



STOCKTON BOROUGH COUNCIL Regular Meeting Agenda

April 21, 2025 – 7:00 pm
ZOOM

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Electronic Meeting

Electronic Meeting Commenting Policy and Instructions:

This meeting is being held via Zoom, a cloud-based web conferencing program. This meeting is being conducted pursuant to guidance from the Division of Local Government Services (“DLGS”). <https://www.nj.gov/govconnect/news/general/#8>. All members of the public participating in this meeting will be muted during the meeting. Please keep yourself muted until instructed to unmute yourself in order to prevent unnecessary disruptions. If you have a question or comment during the designated public comment period, please click “raise your hand”; at the bottom of your screen. You will need to have the “participants” window visible in order to see the “raise your hand”; button. You will be instructed to unmute yourself and turn on your camera (if able). If you have called into the meeting, please press *9 to raise your hand. The moderator will call on you and will need to press *6 to unmute yourself when it is your turn to speak. Please be advised that if you called into the meeting, you will be identified by your telephone number. The moderator will, if needed, acknowledge you by the last 4 digits of your telephone number. Your telephone number will be visible to all participants in the meeting and will be visible to anyone that watches a recording of this meeting. Before you begin your comment, please state your name and address for the record. If you are having technical issues, please use the chat function to alert the moderator. Please do not use the chat function for any other purpose during the meeting. Public comments and questions will not be accepted via the chat function.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER AND STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT:** This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by a notice mailed to the Hunterdon County Democrat and The Trenton Times, posted on the Borough Website, on the window of Borough Hall, and filed with the Borough Clerk as required by law.

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2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Brown, Fisher, Folz, Hunt, Mann, Meltzer, Lipsen

4. PROCLAMATION: None

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6. CORRESPONDENCE

7. OLD BUSINESS

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Sewer Budget Projections

9. OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

10. OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT:

Any person desiring to address the Borough Council during periods designated for public comment shall first seek recognition by the mayor, or presiding officer, and upon recognition shall state their name and address. All comments shall be addressed to the mayor, or presiding officer. Comment will be limited to 5 minutes per comment.

11. ORDINANCES-1st Reading

- 2025-02 COLA
- 2025-03 Salary Range

ORDINANCES-2nd Reading:

- 25-01 Disabled Veteran Property Tax Exemption

12. RESOLUTIONS

- 25-38 Municipal Alliance
- 25-39 Shared Services-East Amwell Court
- 25-40 Participation Development and Redevelopment Plan
- 2025-41 Budget Introduction (Public Hearing and Adoption May 19th, 2025)

13. PAYMENT OF BILLS AND VOUCHERS

- 25-42 Payment of Bills and Vouchers

14. MAYOR'S REPORT, BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMENTS, & COMMITTEE REPORTS

15. OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Any person desiring to address the Borough Council during periods designated for public comment shall first seek recognition by the mayor, or presiding officer, and upon recognition shall state their name and address. All comments shall be addressed to the mayor, or presiding officer. Comment will be limited to 5 minutes per comment.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Cannabis Ordinance/Communications - Matters Falling within the Attorney-Client Privilege (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(7)).
- Engineering Special Project Proposals – Contract Negotiations (N.J.S.A. 10:4-4-12b.(7).”

17. POTENTIAL ACTIONS ON ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

18. NEXT MEETING – May 19th, 2025

19. ADJOURNMENT

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ORDINANCE 2025-02
CALENDAR YEAR 2025
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 2025 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 \$5,739.11 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 2025 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 \$20,086.89, and that the CY 2025 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.

**ORDINANCE 2025-03
STOCKTON BOROUGH
SALARY RANGE ORDINANCE
(CFO TO PROVIDE)**

**Borough of Stockton 2nd Reading
Ordinance No. 2025-01**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON, HUNTERDON COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ENTITLED "TAXATION", TO ADD AN ARTICLE DISABLED VETERAN PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30, the dwelling house and the portion of the lot that is reasonably necessary for enjoyment whereupon the same is erected, of any citizen and resident of this State, honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances, from active service, in time of war, in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States, who has been or shall be declared by the United States Veterans Administration or its successor to have a service-connected disability declared by the United States Veterans Administration or its successor to be a total or 100 percent permanent and total disability, and not so evaluated solely because of hospitalization or surgery and recuperation, sustained through enemy action, or accident, or resulting from disease contracted while in such active service, shall be exempt from taxation on proper claim made therefor; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.31, upon review and approval of the required documentation by the municipal tax assessor, the assessor shall allow said exemption from taxation for the tax year in which the claim was filed; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.32, the governing body of each municipality, by appropriate resolution, may return all taxes collected on property from prior years which would have been exempt had proper claim been timely made in writing; and

WHEREAS, the statutory intent to grant discretion to the governing body of every municipality has been affirmed by court decisions that have held that a municipality had discretion to grant or deny a taxpayer a retroactive refund of property taxes that has been paid for the effective date of the disability as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as set forth in N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.32; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council desires to establish a formal policy providing that a retroactive refund of property taxes as set forth in N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.32 shall be limited to the current year of the submission of a proper claim to the tax assessor as required by N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Stockton in Hunterdon County, State of New Jersey, as follows:

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Section 1. Article Disabled Veteran Property Tax Exemption

A refund of property taxes pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.32 shall be granted provided that the applicant submits a complete application to the tax assessor as required by N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30. A retroactive refund shall be limited to the current year of the submission of the application to the tax assessor.

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage, approval, and publication as required by law.

Section 3. Ordinances, resolutions, regulations or parts of ordinances, resolutions, and regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistencies.

Section 4. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such a decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

RESOLUTION 2025-38
Governor’s Council on Substance Use Disorder
Fiscal Grant Cycle October 2020-June 2026

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Council on Substance Use Disorder (GCSUD) established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Substance Use Disorder in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent substance use disorder in communities throughout New Jersey.

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

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

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has applied for funding to the Governor’s Council on Substance Use Disorder through the County of Hunterdon;

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

1. The Borough Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the South Hunterdon Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2026 in the amount of:
GCSUD GRANT FUND \$ 3,980.00
Cash Match \$ 995.00
In-Kind \$ 2,958.00
2. The Borough Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

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Resolution 2025-39
AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT
WITH THE TOWNSHIPS OF EAST AMWELL AND DELAWARE
FOR THE PROVISION OF MUNICIPAL COURT SERVICES
PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq.

WHEREAS, the “Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act,” N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 through 40A:65-35 (the “Act”), authorizes local units of this State to enter into contracts with each other for the joint provision within their several jurisdictions of any service which any party to the agreement is empowered to render within its own jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stockton and Townships of East Amwell and Delaware have previously executed a Shared Services Agreement for the provision of municipal court and municipal court administrative services to Stockton; and

WHEREAS, the Shared Services Agreement expired on December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, at this time the Parties wish to update their Shared Services Agreement to provide for a more streamlined method of paying salaries and fees to the court personnel, which requires the payment of salaries and fees to the court personnel by East Amwell and Delaware, and the payment of a quarterly service fee by Stockton, for a five term, from January 1, 2025 until December 31, 2029.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that the Shared Services Agreement between the Borough of Stockton and Townships of East Amwell and Delaware for the provision of municipal court and municipal court administrative services to Stockton pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq. is hereby approved and authorized for a five year term, from January 1, 2024 until December 31, 2029, consistent with the foregoing “Whereas” clauses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all prior actions taken by the Parties from January 1, 2025 to the effective date of the Shared Services Agreement and in furtherance of the municipal court and municipal court administrative services thereunder are hereby ratified and approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Shared Services Agreement, resolution, and other pertinent documents shall remain on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

RESOLUTION 2025-40
PARTICIPATION IN STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT PLAN
BOROUGH OF STOCKTON
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, the State Planning Act of 1985 (N.J.S.A. 52:18A-196 et seq.) created a State Planning Commission (“SPC”) and an Office of Planning Advocacy (“OPA”) for the purpose of establishing a cooperative planning process that involves the full participation of state, county and local governments; and

WHEREAS, the State Planning Act states that New Jersey needs integrated and coordinated planning in order to conserve its natural resources, to revitalize its urban centers, to provide affordable housing and adequate public facilities at a reasonable cost, to promote equal social and economic opportunity for New Jersey citizens, and to prevent sprawl and promote the suitable use of land; and

WHEREAS, the SPC released the Preliminary State Development and Redevelopment Plan on December 6, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Hunterdon County Planning Board will act as the negotiating entity on behalf of the County’s municipalities; and

WHEREAS, Hunterdon County municipalities shall inform the Hunterdon County Planning Board of their participation; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton wishes to participate and has provided a CART (Cross Acceptance Response Template) in Exhibit 1.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Stockton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that the Borough of Stockton hereby notifies the Hunterdon County Planning Board of its intention to participate in the State Development and Redevelopment Plan and the Borough’s submission of the Cross Acceptance Response.

Summary of Appropriations		2025 Budget	Final 2024 Budget
1. Operating Expenses:	Salaries & Wages	70,000.00	53,000.00
	Other Expenses	368,205.00	304,918.78
2. Capital Improvements		75,000.00	150,000.00
3. Debt Service		36,677.00	14,372.00
4. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations		5,500.00	4,100.00
5. Surplus (General Budget)			
Total Appropriations		555,382.00	526,390.78
Total Number of Employees			

2025 Dedicated		Utility Budget		
Summary of Revenues		Anticipated		
		2025		2024
1. Surplus				
2. Miscellaneous Revenues				
3. Deficit (General Budget)				
Total Revenues				
Summary of Appropriations		2025 Budget		Final 2024 Budget
1. Operating Expenses:	Salaries & Wages			
	Other Expenses			
2. Capital Improvements				
3. Debt Service				
4. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations				
5. Surplus (General Budget)				
Total Appropriations				
Total Number of Employees				

2025 Dedicated		Utility Budget		
Summary of Revenues		Anticipated		
		2025		2024
1. Surplus				
2. Miscellaneous Revenues				
3. Deficit (General Budget)				
Total Revenues				
Summary of Appropriations		2025 Budget		Final 2024 Budget
1. Operating Expenses:	Salaries & Wages			

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Other Expenses			
2. Capital Improvements			
3. Debt Service			
4. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations			
5. Surplus (General Budget)			
Total Appropriations			
Total Number of Employees			

2025 Dedicated		Utility Budget		
Summary of Revenues		Anticipated		
		Anticipated		
1. Surplus				
2. Miscellaneous Revenues				
3. Deficit (General Budget)				
Total Revenues				
Summary of Appropriations		2025 Budget	Final 2024 Budget	
1. Operating Expenses:	Salaries & Wages			
	Other Expenses			
2. Capital Improvements				
3. Debt Service				
4. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations				
5. Surplus (General Budget)				
Total Appropriations				
Total Number of Employees				

2025 Dedicated		Utility Budget		
Summary of Revenues		Anticipated		
		Anticipated		
1. Surplus				
2. Miscellaneous Revenues				
3. Deficit (General Budget)				
Total Revenues				
Summary of Appropriations		2025 Budget	Final 2024 Budget	
1. Operating Expenses:	Salaries & Wages			
	Other Expenses			
2. Capital Improvements				
3. Debt Service				
4. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations				
5. Surplus (General Budget)				

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Total Appropriations		
Total Number of Employees		

2025 Dedicated		Utility Budget		
Summary of Revenues		Anticipated		
		Anticipated		
1. Surplus				
2. Miscellaneous Revenues				
3. Deficit (General Budget)				
Total Revenues				
Summary of Appropriations		2025 Budget	Final 2024 Budget	
1. Operating Expenses:	Salaries & Wages			
	Other Expenses			
2. Capital Improvements				
3. Debt Service				
4. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations				
5. Surplus (General Budget)				
Total Appropriations				
Total Number of Employees				

Balance of Outstanding Debt				
		General		Water/ Sewer
Interest				
Principal				
Outstanding Balance				

Balance of Outstanding Debt				
Interest				
Principal				
Outstanding Balance				

Balance of Outstanding Debt				
Interest				
Principal				
Outstanding Balance				

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**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution 2025-42**

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 \$290,348.36