



STOCKTON BOROUGH COUNCIL Regular Meeting Agenda-Amended

Monday May 18, 2026 – 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 pursuant to guidance from the Division of Local Government Services (DLGS).

All members of the public participating in this meeting will be muted during the meeting. Please keep yourself muted unless you recognized and instructed to unmute during the public comment portion of the meeting. If you would like to make a public comment during the designated public comment period, please click the “raise hand” button at the bottom of your screen. If you have called into the meeting by phone, please press *9 to raise your hand.

Once called upon, you will be instructed to unmute yourself by clicking the unmute button. If you have called in, you will press *6 to unmute.

Please be advised that if you called into the meeting and you raise your hand for public comment, you will be identified by your telephone number. Your telephone number will be read out to all participants in the meeting and to anyone who watches a recording of the meeting. Before you begin your comment, please state your name and address for the record. If you are or have been a judge, prosecutor, or law enforcement officer, you may choose not to provide your address.

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 to the Star Ledger 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.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Brander, Brown, Fisher, Gilinger, Mann, Meltzer, Lipsen

Please note, items listed on the agenda may change prior to the meeting.

4. PROCLAMATION:

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 03-26-2026 Special

6. CORRESPONDENCE

-

7. OLD BUSINESS

-

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Moving Veterans Memorial Monument
- Attorney Discussion: Updates to the animals/livestock ordinance.
- Stockton Borough Community Event

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. Any person(s) making personal, defamatory, or profane remarks or who willfully utters threatening or abusive language, or engages in any disorderly conduct, which disturbs or disrupts the orderly conduct of any meeting, shall be called to order by the presiding officer. If such conduct continues, the presiding officer of the Borough, at their discretion, may take such action as may be reasonably necessary to bring order to the meeting.

10a ORDINANCES 1st Reading

11. ORDINANCES

2nd Reading:

- 2026-09 COLA Ordinance

12. RESOLUTIONS

- 2026-61 Shared Service -Tax Assessor
- 2026-62 Robert Ent-Public Works Assistant Advisor
- 2026-63 Authorizing to Read Budget by Title-Public Hearing
- 2026-64 Adoption of Budget
- 2026-65 Local Budget Examination

13. PAYMENT OF BILLS AND VOUCHERS

- 2026-xx Payment of Bills and Vouchers

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

- Buildings Committee: Jacob Gilinger (Chair)
- Community Outreach Committee: Nina Brander (Chair)
- Grounds Committee: Kate Meltzer (Chair)
- Infrastructure Committee (Water & Sewer/Stormwater/Streets): William Brown (Chair)
- Personnel, Finance, & Operations Committee: Matthew Fisher (Chair)
- Public Safety Committee: (Police, Fire, OEM): Aaron Lipsen (Chair)
- Stockton School Committee: Michael Mann (Chair)
- Mayor’s Report and Council Comments:

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16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Resolution 2026-XX Entering into Executive Session under OPMA, RE:
Matters involving :

17. NEXT MEETING – June 15th (Zoom)

18. ADJOURNMENT

Please note, items listed on the agenda may change prior to the meeting.

Borough of Stockton
Ordinance No. 2026-09
CALENDAR YEAR 2026 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION
LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.4)

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% 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 2026 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 \$8,604.14 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 2026 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 \$20,076.33, and that the CY 2026 municipal budget for the Borough of Stockton be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, 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.

RESOLUTION 2026-61

Authorizing Execution of Shared Services Agreement – Tax Assessor

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stockton has a need for a Tax Assessor; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Delaware Tax Assessor is available to assist the Borough of Stockton with performance and provisions of the requirements of the Tax Assessor position per statutes and guidelines; and

WHEREAS, in enacting the “Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act,” N.J.S.A. §40A:65-1 et seq., the New Jersey Legislature has permitted municipalities to enter into agreements to provide or receive services to/from one another as a means to reduce municipal expenses; and

WHEREAS, accordingly, the Township of Delaware and Borough of Stockton desire to enter into this Interlocal Shared Services Agreement (“Agreement”) through which the Delaware Township Tax Assessor shall serve as Tax Assessor for the Borough of Stockton and the Township of Delaware.

WHEREAS, said agreement shall be effective for a period of two (2) years, commencing June 1, 2026 and terminating on May 31, 2028; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an Interlocal Shared Services Agreement with the Township of Delaware for Tax Assessor services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Interlocal Shared Services Agreement shall take effect upon the adoption of appropriate resolutions by all the parties thereto, and execution of agreements authorized thereunder as set forth in the agreement.

RESOLUTION 2026-62

RESOLUTION HIRING ROBERT ENT TO PROVIDE AS-NEEDED, AS-DIRECTED SERVICES TO THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON IN CONNECTION WITH PUBLIC WORKS AND THE WATER AND SEWER SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stockton has a need to hire a person to provide as-needed, as-directed services to the Borough in connection with public works and the water and sewer systems, and wish to hire Robert Ent to this position based on his extensive experience working for the Borough for many years in these areas.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton, that, Robert Ent is hereby hired to provide as-needed services to the Borough of Stockton in connection with public works and the water and sewer systems, and to the position of “Public Works Assistant Advisor” at the pay rate of \$55.00/per hour, on an as-needed, as-directed basis.

Borough of Stockton

Resolution #2026-63

Authorizing Budget To Be Read by Title Only at Public Hearing

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:4 8(1), the budget may be read at the public hearing by its title when a complete copy of the approved budget has been made available for public inspection and to each person upon request at least one week prior to the date of the hearing and at the hearing; and

WHEREAS, these conditions have been met.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough of Stockton Council of the Borough of Stockton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that the budget shall be read by title only

**Borough of Stockton
Resolution 2026-64
Adopt 2026 Budget**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that the budget hereinbefore set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purposes stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations, and authorization of the amount of:

- (a) \$587,662.83 (item 2 below) for municipal purposes
- (d) \$ 11,876.00 (sheet 43) Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Levy

RECORDED VOTE:	Ayes		Nays	
	Abstained		Absent	

SUMMARY OF REVENUES

1. General Revenues	
Surplus Anticipated	\$223,000.00
Miscellaneous Revenues Anticipated	\$567,930.36
Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	\$1,705.91
2. Amount to be raised by taxation for Municipal Purposes	\$587,662.83
TOTAL REVENUES	\$1,380,299.10

SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS

5. General Appropriations	
Within "CAPS"	
(a&b) Operations Including Contingent	\$596,379.56
(e) Deferred Charges and Statutory Expenditures - Municipal	\$13,721.00
Excluded from "CAPS"	
(a) Operations – Total Operations Excluded from "CAPS"	\$112,597.20
(c) Capital Improvements	\$150,000.00
(d) Municipal Debt Service	\$94,431.09
(e) Deferred Charges -Municipal	278,170.25
(m) Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	\$135,000.00
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$1,380,299.10

It is hereby certified that the within budget is a true copy of the budget finally adopted by resolution of the Governing Body on the 18th day of May 2026. It is further certified that each item of revenue and appropriation is set forth in the same amount and by the same title as appeared in the 2026 approved budget and all amendments thereto, if any, which have been previously approved by the Director of Local Government Services.

Certified by me this 18th day of May 2026 _____, Township Clerk.

ATTEST:

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**Borough of Stockton
Resolution 2026-65
Local Budget Examination**

WHEREAS, NJSA 40A:4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt rules that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibility, normally granted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, of conducting the annual budget examination: and

WHEREAS, NJAC 5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board on February 11, 1997; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to NJAC 5:30-7.2 thru 7.5 the Borough of Stockton has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local Government Services, and the Chief Financial Officer has determined that the Township meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the 2026 budget year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough of Stockton, Council of the Borough of Stockton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that the in accordance with NJAC 5:307.6a & b and based upon the Chief Financial Officer's certification, the governing body has found the budget has met the following requirements:

1. That with reference to the following items, the amounts have been calculated pursuant to law and appropriated as such in the budget:
 - a. Payment of interest and debt redemption charges
 - b. Deferred charges and statutory expenditures
 - c. Cash deficit of preceding year
 - d. Reserve for uncollected taxes
 - e. Other reserves and non-disbursement items
 - f. Any inclusions of amounts required for school purposes
2. That the provisions relating to limitation on increases of appropriations pursuant to NJSA 40A:4-45.2 and appropriations for exceptions to limits on appropriations found at 40A:445.3 et seq. are fully met (Complies with the "CAP" law).
3. That the budget is in such form, arrangement, and content as required by the Local Budget Law and NJAC 5:30-4 and 5:30-5.
4. That pursuant to the Local Budget Law:
 - a. All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate, and correctly stated
 - b. Items of appropriation are properly set forth
 - c. In itemization, form, arrangement, and content the budget will permit the exercise of the comptroller function within the municipality
5. The budget and associated amendments have been introduced, publicly advertised, and adopted in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Budget Law, except that failure to meet the deadlines of NJSA 40A:4-5 shall not prevent such certification.

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6. That all other applicable statutory requirements have been fulfilled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

CERTIFICATION OF APPROVED BUDGET

It is hereby certified that the Approved Budget complies with the requirements of law and approval is given pursuant to NJSA 40A:4-78b and NJAC 5:30-7.

It is further certified that the municipality has met the eligibility requirements of NJAC 5:30-7.4 and 7.5, and that I, as Chief Financial Officer, have completed the local examination in compliance with NJAC 5:307.6.

**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution 2026-XX
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 \$

RESOLUTION -EXECUTIVE SESSION(If Needed)

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION UNDER THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT (N.J.S.A. 10:4-13)

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

1. The Mayor and Council will now convene into an executive (closed) session that will be limited only to consideration of an item or items with respect to which the public may be excluded pursuant to section 7b. of the Open Public Meetings Act.
2. The general nature of the subject or subjects to be discussed in said session are as follows:
3. The matters discussed will be made public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists