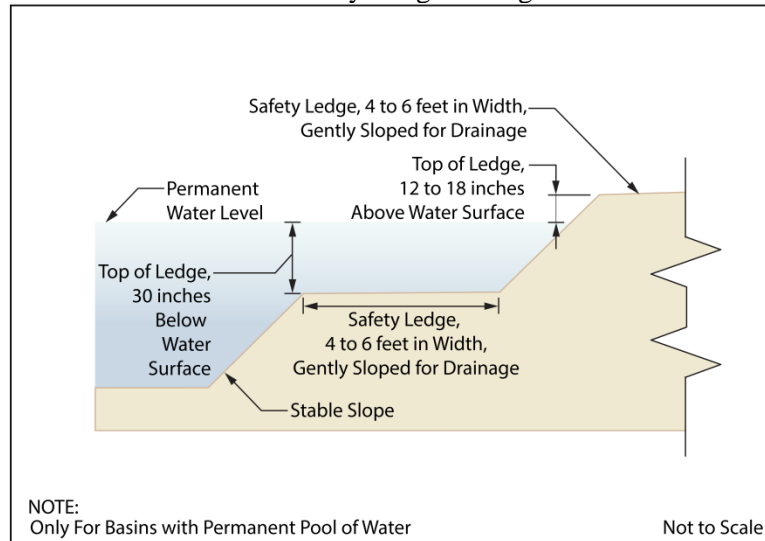
Section V. Safety Standards for Stormwater Management Basins:

- A. This section sets forth requirements to protect public safety through the proper design and operation of stormwater management basins. This section applies to any new stormwater management basin.

Safety standards for stormwater management measures shall comply with last amended N.J.A.C. 7:8-6, incorporated herein by reference.

B. Safety Ledge Illustration

Elevation View –Basin Safety Ledge Configuration



Section VI. Requirements for a Site Development Stormwater Plan:

A. Submission of Site Development Stormwater Plan

1. Whenever an applicant seeks municipal approval of a development subject to this ordinance, the applicant shall submit all of the required components of the Checklist for the Site Development Stormwater Plan at Section VI.C below as part of the submission of the application for approval.
2. The applicant shall demonstrate that the project meets the standards set forth in this ordinance.
3. The applicant shall submit three copies of the materials listed in the checklist for site development stormwater plans in accordance with Section VI.C of this ordinance.

B. Site Development Stormwater Plan Approval

The applicant's Site Development project shall be reviewed as a part of the review process by the municipal board or official from which municipal approval is sought. That municipal board or official shall consult the municipality's review engineer to determine if all of the checklist requirements have been satisfied and to determine if the project meets the standards set forth in this ordinance.

C. Submission of Site Development Stormwater Plan

The following information shall be required:

1. Topographic Base Map

The reviewing engineer may require upstream tributary drainage system information as necessary. It is recommended that the topographic base map of the site be submitted which

extends a minimum of 200 feet beyond the limits of the proposed development, at a scale of 1"=200' or greater, showing 2-foot contour intervals. The map as appropriate may indicate the following: existing surface water drainage, shorelines, steep slopes, soils, erodible soils, perennial or intermittent streams that drain into or upstream of the Category One waters, wetlands and flood plains along with their appropriate buffer strips, marshlands and other wetlands, pervious or vegetative surfaces, existing man-made structures, roads, bearing and distances of property lines, and significant natural and manmade features not otherwise shown.

2. Environmental Site Analysis

A written and graphic description of the natural and man-made features of the site and its surroundings should be submitted. This description should include a discussion of soil conditions, slopes, wetlands, waterways and vegetation on the site. Particular attention should be given to unique, unusual, or environmentally sensitive features and to those that provide particular opportunities or constraints for development.

3. Project Description and Site Plans

A map (or maps) at the scale of the topographical base map indicating the location of existing and proposed buildings roads, parking areas, utilities, structural facilities for stormwater management and sediment control, and other permanent structures. The map(s) shall also clearly show areas where alterations will occur in the natural terrain and cover, including lawns and other landscaping, and seasonal high groundwater elevations. A written description of the site plan and justification for proposed changes in natural conditions shall also be provided.

4. Land Use Planning and Source Control Plan

This plan shall provide a demonstration of how the goals and standards of Section III is being met. The focus of this plan shall be to describe how the site is being developed to meet the objective of controlling groundwater recharge, stormwater quality and stormwater quantity problems at the source by land management and source controls whenever possible.

5. Stormwater Management Facilities Map

The following information, illustrated on a map of the same scale as the topographic base map, shall be included:

- i. Total area to be disturbed, paved or built upon, proposed surface contours, land area to be occupied by the stormwater management facilities and the type of vegetation thereon, and details of the proposed plan to control and dispose of stormwater.
- ii. Details of all stormwater management facility designs, during and after construction, including discharge provisions, discharge capacity for each outlet at different levels of detention and emergency spillway provisions with maximum discharge capacity of each spillway.

6. Calculations

- i. Comprehensive hydrologic and hydraulic design calculations for the pre-development and post-development conditions for the design storms specified in Section III of this ordinance.
- ii. When the proposed stormwater management control measures depend on the hydrologic properties of soils or require certain separation from the seasonal high water table, then a soils report shall be submitted. The soils report shall be based on onsite boring logs or soil pit profiles. The number and location of required soil borings or soil pits shall be determined based on what is needed to determine the suitability and distribution of soils present at the location of the control measure.

7. Maintenance and Repair Plan

The design and planning of the stormwater management facility shall meet the maintenance requirements of Section VII.

8. Waiver from Submission Requirements

The municipal official or board reviewing an application under this ordinance may, in consultation with the municipality’s review engineer, waive submission of any of the requirements in Section VI.C.1 through VI.C.6 of this ordinance when it can be demonstrated that the information requested is impossible to obtain or it would create a hardship on the applicant to obtain and its absence will not materially affect the review process.

Section VII. Maintenance and Repair:

A. Applicability

Projects subject to review as in Section I.C of this ordinance shall comply with the requirements of Section VII.B and VII.C.

B. General Maintenance

- 1. Maintenance for stormwater management measures shall comply with last amended N.J.A.C. 7:8-5.8, incorporated herein by reference.
- 2. The following requirements of N.J.A.C. 7:8-5.8 do not apply to stormwater management facilities that are dedicated to and accepted by the municipality or another governmental agency, subject to all applicable municipal stormwater general permit conditions, as issued by the Department:
 - i. If the maintenance plan identifies a person other than the property owner (for example, a developer, a public agency or homeowners' association) as having the responsibility for maintenance, the plan shall include documentation of such person's or entity’s agreement to assume this responsibility, or of the owner's obligation to dedicate a stormwater management facility to such person under an applicable ordinance or regulation; and
 - ii. Responsibility for maintenance shall not be assigned or transferred to the owner or tenant of an individual property in a residential development or project, unless such owner or tenant owns or leases the entire residential development or project. The individual property owner may be assigned incidental tasks, such as weeding of a green infrastructure BMP, provided the individual agrees to assume these tasks;

however, the individual cannot be legally responsible for all of the maintenance required.

3. In the event that the stormwater management facility becomes a danger to public safety or public health, or if it is in need of maintenance or repair, the municipality shall so notify the responsible person in writing. Upon receipt of that notice, the responsible person shall have fourteen (14) days to effect maintenance and repair of the facility in a manner that is approved by the municipal engineer or his designee. The municipality, in its discretion, may extend the time allowed for effecting maintenance and repair for good cause. If the responsible person fails or refuses to perform such maintenance and repair, the municipality or County may immediately proceed to do so and shall bill the cost thereof to the responsible person. Nonpayment of such bill may result in a lien on the property.

C. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude the municipality in which the major development is located from requiring the posting of a performance or maintenance guarantee in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:55D-53.

Section VIII. Penalties:

- A. Any person(s) who erects, constructs, alters, repairs, converts, maintains, or uses any building, structure or land in violation of this ordinance shall be subject to the following penalties:
 1. A fine a fine not exceeding \$1,000; imprisonment for a period not to exceed 90 days; or performance of community service for a period not exceeding 90 days.
 2. In cases of continuing violations, each day that such violation continues shall be deemed a separate offense.
 3. Any complaint to impose such penalty may be filed in municipal court on behalf of the state by the municipal engineer, the zoning officer, any municipal police officer or any interested party.
- B. Any person who is convicted of violating this ordinance or any other rule, regulation, or order promulgated pursuant to this ordinance within one year of the date of a previous violation of the same provision shall be deemed and treated as a repeat offender. The additional fine imposed by the court upon a person for a repeated offense shall not exceed the maximum fine fixed above and shall be calculated separately from the fine imposed by the violation of the provision.

Section IX. 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 X. Effective Date:

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption, publication as required by law and filing with the County of Hunterdon.

Section XI. Repeal:

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

RESOLUTIONS

Motion made by Kozuhowski and seconded by Folz to adopt Resolution 24-42.

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

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution #24-42
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 **\$316,961.18**.

Motion made by Hunt and seconded by Brown to adopt Resolution 24-43.

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

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

**RESOLUTION 24-43
RESOLUTION APPOINTING RICHARD FALLON ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT FOR THE
BOROUGH OF STOCKTON HUNTERDON COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

WHEREAS, there is a need to appoint an Administrative Assistant to assist with office duties within the offices at Borough Hall; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough of Stockton Governing Body appoint Richard Fallon as an administrative assistant at the rate of \$18 per hour, not to exceed 18 hours weekly with evening office hours.

Motion made by Hunt and seconded by Kozuhowski to adopt Resolution 24-44.

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

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution #24- 44**

Authorizing Execution of Two Utility Engineering and Construction Agreements (UECAs) and Amendments to UECAs (Amendments) between the Borough of Stockton and State of New Jersey in Connection with the Borough’s Water and Sanitary Sewer Systems and State’s Route 29 Alexauken Creek Road Project

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Transportation, acting for and in the name of the State of New Jersey (“State”), is about to undertake the design and construction of improvements to Route 29, Alexauken Creek Road to Washington Street (in Lambertville City, West Amwell Township, Delaware Township, Stockton Borough, Kingwood Township and Frenchtown Borough, Hunterdon County) (the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, the Project may require the construction of new, and/or the protection, relocation and/or adjustment of facilities of Stockton Borough (the “Borough”), and specifically portions of the Borough’s Water and Sanitary Sewer Systems (the “Systems”); and

WHEREAS, the Borough is not obligated by State law or agreement to relocate the facilities of its own Systems at its own expense for this type of Project; and

WHEREAS, the State has submitted two UECAs to the Borough for the work under the Project to be done by the State’s contractor, and for the Borough’s execution, which UECAs are intended to memorialize the parties’ understandings as to their respective responsibilities and rights in connection with the Project, and which UECAs are identified as follows:

1. Borough of Stockton (Water) UECA-8-Rt 29 Alexauken Creek Rd-158030
UPC Code: 158030 Contract ID No.: 23-12007;
2. Borough of Stockton (Sewer) UECA-9-Rt 29 Alexauken Creek Rd-158030
UPC Code: 158030 Contract ID No.: 23-12008; and

WHEREAS, the State has determined that federal financial assistance or grants have been or will be expended in the design and construction of this Project; and

WHEREAS, before execution and continuation of the work under the Project and two UECAs, the State requires that an Amendment to each of the UECAs (for both Water and Sewer) be executed to set forth the requirements for procurements based on federal financial assistance; and

WHEREAS, the Borough supports the Project and seeks to facilitate its construction by executing the two UECAs (Water and Sewer) and two Amendments to the UECAs, which also provide for the reimbursement to the Borough for its engineering costs (estimated \$5,000 for Water and Sewer each) in connection with the Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the following, as appropriate, in connection with the recitals above and in furtherance of the design and construction of the Route 29, Alexauken Creek Rd to Washington St located in Lambertville City, West Amwell Township, Delaware Township, Stockton Borough, Kingwood Township, and Frenchtown Borough, Hunterdon County, Project:
 - a. UECA between Borough of Stockton (Water) and State for UECA-8-Rt 29 Alexauken Creek Rd-158030 UPC Code: 158030 Contract ID No.: 23-12007.
 - b. Amendment (with exhibits) to UECA between Borough of Stockton (Water) and State for UECA-8-Rt 29 Alexauken Creek Rd-158030 UPC Code: 158030 Contract ID No.: 23-12007.
 - c. Vendor Identification Verification form (Water).
 - d. “Buy America Commitment Letter” (Water).

- e. UECA between Borough of Stockton (Sewer) UECA-9-Rt 29 Alexauken Creek Rd-158030 UPC Code: 158030 Contract ID No.: 23-12008.
 - f. Amendment (with exhibits) to UECA between Borough of Stockton (Sewer) and State for UECA-9-Rt 29 Alexauken Creek Rd-158030 UPC Code: 158030 Contract ID No.: 23-12008.
 - g. Vendor Identification Verification form (Sewer).
 - h. “Buy America Commitment Letter” (Sewer).
2. Upon execution, the Clerk shall transmit three originals of each of the foregoing to the State.

Motion made by Mann and seconded by Hunt to adopt Resolution 24-45.

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

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

**RESOLUTION 24-45
STOCKTON BOROUGH
A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR AND DEPUTY EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR**

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey Office of Emergency Management requires each municipality to appoint an “Emergency Management Coordinator” pursuant to N.J.S.A. App. A9-40.1 and Directive Number 102 Issued by the State Office of Emergency Management March 15, 1990; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator, Office of Emergency Management for the Borough shall serve a term of three years, and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator is responsible for the planning, activating, coordinating and the conduct of Emergency Management operations with the municipality; and

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton to comply with the requirements set forth under provision N.J.S.A. App. A:9-40.1 of the State Disaster Control Act and Directive Number 102;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON THAT Patrick Eckard is hereby appointed as the Emergency Management Coordinator, Sharon Eckard, as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for a term expiring December 31, 2026.

Motion made by Folz and seconded by Hunt to adopt Resolution 24-46.

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

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

**RESOLUTION 24-46
BOROUGH OF STOCKTON
SALARY RESOLUTION**

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:

Mayor	\$	2,231.07
Council Member		1,541.49
Borough Clerk		23,690.00
Deputy Borough Clerk		12,500.00
Tax Assessor		6,961.27
Tax Collector		11,172.34
Utility Collector		4,243.60
QPA		3,090.00
Special Projects Coordinator		26.00/hr
Zoning Officer/Flood Plain Adm.		7,941.30
Construction Office Control Person		2,409.88
Land Use Secretary		5,150.00
Magistrate		2,867.61
Prosecutor		2,295.17
Public Defender		655.76
Animal Control Officer		1,024.77
Water/Sewer Director/Operator		30.90/hr
Water/Sewer Assistant Operator		12,360.00
Water/Sewer Supervisor		7,173.36
Meter Reader		1,722.73

Shared Service Agreement:

Chief Financial Officer	29,500.00
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Motion made by Mann and seconded by Kozuhowski to adopt Resolution 24-47.

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

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes

**2024 Municipal Budget
RESOLUTION 2024-47**

2024 Dedicated	SEWER	Utility Budget		
Summary of Revenues	Anticipated			
	2024		2023	

1. Surplus			15,850.00
2. Miscellaneous Revenues			283,140.00
3. Deficit (General Budget)			
Total Revenues			298,990.00
Summary of Appropriations			
	2024 Budget		Final 2023 Budget
1. Operating Expenses: Salaries & Wages			24,378.00
Other Expenses			214,225.00
2. Capital Improvements			45,000.00
3. Debt Service			13,522.00
4. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations			1,865.00
5. Surplus (General Budget)			
Total Appropriations			298,990.00
Total Number of Employees			

of the **BOROUGH** of **STOCKTON** County of
HUNTERDON for the fiscal year 2024.

Revenue and Appropriations Summaries

Summary of Revenues	Anticipated	
	2024	2023
1. Surplus	152,625.00	225,027.44
2. Total Miscellaneous Revenues	292,230.21	184,954.34
3. Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	15,000.00	20,000.00
4. a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes	549,589.11	528,272.40
b) Addition to Local School District Tax		
c) Minimum Library Tax		
Tot Amt to be Rsd by Taxes for Sup of Muni Bnd	549,589.11	528,272.40
Total General Revenues	1,009,444.32	958,254.18

Summary of Appropriations		2024 Budget		Final 2023 Budget
1. Operating Expenses:	Salaries & Wages	138,395.00		109,691.00
	Other Expenses	539,181.32		530,319.18
2. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations		34,193.00		35,449.00
3. Capital Improvements		43,000.00		30,000.00
4. Debt Service (Include for School Purposes)		119,675.00		117,795.00
5. Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	#	135,000.00		135,000.00
Total General Appropriations		1,009,444.32		958,254.18
Total Number of Employees				

2024 Dedicated WATER		Utility Budget		
Summary of Revenues		Anticipated		
		2024		2023
1. Surplus				9,378.00
2. Miscellaneous Revenues				116,180.00
3. Deficit (General Budget)				
Total Revenues				125,558.00
Summary of Appropriations		2024 Budget		Final 2023 Budget
1. Operating Expenses:	Salaries & Wages			24,378.00
	Other Expenses			81,089.00
2. Capital Improvements				
3. Debt Service				18,226.00
4. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations				1,865.00
5. Surplus (General Budget)				
Total Appropriations				125,558.00
Total Number of Employees				

2024 Dedicated WATER/SEWER		Utility Budget		
Summary of Revenues		Anticipated		
		2024		2023

1. Surplus		130,000.00		
2. Miscellaneous Revenues		396,390.78		
3. Deficit (General Budget)				
Total Revenues		526,390.78		
Summary of Appropriations				
		2024 Budget		Final 2023 Budget
1. Operating Expenses:	Salaries & Wages	53,000.00		
	Other Expenses	304,918.78		
2. Capital Improvements		150,000.00		
3. Debt Service		14,372.00		
4. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations		4,100.00		
5. Surplus (General Budget)				
Total Appropriations		526,390.78		
Total Number of Employees				

Balance of Outstanding Debt

	General	WATER	SEWER
Interest	36,045.35		
Principal	677,970.25		
Outstanding Balance	714,015.60		

Balance of Outstanding Debt

	WATER/SEWER
Interest	7,708.04
Principal	157,307.00
Outstanding Balance	165,015.04

MAYORS REPORT, BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee Reports

Community Outreach: Mann reported that the planned picnic had to be canceled due to weather. Another one will be scheduled at a future date. The Blood drive is scheduled for June 29th hoping some of the council will participate; we need volunteers.

Public Safety: Kozuhowski stated he is in contact with Delaware Township and State Troopers. There is a marked increase of law enforcement on River Road and throughout the borough. He has witnessed several vehicles being stopped. We can slow some of the motor vehicle traffic flowing through. Delaware Township Police continue to give us support and will make a positive way of slowing people down.

Infrastructure Committee: Brown reported that there was infiltration into the sewer lines. Sewer lines are piped over 3 miles to Lambertville where it is treated. We have a good contract with Lambertville. There is a problem with infiltration of water into the sewer lines, and we must pay to process this increase of flow to Lambertville, which has gotten worse. The increase of flow to Lambertville correlates to river levels. We need to bring in someone to identify where these leaks are and repair them. It's an expensive process, and we don't know exactly where leaks are, but we have our suspicions. We are getting quotes, and we have two so far. We will need to do it. Have set aside some money in the capital budget for this. Kozuhowski suggested utilizing Mr. Ent while he is here. Stated that no one will have better knowledge and know the system better than Mr. Ent. It will be a benefit to know the system and go forward with this.

Brown stated that Mr. Ent has come up with an economical plan to refurbish the existing caterpillar emergency diesel sewer generator. It's a good engine, not a lot of hours on it. There's a good chance we could refurbish it and install a new emergency switch.. Lipsen reported that there will be an Infrastructure Committee meeting with the engineer next Thursday.

Mayor's Report: -Mayor Lipsen thanked Thomas Hunt; for the second year in a row he has donated tree fertilizer for the Stockton playground. Lipsen also thanked the Grounds Committee for putting in an ADA swing set. Both playgrounds have been inspected with some repairs and we are awaiting the report on that. Lipsen reported on the multiple conversations with DOT and that they clearly understand Risler Street where it's flooding the roadway. They should be fixing that shortly. Lipsen is working with them on the area near the Stockton School regarding major street flooding. It is a clogged drain causing potholes and manhole issues. Mayor Lipsen gave special thanks to Attorney Maddox and Borough Clerk Courter for their extra hard work these past months and getting the LEAP grant out for the fire company merger, and special thanks to Chris Schultz special consultant.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Lipsen opened the floor to public comment.

Public Comment:

Mike Odenwald-Risler Street: stated that the cannabis discussion's intent is to educate you on this topic and educate the township of this opportunity. Thanked the council for listening and asked them to allow for him to share information that is compelling and whether they should opt in or not. In regard to the stormwater issue, he spoke with Wes Bodine, a farmer in town, and he described the water issues as a farming issue with water from Delaware Township being diverted and coming into the borough.

Mayor Lipsen stated that the next meeting will be at Stockton Fire House. Lipsen stated that he will take a close look at types of Zoom accounts and discuss that at the next meeting and make the final decision to make a purchase.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion by Hunt, seconded by Folz to approve a Resolution to go into executive session was unanimously approved.

**RESOLUTION
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:
N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b.(7) Contract negotiations in connection with Stockton School parking lot
Contractual-Shared Service
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.

POTENTIAL ACTIONS ON ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Kozuhowski and seconded by Hunt to authorize the mayor to negotiate a shared-service contract with Delaware Township for Tax Assessor.

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

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes

NEXT MEETING

Monday May 20, 2024, at the Stockton Fire Company.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Laurie A. Courter

Laurie A. Courter, Borough Clerk