



**STOCKTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Date: September 16, 2024 – 7:00 P.M.**

Mayor Aaron Lipsen., called the regular meeting of the Stockton Borough Council to order on September 16, 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Lipsen led those in attendance in the pledge to the nation’s flag and observed a moment of silence for Sophia DeTorres.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilperson William Brown, Councilperson Peter Folz, Council President, Thomas Hunt, Councilperson Ken Kozuhowski, Councilperson Michael Mann (arrived at 7:16 pm), Mayor Aaron Lipsen (*left meeting at 9:37 pm*), Borough Attorney Lisa Maddox and Borough Clerk, Laurie A. Courter.

PRESENTATION

Hunterdon Energy Aggregate Presentation
Presentation given by Vicki Molloy, Energy Consultant for the Hunterdon County Energy Aggregate program who is also the Energy Consultant for County of Hunterdon for the municipal program. Lisa Hick form Commercial Utility Consultants.

Ms. Molloy presented and explained the energy deregulation program and how the county holds an auction with participating energy companies. Examples were given on how to opt out of the program, with emphasis on no fees associated with opting out. There are protections for the citizens in which they can also permanently opt out. It was explained that JCPL will still be servicing the electric. There will still be one billing including budget billing with JCPL. No fees with part of the program and there will be no knocking on doors. You can do both with electric and solar. There is an option of 100% renewable energy for customers that want to support the environment. Program benefits were discussed. Residents can track their savings through the web portal. Next steps for Stockton, would be a resolution to join the cooperative. Questions were taken from Council. There would be opportunities of opting out or pausing if there are no savings.

The Hunterdon County Municipal Aggregation Program was also discussed. They are the energy consultants for the County since 2019. The County is the lead agency. This program is only for the municipal facilities such as firehouses, and lights on buildings. They go out to bid and look to get lower rates. The program has been in force for the last two years.

Public Comments

Michele Purcell asked who regulates your aggregation. Ms. Molloy responded that the State of New Jersey oversees the program. Further discussions ensued regarding where the companies source energy from and the utilization of the money.

Laura Lutton, inquired about some residents that are not automatically entered into such as solar customers. Ms. Molloy explained that it only pertains to solar that has both JCPL for supplier and servicer.

Mike Odenwald inquired about attorney fees. Attorney Maddox explained that it wouldn't really have a cost, the lead agency would do all that. Ms. Molloy explained that a letter from JCPL will go out to the residents with regard to notification.

Mayor Lipsen added that the previous council adopted an ordinance to do this. A mailer would be going out and also on social media.

Kathy Brown inquired about the auction aspect and Ms. Molloy explained that everyone is combined, and the County has one auction. Renewable energy discussions ensued.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mann and seconded by Hunt to approve the minutes of August 19, 2024, all were in favor.

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Mayor Lipsen introduced Sharon Eckard and Patrick Eckard the OEM Coordinators who volunteer themselves to the town. Mayor Lipsen thanked them for volunteering.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT – PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mayor Lipsen opened the floor to public comment.

Laura Lutton, 8 S. Main Street, discussed the flow of traffic and how it has changed since the opening of new businesses. Stated that there is a lot of traffic through and around town. Expressed her concerns about speeding on Main Street and expressed some ideas on how to address it. Mayor Lipsen responded that the infrastructure has been working with Go Hunterdon and the engineer, and they are working towards some of those ideas. Mayor Lipsen added they are also working with DOT on who own Rt 29 and stated that another meeting will be set up. The Council will likely have the engineer conduct a traffic and parking study in 2025. Concerns regarding where residents have nowhere to park was discussed. Mayor Lipsen stated that one-hour parking signs will be posted on parts of Bridge Street very soon.

Kathy Brown, 7 North Main Street, stated that she noticed on North Railroad, people parking anyway up there and its more congested. Inquired about a card in mail about the post office being relocated to Sergeantsville. Tom Hunt responded that it relates to the Sergeantsville post office, and they are relocating that post office.

Chris (last name inaudible), Risler Street, stated that he is here with some other residents from Risler Street and that want to bring attention to a real and dangerous situation with trees that line their back yards. It was discussed that the New Jersey Conservancy Foundation is supposed to take care of the land there. Made Council aware of the countless trees that have fallen, damage to property and trees falling into the ravine.

Dennis Bertland , Risler Street, stated that this has been a problem for 15 years since he moved here. Trees are falling into adjacent properties. Ash trees that are in danger of falling. Attorney Maddox explained that it is tough when it is private property. Discussions ensued regarding passing ordinances to enforce and have the State here for a meeting. Mayor Lipsen suggested having all the residents names and addresses with an accounting of the numbers and locations of the dangerous trees and he will send a letter to New Jersey Conservation and have the attorney look into this issue as well.

Mike Odenwald, Risler Street, commented about his economic plan that he has for the town. Commented about past statements being suppressed. Asked that the Council allow the public to hear the plan.

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

ORDINANCES-2nd Reading

Motion made by Hunt and seconded by Brown to open the public hearing on Ordinance 24-10, all were in favor.

Mann commented that this is a good idea to move ahead with this ordinance.

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

Motion to adopt Ordinance 24-10 made by Mann and seconded by Kozuhowski.

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

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

Ordinance # 24-10

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON
AMENDING ORDINANCE #24-02, "TREE REMOVAL-
REPLACEMENT ORDINANCE"**

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

Section 1. Amendment to Section IV, "Exemptions."

Section IV of Ordinance #24-02, which sets forth categories of tree removal that are exempt from the permit, fee and tree replacement standards set forth in Section III of Ordinance #24-02, is hereby amended to add a new category as follows (additions are underlined; deletions are [bracketed]):

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; and
- H. Any trees removed in furtherance of the clearing of land which is

assessed as farmland and which is actively devoted or to be devoted to agricultural or horticultural use.

Section 2. 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 3. Repealer.

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

Section 4. Effective Date.

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

RESOLUTIONS

Motion made by Kozuhowski and seconded by Hunt to adopt Resolution 24-74.

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

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

RESOLUTION 2024-74

**RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF STOCKTON BOROUGH,
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE SIGNING
OF GOVERNMENT ENERGY AGGREGATION PROGRAM AGREEMENTS**

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has been engaged in a process to establish a competitive market place through deregulation and restructuring the electric and natural gas utility markets; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a governmental energy aggregation program ("GEA Program") to purchase electric generation service and natural gas pursuant to the Government Energy Act of 2003, *N.J.S.A. 48:3-93.1 et seq.* ("Act") and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities' implementing rules at *N.J.A.C. 14:4-6.1 et seq.* ("Rules") will increase competition for the provision of electric power and natural gas to residential and non-residential electricity and gas ratepayers, thereby increasing the likelihood of lower electric rates and natural gas rates for these users without causing an interruption in service; and

WHEREAS, under a GEA Program the residential ratepayers may have the opportunity to receive a direct reduction in their electric bills through the bulk purchase of energy from a third-party energy supplier; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinance #19-08 adopted by the Council of Stockton Borough on October 14, 2019, Stockton Borough publicly declared its intent to commence a GEA Program; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Califon is the Lead Agency for the Hunterdon Area Energy Cooperative (HAEC) and shall accept or reject pricing on behalf of the Cooperative and its participant members; and

WHEREAS, Stockton Borough wishes to be a participating member of the HAEC and hereby agrees to proceed with the program, by signing the Supplier Agreement, should the Borough of Califon accept pricing, which provides a savings on the supply portion of the electric bill for the residential energy aggregation program; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Califon appointed Commercial Utility Consultants, Inc. (CUC) and Concord Engineering dba Concord Energy Services (CES) for the HAEC to serve as the Energy Agents to assist and administer the GEA program at no cost to the Borough of Califon or HAEC or its participating members; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of Stockton Borough, in the County of Hunterdon, New Jersey, duly assembled in public session, as follows:

Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5), the Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency.

1. The Lead Agency shall be responsible for complying with the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey.
2. Stockton Borough, as a participating member of the HAEC, hereby agrees to proceed with the program by signing the Supplier Agreement should the Borough of Califon accept pricing which provides a reduction on the supply portion of the electric bill for the residential energy aggregation program.
3. The Mayor, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer or other municipal officer is hereby authorized and directed to execute on behalf of Stockton Borough any documents necessary to carry out the purpose of this Resolution including the Supplier Services Agreement providing a reduction is achieved at the time of auction.

Motion made by Mann and seconded by Folz to adopt Resolution 24-75

Discussions: Mayor Lipsen recused himself from dais. Discussions ensued regarding the uses for the grant.

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

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

Borough of Stockton
RESOLUTION 2024-75
Authorizing Submission of the Hunterdon County Municipal Park & Recreation Grant
Application

WHEREAS, the Hunterdon County Open Space, Farmland & Historic Preservation Trust Fund (“County Open Space Trust Fund”), provides matching grants to municipal governments and to nonprofit organizations for assistance in the development or redevelopment of outdoor municipal recreation facilities; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stockton desires to further the public interest by obtaining a matching grant of \$150,000 from the County Trust Fund to fund the following project: Stockton Borough Park Improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Borough is committed to providing a 25% cash match for the project, that is, up a \$50,000 Borough match for a total project amount, including the \$150,000 grant, of \$200,000; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Stockton, which is its governing body, has reviewed the Municipal Park and Recreation Grant Program application and instructions, and desires to make an application for such a matching grant and provide application information and furnish such documents as may be required; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Hunterdon shall determine whether the application is complete and in

conformance with the scope and intent of the Municipal Park and Recreation Grant Program and the Hunterdon County Open Space Trust Fund; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stockton is willing to use the County Open Space Trust Fund in accordance with such rules, regulations and applicable statutes, and is willing to enter into an agreement with the County of Hunterdon for the above named project and ensure its completion on or about the project contract expiration date.

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

1. That it is hereby authorized to submit the above completed project application to the County by the deadline of September 20, 2024, as established by the County; and,
2. That, in the event of a County Trust Fund award that may be less than the grant amount requested above, the Council of the Borough of Stockton has, or will secure, the balance of funding necessary to complete the project, or modify the project as necessary; and,
3. That the Council of the Borough of Stockton is committed to providing a 25% cash match for the project (up to a \$50,000 Borough match plus the \$150,000 grant for a total project of \$200,000); and,
4. That only those park improvements identified and approved in the project application, its Project contract, or other documentation will be considered eligible for reimbursement.
5. That the Council of the Borough of Stockton agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations in its performance of the project; and,
6. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion made by Mann and seconded by Folz to adopt Resolution 24-77.

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

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

RESOLUTION 24-77
A RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE 2024 RECYCLING COORDINATOR

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stockton is in need for the appointment of a Recycling Coordinator; and,

WHEREAS, the term of the recycling coordinator shall be for one (1) calendar year, expiring on December 31 of each year and any vacancy during the year shall be filled for the unexpired term; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have determined that Jennifer Terepka is qualified for the position of Recycling Coordinator and will be able to perform the duties of Recycling Coordinator as delineated by statute and to expire December 31, 2024; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stockton that Jennifer Terepka be and is hereby appointed to serve as Recycling Coordinator through December 31, 2024.

Motion made by Fisher and seconded by Kozuhowski to adopt Resolution 24-79.

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

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

Borough of Stockton
Hunterdon County, New Jersey

Resolution #24-79

CERTIFICATE OF DETERMINATION AND AWARD

I, Diane Soriero McDaniel, Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Stockton, in the County of Hunterdon, New Jersey (hereinafter referred to as the "Borough"), HEREBY CERTIFY as follows:

1. I hereby determine to issue the Bond Anticipation Note (the "Note") hereinafter described by virtue of the authority conferred upon me by the bond ordinances of the Borough referred to in the attached chart by reference to number, date of adoption and amount of bonds or notes authorized, such notes to be issued in the amounts indicated in the chart.

<u>TOTAL</u>		<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DENOMINATION</u>
<u>PRINCIPAL</u>			
<u>AMOUNT:</u>	\$683,639	2024A	\$683,639
<u>DATE:</u>	9-06-2024		
<u>MATURITY:</u>	9-05-2025		
<u>INTEREST</u>			

RATE PER ANNUM: 4.75% payable at maturity

CUSIP NUMBER:

PAYING AGENT: BOROUGH

OF STOCKTON, New Jersey

- 2 Pursuant to the authority so conferred upon me, I have awarded and sold the Note to Northfield Bank, at the price of \$683,639.
- 3. No bonds of the Borough have heretofore been issued pursuant to the bond ordinances referred to in Section 1 hereof, except as set forth in the attached chart.
- 4. The date of the first note or other obligation issued in anticipation of the issuance of the bonds that the Note is issued in anticipation of, whether or not now outstanding, is as stated in the attached chart.
- 5. No grants have been received, no paydowns have been made and no cancellations have been enacted that would reduce the debt authorization below the amount of notes outstanding under the bond ordinances described in the attached chart except as set forth therein.

Stockton Borough Resolution #23 — 85

Page 1 of 2

- 6. No notes or other obligations in anticipation of the issuance of bonds have heretofore been issued pursuant to the bond ordinances referred to in the attached chart and now remain outstanding and unpaid except as set forth in the attached chart.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have her unto set my hand as of September 16, 2024.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton that the attached Certification of Determination and Award for Bond Anticipation Notes, Series 2024A in the principal amount of \$683,639.00 be hereby accepted.

Motion made by Mann and seconded by Folz to adopt Resolution 24-80
 Roll call: Brown, Fisher, Folz, Hunt, Kozuhowski, and Mann.
 Ayes: 6
 Nays: 0
 Motion passes

RESOLUTION 2024-80

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A:4-85 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may, at the request of, or with the consent of, the governing body of any county or municipality, make such correction of the title, text or amount of any appropriation appearing in the budget as may be necessary to make said item of appropriation available for the purpose or purposes required for the needs of any such county or municipality;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S. 40A:4-85, the Council of Borough of Stockton, in the County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to make the following corrections in the budget year 2024:

That the appropriation provided for in the approved budget entitled:

Assessment of Taxes:

Salaries & wages From \$9,000.00 To \$5,000.00

Assessment of Taxes:

Other Expenses From: \$450.00 To \$4,450.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the foregoing correction is, in the opinion of the governing body, warranted and authorized by the statute above referred to, and is necessary for the orderly operation of the Borough the reasons hereinafter set forth:

During the budget year, the tax assessor notified the Borough of her retirement as of 5-31-2024.

The Borough of Stockton entered into a shared service with the Township of Delaware to fill the position of tax assessor on June 1, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Borough Clerk forward two certified copies of this resolution to the Director of Local Government Services for approval.

Motion made by Hunt and seconded by Brown to adopt Resolution 24-81

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

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes

RESOLUTION 2024-81
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
AGREEMENT WITH RURAL COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PARTNERSHIP, INC.
(RCAP) FOR GPS DATA COLLECTION AND GIS MAPPING SERVICES OF THE
WATER SYSTEM

WHEREAS, Rural Community Assistance Partnership, Inc. (RCAP) has submitted a proposal to the Borough of Stockton to provide GPS data collection and GIS mapping services of the water system at no cost to the Borough; and

WHEREAS, RCAP is a non-profit organization that provides technical assistance, training, resources, and support to rural communities throughout the country, including environment-focused technical assistance and training programs to help rural communities build resilience, sustainability and improve the quality of life; and

WHEREAS, RCAP's no-cost environmental programs are funded by grants awarded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency; and

WHEREAS, RCAP's terms and conditions for its services are set forth in a "Community Services Agreement;" and

WHEREAS, the Borough seeks to authorize RCAP to conduct these services on its behalf for a one year term; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that execution and operation of the Community Services Agreement will not require the expenditure of any Borough funds, and that should the Borough seek to procure additional services from RCAP beyond the one-year term, there may be costs in connection therewith which shall be subject to the subsequent approval of Council; and

WHEREAS, because the services under the Community Services Agreement do not require any payment to be made by the Borough, the agreement may be awarded without bidding pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6.1.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Stockton on this 16th day of September, 2024 that the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute a Community Services Agreement with Rural Community Assistance Partnership, Inc. provide GPS data collection and GIS mapping services of the Borough's water system at no cost to the Borough for a term of one year.

Motion made by Mann and seconded by Hunt to approve Resolution 24-78

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

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes

**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution 2024-78**

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 **\$161,161.31**

The attached bill list has been approved for payment by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton at their Regular Meeting on **September 16, 2024** in the amount of **\$161,161.31**.

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

Community Outreach-Mann reported that they will have another Tie the Town Pink, committee meeting on Thursday to look at it and come up with a more solid plan. This is for the recognition of breast cancer awareness month. The committee is looking into upgrading holiday decorations for the town. They have also involved the Civic Committee and have them in conversation with regard to what you can and can't do on Route 29. Will be making sure they partner with them and be clear on how it's funded. They don't have a charter or bank account yet and need to figure that out.

Fire Department- On October 26th there will be a roast beef dinner, and the fire company will also have a soup sale.

Buildings & Grounds- Hunt reported that the playground area has two maple trees that provide shade, and an anonymous donor continues to pay the bill for the trees with their upkeep.

Infrastructure-PFAS Update- Brown discussed the update with the PFAS lawsuit. The borough has signed onto the class action settlement claim against 3M and Dupont. Stated that the money can help us out. With Tyco and one other large manufacturer, this will be a pretty large fund. Hopefully the funds will expand to have available to the towns. Mayor Lipsen explained that PFAS are the forever chemicals, the borough has a pretty low level. A couple of times we have been over the minimum. Brown added that there are a whole wave of lawsuits and liability coming out.

Lipsen reported that they completed phase 1 of the lighting project. New LED light bulbs on Bridge street have been installed. This took a lot longer and was complicated, but the job was done. Savings will be seen on future electric bills. Looking at phase 2 they will be working with JCP&L in which Lipsen cataloged a number of their street lights that are burned out. There is a big number around 20 that are out. Mayor Lipsen gave an update on the street signs which have been ordered. They will have mark outs done and the new signs hopefully installed by the next meeting. Mayor Lipsen added that Route 29, on the Scenic byway portion there are limitations on certain types of signs with certain restrictions from DOT. He will be setting up another meeting in a month or two with the NJDOT. Mayor Lipsen reported that Stockton was awarded a large grant for the sewer generator from Hunterdon County an infrastructure grant. He thanked Brown, Ms. Maddox and the CFO for their work on the grant.

Public Safety- Mayor Lipsen reported that the fire company is looking to complete their merger with Delaware Township. The public needs to be aware of this big change. We should do what we can do to honor our fire fighters. Discussed about coming up with something to honor their great service along with the fire department itself. Mayor Lipsen welcomed the new joint fire department for the new beginnings.

Planning Board-Mayor Lipsen stated that the Planning Board announced their plan for the boroughs master plan with a minor examination to take place. Stated that there are no major changes and that the a meeting on Zoom will be held on October 1st and then likely an in-person meeting on November 14th at the Mill to give the people an opportunity to come out. It's a visioning for the town. The changes are very minor. Hunt clarified that it's a reexamination not the master plan itself. It will be examining a few perennial issues.

Public Safety- Kozuhowski reported on the ongoing speeding issues on Route 29 and other various areas. He spoke with the Police Chief from Deware Township, who supported our request to have multiple officers out. He has seen troopers out having the presence and that alone is a good deterrence. He has noticed the reduction of speeders and hopes that residents are seeing it as well. Discussions ensued regarding the opening of more commercial activity with Woolverton Inn. The ideas discussed were to have possibly speed bumps in the area. Kozuhowski reported on vandalism on the side of a building near the playground and asked if the committee can get someone over there to paint over it. Discussions of donating trail cameras in the area and have the State Police drive through once in a while was discussed.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Lipsen opened the floor to public comment.

Adam Juncosa reported that he wanted to let everyone know that Odd Brewing is having its local night fund raiser and this time it will go to the Stockton Fire Department. They will also have iced tea from Sullivan's, it's not just for beer drinkers.

Laura Lutton asked if there was a way the council can write letters to the area businesses that are having trucks driving through town to slow down. Kozuhowski stated that by doing that it could open the town to liability without an actual speed study.

Purcell thanked everyone for all their work they do (council).

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion by Kozuhowski seconded by Mann to approve the following Resolution to enter executive session. It was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Mayor Lipsen left the meeting at 9:37 PM

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:

- Attorney-Client Privileged Discussion/Possible Contract Negotiations – Disposition of Public Property
- Anticipated/Possible Contract Negotiations – Flood Mitigation Program
- Attorney-Client Privileged Discussion/Possible Contract Negotiations – Disposition of Public Property
- Anticipated/Possible Contract Negotiations – Stormwater

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 Folz to exit the executive session was unanimously approved by voice vote.

NEXT MEETING

October 21, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mann and seconded by Brown to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Laurie A. Courter

Laurie A. Courter, Borough Clerk