



STOCKTON BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 9, 2026 7:00 P.M.

Held through Zoom

Mayor Aaron Lipsen called the regular meeting of the Stockton Borough Council to order on February 9, 2026, 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 Star Ledger 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.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilperson Brander, Councilperson Brown, Councilperson Fisher, Councilperson Gilinger, Councilperson Meltzer, Council President Mann, Mayor Aaron Lipsen, Borough Attorney Lisa Maddox, and Borough Clerk Laurie A. Courter.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mann and seconded by Gilinger to approve the following minutes:

January 5, 2026 (Re-Organization)

January 26, 2026 (Regular)

Roll call: Brander, Brown, Fisher, Gilinger, Mann and Meltzer.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Lipsen noted the following correspondences received:

- Rittenhouse Cemetery-Mt Amwell Project -they manage the Rittenhouse Cemetery, report showing they paid \$600 to maintain the area over the last 12 months.
- Hunterdon County Economic Development Grant Request-a grant that has been awarded to the borough for codification of the land use board ordinances.

OLD NEWS

Worman Rd: Mayor Lipsen stated that there is no definitive update. There has been no response to the latest appeal. Mayor Lipsen went on to explain the shortfall in funds to complete the project and with that the borough is asking for additional funds to complete the project.

NEW BUSINESS

- RFQ Preparation - Sanitary Sewer Cleaning and Inspections

Mayor Lipsen reported that the Infrastructure Committee is interested in putting out an RFP for sanitation sewer cleaning and inspections. They are noticing a high flow rate which results in paying extra to process the sanitary sewer. They would like a company to come in and jet out and clean certain areas that are the highest priority. Mayor Lipsen asked if there were any objections to proceed with the RFQ, no objections heard.

OEM REPORT

Mayor Lipsen reported that the OEM has been very busy with the last storm and very cold temperatures and high winds resulting in power outages in surrounding areas. Mayor Lipsen spoke with the County, and some people utilized the warming stations that is organized by the county and other local municipalities.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT – PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mayor Lipsen opened the floor to public comment

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

ORDINANCES-2026-01

Borough Planner, Joanna Slagle explained the need for the two ordinances: affordable housing and fair share obligation fourth round. Ms. Slagle stated that these are basically template ordinances that are administrative but are part of the settlement agreement for the fourth round, which requires the borough to adopt. Attorney Maddox pointed out minor revisions which are typographical in nature. Ms. Maddox asked that the ordinance be adopted with minor amendments.

Motion made by Brown and seconded by Mann to open public hearing for Ordinance 2026-01, all were in favor

Hearing no public comment, motion to close the public hearing, made by Brown and seconded by, Gilinger, all were in favor

Motion made by Mann and seconded by Brown to adopt Ordinance 2026-01, with amendments.

Discussion: Borough Planner, Joanna Slagle explained the need for the two ordinances: affordable housing and fair share obligation fourth round. Ms. Slagle stated that these are basically template ordinances that are administrative but are part of the settlement agreement for the fourth round, which requires the borough to adopt. Ms. Slagle explained that, in the past, Stockton was unable to collect development fees. This ordinance will allow the collection of fees from new development, which will help fund affordable housing activities in the borough.

When asked about the limited number of obligations the borough must undertake, Ms. Slagle explained the limits in place: the vacant land adjustment and the durational adjustment. So while the

borough has obligations, Stockton lacks the land for new construction, and the infrastructure limits (water moratorium) have to be remedied first.

Attorney Maddox pointed out minor revisions which are typographical in nature. Ms. Maddox asked that the ordinance be adopted with minor amendments.

Roll call: Brander, Brown, Fisher, Gilinger, Mann and Meltzer.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

ORDINANCE 2026-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ADDRESSING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FAIR HOUSING ACT AND THE UNIFORM HOUSING AFFORDABILITY CONTROLS AND REGULATING DEVELOPMENT FEES

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stockton (the “Borough”) filed a Declaratory Judgment Action in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hunterdon County, captioned IMO Borough of Stockton, Docket No HUN-L-58-25 (the “Declaratory Judgment Action”), pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.2, -304.3, and -304.1(f)(1)(c) of the New Jersey Fair Housing Act, N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301, et seq. (collectively, the “FHA”), and in accordance with Section II.A of Administrative Directive #14-24 (“Directive #14-24”) of the Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program (the “Program”), seeking a certification of compliance with the FHA; and

WHEREAS, the Stockton Borough Planning Board adopted a Housing Element and Fair Share Plan on June 3, 2025 by way of resolution, which was endorsed by the Borough of Stockton Council on June 19, 2025 by way of Resolution No. 2025-51, in compliance with the Fair Housing Act and Administrative Directive #14-24 and pursuant to the Municipal Land Use Law, N.J.S.A. 40:55D-1, et seq.; and

WHEREAS, Fair Share Housing Center (“FSHC”) filed a challenge pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.1(f)(2)(b) to the Borough’s Housing Element and Fair Share Plan on August 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Borough and FSHC entered into a Settlement Agreement dated December 17, 2025, as authorized by Borough Council Resolution No. 2025-92, arising out of the Declaratory Judgment, which determines the Borough’s affordable housing obligation and the mechanisms for how the obligation will be addressed (“Settlement Agreement”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to and consistent with the terms of the Settlement Agreement and Housing Plan Element and Fair Share Plan, the Borough is required to adopt one or more ordinances to address compliance issues on or before March 15, 2026; and

WHEREAS, at this time, the Mayor and Council seek to adopt this ordinance to be known as the “Development Fee Ordinance.”

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

Section 1. The following regulations are hereby enacted to ensure the Borough of Stockton’s compliance with its Fourth Round Affordable Housing obligations and more specifically to set forth requirements for development fees:

DEVELOPMENT FEES

§1. PREAMBLE; PURPOSE.

- (a) In Holmdel Builder’s Association v. Holmdel Township, 121 N.J. 550 (1990), the New Jersey Supreme Court determined that mandatory development fees are authorized by the Fair Housing Act of 1985 (the “Act”), N.J.S.A. 52:27d-301 et seq., and the State Constitution, subject to the Council on Affordable Housing’s (“COAH”) adoption of rules.
- (b) Pursuant to P.L. 2008, c.46, § 8 (C. 52:27D-329.2) and the Statewide Non-Residential Development Fee Act (C. 40:55D-8.1 through 8.7), the Division of Local Planning Services in the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs is authorized to adopt and promulgate regulations necessary for the establishment, implementation, review, monitoring and enforcement of municipal affordable housing trust funds and corresponding spending plans. Municipalities that are under the jurisdiction of COAH or court of competent jurisdiction and have an approved spending plan may retain fees collected from non-residential development.
- (c) Where applicable, references to approvals or compliance certification are those issued through the Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program (the “Program”) or a court of competent jurisdiction, and/or approvals issued by the Division, as provided in N.J.A.C. 5:99.
- (d) This ordinance establishes standards for the collection, maintenance, and expenditure of development fees and other affordable housing trust fund revenues pursuant to P.L. 2008, c.46, the Act, and the regulations implementing the Act at N.J.A.C. 5:99. Fees collected pursuant to this ordinance shall be used solely for the purpose of providing low- and moderate-income housing in accordance with an approved spending plan and the requirements of N.J.A.C. 5:99.

§2. BASIC REQUIREMENTS.

- (a) Stockton Borough shall not spend, or commit to spend, any affordable housing trust fund revenues unless the expenditure is approved as part of its compliance certification or otherwise approved as permitted by N.J.A.C. 5:99 and N.J.S.A. 52:27D-329.2.a(4). A municipality within the jurisdiction of the Program or a court of competent

jurisdiction shall not spend trust fund revenues unless the Program or court has approved a plan for spending such funds, or unless the Division has approved spending plan expenditures for emergent opportunities as provided in N.J.A.C. 5:99.

- (b) In the event any of the conditions described at N.J.A.C. 5:99-5.6 occur, the Division shall be authorized, on behalf of Stockton, to direct the manner in which all funds in the affordable housing trust fund shall be expended, and the three-party escrow agreement shall be maintained at all times.

§3. DEFINITIONS.

The following terms, as used in this ordinance, shall have the following meanings:

“Affordable housing development” means a development included in the Borough’s Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, and includes, but is not limited to, an inclusionary development, a municipal construction project or a 100 percent affordable development.

“AHMS” means the Affordable Housing Management System used for annual municipal monitoring submissions.

“COAH” or the **“Council”** means the former New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing established under the Fair Housing Act which previously had primary jurisdiction for the administration of housing obligations in accordance with sound regional planning consideration in the State. Pursuant to the Executive Reorganization Act of 1969, P.L. 1969, c. 203 (C. 52:14C-1 et seq.), the Governor abolished the Council and transferred all functions, powers, and duties to the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs, effective August 29, 2011.

“Department” means the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

“Compliant municipality” means a municipality maintaining compliant status for purposes of development fee retention and trust fund maintenance as provided in N.J.A.C. 5:99.

“Development fee” means money paid by a developer for the improvement of property as permitted in N.J.A.C. 5:99.

“Developer” means the legal or beneficial owner or owners of a lot or of any land proposed to be included in a proposed development, including the holder of an option or contract to purchase, or other person having an enforceable proprietary interest in such land.

“Division” means the Division of Local Planning Services within the Department of Community Affairs.

“Equalized assessed value” means the assessed value of a property divided by the current average ratio of assessed to true value for the municipality in which the property is situated, as determined in accordance with sections 1, 5, and 6 of P.L.1973, c.123 (C.54:1-35a through C.54:1-35c).

“**Green building strategies**” means those strategies that minimize the impact of development on the environment, and enhance the health, safety and well-being of residents by producing durable, low-maintenance, resource-efficient housing while making optimum use of existing infrastructure and community services.

“**Municipality**” shall mean the Borough of Stockton in Hunterdon County, also referred to herein as “Stockton” or the “Borough.”

“**Program**” means the Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program, where applicable.

§4. RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT FEES.

(a) Imposed fees

- (1) Within the Borough, residential developers, except for developers of the types of development specifically exempted below, shall pay a fee of one and a half percent (1.5%) of the equalized assessed value for residential development provided no increased density is permitted.
- (2) When an increase in residential density pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-70d(5) (known as a “d” variance) has been permitted, developers may be required to pay a development fee of six percent (6%) of the equalized assessed value for each additional unit that may be realized. However, if the zoning on a site has changed during the two-year period preceding the filing of such a variance application, the base density for the purposes of calculating the bonus development fee shall be the highest density permitted by right during the two-year period preceding the filing of the variance application.

(b) Eligible exactions, ineligible exactions and exemptions for residential development

- (1) Affordable housing developments, developments where the developer is providing for the construction of affordable units elsewhere in Stockton, and developments where the developer has made a payment in lieu of on-site construction of affordable units shall be exempt from development fees.
- (2) Developments that have received preliminary or final site plan approval prior to the adoption of a municipal development fee ordinance shall be exempt from development fees, unless the developer seeks a substantial change in the approval. Where a site plan approval does not apply, a zoning and/or building permit shall be synonymous with preliminary or final site plan approval for this purpose. The fee percentage shall be vested on the date that the building permit is issued.
- (3) Owner-occupied residential structures demolished and replaced as a result of a fire, flood, or natural disaster shall be exempt from paying a development fee.
- (4) Development fees shall be imposed and collected when an existing structure undergoes a change to a more intense use, is demolished and replaced, or is expanded, if the expansion

is not otherwise exempt from the development fee requirement. The development fee shall be calculated on the increase in the equalized assessed value of the improved structure.

§5. NON-RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT FEES.

- (a) Imposed fees
 - (1) Within all zoning districts, non-residential developers, except for developers of the types of development specifically exempted, shall pay a fee equal to two and a half (2.5%) percent of the equalized assessed value of the land and improvements, for all new non-residential construction on an unimproved lot or lots.
 - (2) Non-residential developers, except for developers of the types of development specifically exempted, shall also pay a fee equal to two and a half (2.5%) percent of the increase in equalized assessed value resulting from any additions to existing structures to be used for non-residential purposes.
 - (3) Development fees shall be imposed and collected when an existing structure is demolished and replaced. The development fee of two and a half percent (2.5%) shall be calculated on the difference between the equalized assessed value of the pre-existing land and improvement and the equalized assessed value of the newly improved structure, i.e. land and improvement, at the time final certificate of occupancy is issued. If the calculation required under this section results in a negative number, the non-residential development fee shall be zero.
- (b) Eligible exactions, ineligible exactions and exemptions for non-residential development
 - (1) The non-residential portion of a mixed-use inclusionary or market rate development shall be subject to the two and a half (2.5%) percent development fee, unless otherwise exempted below.
 - (2) The two and a half (2.5%) percent fee shall not apply to an increase in equalized assessed value resulting from alterations, change in use within existing footprint, reconstruction, renovations and repairs.
 - (3) Non-residential developments shall be exempt from the payment of non-residential development fees in accordance with the exemptions required pursuant to P.L.2008, c.46, as specified in the Form N-RDF “State of New Jersey Non-Residential Development Certification/Exemption” Form. Any exemption claimed by a developer shall be substantiated by that developer.
 - (4) A developer of a non-residential development exempted from the non-residential development fee pursuant to P.L. 2008, c.46 shall be subject to it at such time the basis for the exemption no longer applies, and shall make the payment of the non-residential development fee, in that event, within three years after that event or after

the issuance of the final certificate of occupancy of the non-residential development, whichever is later.

- (5) If a property which was exempted from the collection of a non-residential development fee thereafter ceases to be exempt from property taxation, the owner of the property shall remit the fees required pursuant to this section within 45 days of the termination of the property tax exemption. Unpaid non-residential development fees under these circumstances may be enforceable by Stockton Borough as a lien against the real property of the owner.

§6. COLLECTION PROCEDURES.

- (a) Upon the granting of a preliminary, final or other applicable approval, for a development, the applicable approving authority shall direct its staff to notify the construction official responsible for the issuance of a building permit.
- (b) For non-residential developments only, the developer shall also be provided with a copy of Form N-RDF “State of New Jersey Non-Residential Development Certification/Exemption” to be completed as per the instructions provided. The developer of a non-residential development shall complete Form N-RDF as per the instructions provided. The construction official shall verify the information submitted by the non-residential developer as per the instructions provided in the Form N-RDF. The tax assessor shall verify exemptions and prepare estimated and final assessments as per the instructions provided in Form N-RDF.
- (c) The construction official responsible for the issuance of a building permit shall notify the local tax assessor of the issuance of the first building permit for a development which is subject to a development fee.
- (d) Within 90 days of receipt of that notice, the municipal tax assessor, based on the plans filed, shall provide an estimate of the equalized assessed value of non-residential development.
- (e) The construction official responsible for the issuance of a final certificate of occupancy notifies the local assessor of any and all requests for the scheduling of a final inspection on property which is subject to a development fee.
- (f) Within 10 business days of a request for the scheduling of a final inspection, the municipal assessor shall confirm or modify the previously estimated equalized assessed value of the improvements of the development; calculate the development fee; and thereafter notify the developer of the amount of the fee.
- (g) Should Stockton Borough fail to determine or notify the developer of the amount of the development fee within 10 business days of the request for final inspection, the developer may estimate the amount due and pay that estimated amount consistent with the dispute process set forth in subsection b. of section 37 of P.L.2008, c.46 (C.40:55D-8.6).

- (h) Fifty percent of the development fee shall be collected at the time of issuance of the building permit. The remaining portion shall be collected at the issuance of the certificate of occupancy. The developer shall be responsible for paying the difference between the fee calculated at building permit and that determined at issuance of certificate of occupancy.
- (i) Appeal of development fees
- (1) For residential developments, imposed and collected residential development fees that are contested shall be deposited under protest in an interest-bearing escrow account by Stockton. The local code enforcement official shall thereafter issue the certificate of occupancy provided that the construction is otherwise eligible for a certificate of occupancy. If all or a portion of the contested fees are returned to the developer, the accrued interest on the returned amount shall also be returned.

A developer may challenge non-residential development fees by filing a challenge with the Director of the Division of Taxation. Collected fees shall be placed in an interest-bearing escrow account by Stockton if Stockton is authorized to retain the fees, or by the State if Stockton is not authorized to retain the fees. The local code enforcement official shall thereafter issue the certificate of occupancy provided that the construction is otherwise eligible for a certificate of occupancy. Appeals from a determination of the Director may be made to the Tax Court in accordance with N.J.S.A. 54:48-1 et seq., within 90 days after the date of such determination. Interest earned on amounts escrowed shall be credited to the prevailing party.

§7. AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND.

- (a) There is hereby created a separate, interest-bearing housing trust fund to be maintained by the chief financial officer for the purpose of depositing development fees collected from residential and non-residential developers and proceeds from the sale of units with extinguished controls ("Affordable Housing Trust Fund").
- (b) The following additional funds shall be deposited in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and shall at all times be identifiable by source and amount:
- (1) Payments in lieu of on-site construction of affordable units;
 - (2) Developer contributed funds to make ten percent (10%) of the adaptable entrances in a townhouse or other multistory attached development accessible;
 - (3) Rental income from municipally operated units;
 - (4) Repayments from affordable housing program loans;
 - (5) Recapture funds;
 - (6) Proceeds from the sale of affordable units; and
 - (7) Any other funds collected in connection with Stockton's affordable housing program.

- (c) Within 21 days from the opening of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund account, and within 21 days of any change in the bank or other financial institution in which trust funds are deposited, Stockton shall provide the Division with written authorization, in the form of a three-party escrow agreement between Stockton, the bank or other financial institution, and the Division, to permit the Division to direct the disbursement of the funds as provided for in N.J.A.C. 5:99-5.6. This escrow agreement shall be maintained at all times.
- (d) All interest accrued in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund shall only be used on eligible affordable housing activities included in an approved spending plan or an emergent opportunity authorized by the Division.

§8. Use of funds

- (a) The expenditure of all funds shall conform to a spending plan approved by the Program or a court of competent jurisdiction, or as approved by the Division for an emergent opportunity to create affordable housing, as permitted by N.J.A.C. 5:99 and N.J.S.A. 52:27D-329.2.a(4). Such activities include, but are not limited to: preservation or purchase of housing for the purpose of maintaining or implementing affordability controls, rehabilitation, new construction of affordable housing units and related costs, accessory apartment, market to affordable, or regional housing partnership programs, conversion of existing non-residential buildings to create new affordable units, green building strategies designed to be cost saving and in accordance with accepted national or state standards, purchase of land for affordable housing, improvement of land to be used for affordable housing, extensions or improvements of roads and infrastructure to affordable housing sites, financial assistance designed to increase affordability, administration necessary for implementation of the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, or any other activity as permitted and specified in the approved spending plan.
- (b) Funds shall not be expended to reimburse Stockton for past housing activities.
- (c) Stockton shall set aside a portion of all development fees collected and interest earned for the purpose of providing affordability assistance to very low-, low-, and moderate-income households in affordable units included in the municipality's fair share plan. Affordability assistance for very-low-income households may include offering a subsidy to developers of inclusionary or 100 percent affordable developments or buying down the cost of low- or moderate-income units to make them affordable to very-low-income households, including special needs and supportive housing opportunities.

Payments in lieu of constructing affordable units shall be deposited into the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and accounted for separately, identified in annual monitoring submissions, and included in the municipal spending plan. Whenever a payment-in-lieu fee is assessed for a development, a development fee shall not be charged in connection with the same development.

- (d) Stockton may contract with a private or public entity to administer any part of its Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, including the requirement for affordability assistance, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:99-7.

- (e) No more than 20 percent of all revenues collected from development fees, may be expended on administration, including, but not limited to, salaries and benefits for municipal employees or consultant fees necessary to develop or implement a new construction program, a Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, and/or an affirmative marketing program. In the case of a rehabilitation program, no more than 20 percent of the revenues collected from development fees shall be expended for such administrative expenses. Administrative funds may be used for income qualification of households, monitoring the turnover of sale and rental units, and compliance with the Department's monitoring requirements. Municipal affordable housing trust funds shall not be expended on attorney fees or court costs to obtain a judgment of compliance or order of repose (including associated administration costs), on any costs in connection with a challenge to the municipality's fair share obligation, or on any costs in connection with a challenge to the municipality's obligation, housing element, or fair share plan, as provided in N.J.A.C. 5:99.

§9. MONITORING.

Stockton shall submit all required monitoring information through the online AHMS in the time and form required by the Division. Monitoring information for each calendar year shall be submitted in the form of a certification by the municipal housing liaison, or their designee (who shall be a municipal employee), and shall be accompanied by a year-end bank or other financial institution statement used to reconcile municipal reporting. Municipal monitoring information certifications shall be submitted through AHMS by February 15 of each year for trust fund activity through December 31 of the previous year.

§10. ONGOING COLLECTION OF FEES.

- (a) The ability for Stockton to impose and collect and retain residential development fees, retain non-residential development fees, and maintain an affordable housing trust fund is subject to maintaining its status as a compliant municipality, except as otherwise provided by law for Qualified Urban Aid Municipalities. If a court of competent jurisdiction finds that Stockton has failed to maintain its status as a compliant municipality, Stockton may be subject to forfeiture of any or all funds remaining within the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and any funds so forfeited shall be deposited into the New Jersey Affordable Housing Trust Fund established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-320.

§11. REPEALER, SEVERABILITY, AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

- (a) All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are repealed as to such inconsistencies.
- (b) If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

- (c) This ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication as provided by law.

Motion made by Gilinger and seconded by Brown to open public hearing for Ordinance 2026-02, all were in favor.

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

Motion made by Brown and seconded by Mann to adopt Ordinance 2026-02 with amendments Brown spoke of the challenges with this issue. Expressed concerns about the obligation imposed upon municipalities and thanked the professionals involved.

Roll call: Brander, Brown, Fisher, Gilinger, Mann and Meltzer.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

ORDINANCE 2026-02

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON,
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
ADDRESSING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FAIR
HOUSING ACT AND THE UNIFORM HOUSING
AFFORDABILITY CONTROLS AND ENSURING THE
BOROUGH'S COMPLIANCE WITH ITS AFFORDABLE
HOUSING OBLIGATIONS, AND TO BE KNOWN AS THE
"STOCKTON BOROUGH FOURTH ROUND AFFORDABLE
HOUSING ORDINANCE"**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stockton (the "Borough" or "Stockton") filed a Declaratory Judgment Action in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hunterdon County, captioned IMO

Borough of Stockton, Docket No HUN-L-58-25 (the “Declaratory Judgment Action”), pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.2, -304.3, and -304.1(f)(1)(c) of the New Jersey Fair Housing Act, N.J.S.A. 52:27D- 301, et seq. (collectively, the “FHA”), and in accordance with Section II.A of Administrative Directive #14-24 (“Directive #14-24”) of the Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program (the ”Program”), seeking a certification of compliance with the FHA; and

WHEREAS, the Stockton Borough Planning Board adopted a Housing Element and Fair Share Plan on June 3, 2025 by way of resolution, which was endorsed by the Borough of Stockton Council on June 19, 2025 by way of Resolution No. 2025-51, in compliance with the Fair Housing Act and Administrative Directive #14-24 and pursuant to the Municipal Land Use Law, N.J.S.A. 40:55D-1, et seq.; and

WHEREAS, Fair Share Housing Center (“FSHC”) filed a challenge pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.1(f)(2)(b) to the Borough’s Housing Element and Fair Share Plan on August 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Borough and FSHC entered into a Settlement Agreement dated December 17, 2025, as authorized by Borough Council Resolution No. 2025-92, arising out of the Declaratory Judgment that determines the Borough’s affordable housing obligation and the mechanisms for how the obligation will be addressed (“Settlement Agreement”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to and consistent with the terms of the Settlement Agreement and Housing Plan Element and Fair Share Plan, the Borough is required to adopt one or more ordinances to address compliance issues on or before March 15, 2026; and

WHEREAS, at this time, the Mayor and Council seek to adopt this ordinance which shall be known as the “Stockton Borough Fourth Round Affordable Housing Ordinance.”

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

Section 1. The following regulations are hereby enacted for purposes of compliance with the Borough of Stockton’s Fourth Round Affordable Housing obligations:

STOCKTON BOROUGH FOURTH ROUND AFFORDABLE HOUSING ORDINANCE

§1. GENERAL PROVISIONS AND REQUIREMENTS.

- (a) This ordinance is intended to ensure that low- and moderate-income units, referred to as affordable units, are created with controls on affordability over time and that low and moderate income households shall occupy these units.
- (b) The provisions of this ordinance shall apply to all affordable housing development and procedures in the Borough of Stockton (“Stockton” or “Borough”).

- (c) This ordinance shall apply except where inconsistent with applicable law. Where any provision of this ordinance may be inconsistent or conflict with the provisions of the New Jersey Fair Housing Act (C.52:27D-301, et seq.), as amended, Chapter 99 Fair Housing Act Regulations (N.J.A.C. 5:99-1, et seq.), as amended, and/or the New Jersey Uniform Housing and Affordability Controls (N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.1, et seq.), as amended, the provisions of the amended statute and/or regulation shall control. The Stockton Planning Board has adopted a Housing Element and Fair Share Plan pursuant to the Municipal Land Use Law at N.J.S.A. 40:55D-1, et seq. The Housing Element and Fair Share Plan has been endorsed by the governing body. The Housing Element and Fair Share Plan describes the ways Stockton shall address its fair share of low- and moderate-income housing as determined by the Fair Housing Act, any applicable settlement agreements, judgments or orders of the Superior Court, the Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program, and other applicable State law and are documented in the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan.
- (d) This ordinance implements and incorporates the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan and addresses the applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, as may be amended and supplemented. This ordinance is to be construed consistently with, and in accordance with, the Borough's Housing Element and Fair Share Plan.
- (e) Stockton shall file such monitoring and evaluation reports as may be required by the Fair Housing Act, the Uniform Housing Affordability Controls at N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.1, et seq., any applicable settlement agreements, and any orders of the Superior Court or the Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program. Any such plan evaluation reports shall be available to the public at the Stockton Municipal Building, Municipal Clerk's Office, and on the municipality's website, if available.

§2. DEFINITIONS.

The following terms when used in this ordinance shall have the meanings given in this section:

“Accessory apartment” means a self-contained residential dwelling unit with a kitchen, sanitary facilities, sleeping quarters and a private entrance, which is created within an existing home, or through the conversion of an existing accessory structure on the same site, or by an addition to an existing home or accessory building, or by the construction of a new accessory structure on the same site.

“Act” means the Fair Housing Act of 1985, P.L. 1985, c. 222 (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301, et seq.), as amended.

“Adaptable” means constructed in compliance with the technical design standards of the Barrier Free Subcode, N.J.A.C. 5:23-7.

“Administrative Agent” means the entity responsible for the administration of affordable units in accordance with this Ordinance and the Uniform Housing Affordability Controls, N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.1, et seq., as may be amended and supplemented, including any successor rules adopted by the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency.

“Affirmative marketing” means a regional marketing strategy designed to attract buyers and/or renters of affordable units in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.16, as may be amended and supplemented.

“Affordability average” means the average percentage of regional median income at which restricted units in an affordable housing development are affordable to low- and moderate-income households.

“Affordable” means a sales price or rent within the means of a low or moderate income household; in the case of an ownership unit, that the sales price for the unit conforms to the standards set forth at N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.7, as may be amended and supplemented, and in the case of a rental unit, that the rent for the unit conforms to the standards set forth at N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.13, as may be amended and supplemented.

“Affordable development” means a housing development all or a portion of which consists of restricted units.

“Affordable housing development” means a development included in the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, and includes, but is not limited to, an inclusionary development, a municipal construction project, or a one hundred percent affordable development.

“Affordable housing program(s)” means any mechanism in the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan prepared or implemented to address the municipality’s fair share obligation.

“Affordable Housing Trust Fund” or “AHTF” means the non-lapsing, revolving trust fund established in the Department of Community Affairs (“DCA”) pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-320 and N.J.A.C. 5:43 to be the repository of all State funds appropriated for affordable housing purposes. All references to the “Neighborhood Preservation Non-lapsing Revolving Fund” and “Balanced Housing” mean the AHTF.

“Affordable unit” or “restricted unit” means a dwelling unit, whether a rental unit or ownership unit, that is subject to the affordability controls of N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.1, et seq., as may be amended and supplemented, but does not include a market rate unit financed under UHORP, MONI, CHOICE, or similar programs.

“Agency” means the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency established by P.L. 1983, c. 530 (N.J.S.A. 55:14K-1, et seq.) in, but not of, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (“DCA”).

“Age-restricted unit” means a housing unit designed to meet the needs of, and intended exclusively for, the residents of an age-restricted segment of the population where the adult member of the family who is the head of the household for the purposes of determining income eligibility and rent is a minimum age of either 62 years or 55 years, and meets the provisions of 42 U.S.C. §§ 3601 through 3619, except that due to death, a surviving spouse of less than 55 years of age is permitted to continue to reside in the unit.

“Assisted living residence” means a facility licensed by the New Jersey Department of Health to provide apartment-style housing and congregate dining and to assure that assisted living services are available when needed for four or more adult persons unrelated to the proprietor. Apartment units must offer, at a minimum, one unfurnished room, a private bathroom, a kitchenette, and a lockable door on the unit entrance.

“Certified household” means a household that has been certified by an administrative agent as a very low-income, a low-income, or a moderate-income household, as applicable.

“Deficient housing unit” means a housing unit with health and safety code violations that require the repair or replacement of a major system. A major system includes weatherization, roofing, plumbing (including wells), heating, electricity, sanitary plumbing (including septic systems), lead paint abatement, and load bearing structural systems.

“Developer” means any person, partnership, association, company or corporation that is the legal or beneficial owner or owners of a lot or any land proposed to be included in a proposed development, including the holder of an option to contract or purchase, or other person having an enforceable proprietary interest in such property.

“Development” means the division of a parcel of land into two or more parcels; the construction, reconstruction, conversion, structural alteration, relocation, or enlargement of any use or change in the use of any building or other structure; or any mining, excavation, landfill, and any use or change in the use of any building or other structure or land, for which permission may be required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-1, et seq.

“Household income” means a household’s gross annual income calculated in a manner consistent with the determination of annual income pursuant to section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (“Section 8”), not in accordance with the determination of gross income for Federal income tax liability.

“Inclusionary development” means a development containing both affordable units and market rate units. This term includes, but is not limited to, new construction, the conversion of a non-residential structure to residential use, and the creation of new affordable units through the reconstruction of a vacant residential structure.

“Low-income household” means a household with a total gross annual household income equal to 50 percent or less of regional median income.

“Low-income unit” means a restricted unit that is affordable to a low-income household.

“Major system” means the primary structural, mechanical, plumbing, electrical, fire protection, or occupant service components of a building, including weatherization, roofing, plumbing (including wells), heating, electricity, sanitary plumbing (including septic systems), lead paint abatement and load bearing structural systems.

“Market rate units” means housing not restricted to low- and moderate-income households that may sell or rent at any price.

“Median income” means the median income by household size for the applicable housing region or county, as adopted annually by the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency or the DCA, as applicable.

“Moderate-income household” means a household with a total gross annual household income in excess of 50 percent but less than or equal to 80 percent of regional median income.

“Moderate income unit” means a restricted unit that is affordable to a moderate-income household.

“Non-exempt sale” means any sale or transfer of ownership of a restricted unit to one’s self or to another individual other than the transfer of ownership between spouses or civil union partners; the transfer of ownership between former spouses or civil union partners ordered as a result of a judicial decree of divorce or judicial separation, but not including sales to third parties; the transfer of ownership between family members as a result of inheritance; the transfer of ownership through an executor’s deed to a class A beneficiary; and the transfer of ownership by court order.

“Random selection process” means a lottery process by which currently income-eligible applicant-households are selected, at random, for placement in affordable housing units such that no preference is given to one applicant over another, except in the case of a veterans’ preference where such an agreement exists; for purposes of matching household income and size with an appropriately priced and sized affordable unit; or another purpose allowed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.17(k)(3).

“Rehabilitation” means the repair, renovation, alteration, or reconstruction of any building or structure, pursuant to the Rehabilitation Subcode, N.J.A.C. 5:23-6.

“Rent” means the gross monthly cost of a rental unit to the tenant, including the rent paid to the landlord, as well as an allowance for tenant-paid utilities computed in accordance with allowances published by DCA for its Section 8 program. With respect to units in assisted living residences, rent does not include charges for food and services.

“UHAC” means the Uniform Housing Affordability Controls set forth in N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.1, et seq., as may be amended and supplemented.

“Very low-income household” means a household with a total gross annual household income equal to 30 percent or less of regional median income.

“Very low-income unit” means a restricted unit that is affordable to a very low-income household.

“Veteran” means a veteran as defined at N.J.S.A. 54:4-8.10.

“Veterans’ preference” means the agreement between a municipality and a developer or residential development owner that allows for low- to moderate-income veterans to be given preference for up to 50 percent of units in relevant projects, as provided for at N.J.S.A. 52:27D-311j.

“Weatherization” means building insulation (for attic, exterior walls and crawl space), siding to improve energy efficiency, replacement storm windows, replacement storm doors, replacement windows and replacement doors, and is considered a major system for rehabilitation.

§3. MANDATORY SET-ASIDE ORDINANCE.

- (a) Any future development of five (5) or more residential units, at six (6) dwelling units per acre or greater, in the Borough developed through planning board approval, zoning board approval, redevelopment or a rehabilitation plan requires an affordable housing set aside of at least 20% of all units, with at least 50% of the restricted units in each development being affordable to low-income households, including 13% to very low-income households. All such affordable units, including the required bedroom distribution, shall be governed by controls on affordability and affirmatively marketed in conformance with UHAC, N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.1, et seq. or any successor regulation, and all other applicable law.
- (b) Developers shall not subdivide a project for the purpose of avoiding compliance with this requirement.
- (c) This requirement does not give any developer the right to any such rezoning, variance or other relief, or establish any obligation on the part of Stockton to grant such rezoning, variance or other relief. No subdivision shall be permitted or approved for the purpose of avoiding compliance with this requirement.

§4. AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMS.

Stockton shall use the following mechanisms to satisfy its affordable housing obligations, in accordance with and as set forth in its Housing Element and Fair Share Plan:

- (a) An Accessory Apartment program
 - (1) All accessory apartments shall meet the following conditions:
 - (i) Accessory apartments shall be permitted by the zoning ordinance for various zoning districts, provided the units are affordable to low- and moderate-income households. Accessory apartments may be developed as low-income or moderate-income units, consistent with the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan.
 - (ii) Accessory apartments shall comply with all applicable statutes and regulations of the State of New Jersey, in addition to all applicable building codes.

- (iii) At the time of initial occupancy of the unit and for at least ten years thereafter, the accessory apartment shall be rented only to a low- or moderate-income household.
 - (iv) Every rental of accessory apartments shall be affordable to low- or moderate-income households in accordance with UHAC.
 - (v) There shall be a recorded deed or declaration of covenants and restrictions applied to the property upon which the accessory apartment is located, running with the land and limiting the subsequent rental or sale of the unit and the accessory apartment.
 - (vi) The appropriate utility authority must certify that there is water and sewer infrastructure with sufficient capacity to serve the proposed accessory apartment. Where the proposed location is served by an individual well and/or septic system, the additional capacity necessitated by the new unit must meet applicable New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection standards.
 - (vii) The Stockton accessory apartment program shall not restrict the number of bedrooms in any accessory apartment.
 - (viii) No accessory apartment created under this section shall exceed the gross floor area of the existing principal dwelling on the lot.
 - (ix) The governing body may waive municipal building permit fees in cases involving affordable accessory apartment development under this section and may establish an annual license and inspection fee, if required.
- (2) The maximum number of creditable accessory apartments shall be equal to no more than ten units or an amount equal to ten percent of the Stockton fair share obligation, whichever is greater, unless a greater number is approved by the court or applicable State agency.
 - (3) In the event there are accessory apartments under this program, Stockton shall designate an administrative entity to administer the accessory apartment program with responsibilities including advertising, income qualifying prospective renters, setting rents and annual rent increases, maintaining a waiting list, distributing any subsidy, securing certificates of occupancy, qualifying properties, handling application forms, filing deed restrictions and monitoring reports, and affirmatively marketing the accessory apartment program in accordance with UHAC.
- (d) Other affordable housing programs

Stockton may also rely on other mechanisms identified in its Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, including but not limited to municipally-sponsored new construction, inclusionary zoning, supportive and alternative housing, group homes, age restricted housing within statutory caps, and any other mechanisms approved through the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, settlement agreement or court order.

§5. Inclusionary Zoning

(a) Presumptive densities and set asides

To ensure the efficient use of land through compact forms of development and to create realistic opportunities for the construction of affordable housing, any inclusionary zoning in Stockton shall be designed to provide a realistic opportunity for the construction of affordable units at densities and set asides consistent with Stockton’s Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, any applicable settlement agreements, and applicable law.

(b) Phasing

In inclusionary developments, the following phasing schedule shall be followed:

Maximum Percentage of Market-Rate Units Completed	Minimum Percentage of Low- and Moderate-Income Units Completed
No more than 10 percent	1 affordable unit
No more than 25 percent of market units plus 1	25 percent of affordable units
No more than 50 percent of market units	50 percent of affordable units
No more than 75 percent of market units	75 percent of affordable units
No more than 90 percent of market units	100 percent of affordable units

(c) Design

In inclusionary developments, to the extent possible and practical, low- and moderate-income units shall be integrated with the market rate units.

(d) Payments in lieu and off site construction

Standards for the collection of payments in lieu of constructing affordable units or standards for constructing affordable units off site shall be in accordance with applicable law, including the Fair Housing Act and any requirements of the Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program. Payment in Lieu deposited into the affordable housing trust fund must be accounted separately, and, if assessed, a development fee cannot be charged for the same development.

(e) Utilities.

Affordable units shall utilize the same type of heating source and generally the same utility systems as market rate units within the affordable development, except where otherwise approved for energy efficiency or affordability.

§6. NEW CONSTRUCTION.

The following general guidelines apply to all newly constructed developments that contain low- and moderate-income housing units, including any currently unanticipated future developments that will provide low- and moderate-income housing units.

- (a) For purposes of determining affordability averages and bedroom distributions, all restricted units within any single-family development in Stockton shall be treated as one scattered-site affordable development. This treatment affects only the calculations of affordability and bedroom counts for single-family developments, is not to be construed to require that the restricted units be developed or administered as one scattered-site affordable development, and does not affect multifamily developments.
- (b) For purposes of determining affordability averages and bedroom distributions, unless stated otherwise, non-integer values calculated pursuant to this subsection are to be rounded up to the nearest whole number. However, non-integer values calculated pursuant to (d)(3), (d)(4), (d)(5), (f)(2), (f)(3), or (f)(5) below may be rounded down or up to the nearest whole number in either direction. For example, 33.1901 will typically be rounded up to 34, but may be rounded down to 33 or up to 34 if calculated pursuant to (d)(3), (d)(4), (d)(5), (f)(2), (f)(3), or (f)(5) below.
- (c) The average rent for all restricted units within each affordable development is affordable to households earning no more than 52 percent of median income.
- (d) Unless otherwise approved pursuant to (l) below, in each affordable development, restricted units that are not age-restricted or supportive housing must be structured in conjunction with realistic market demands such that:
 - (1) At a minimum, the number of bedrooms within the restricted units equals twice the number of restricted units;
 - (2) Two-bedroom and/or three-bedroom units compose at least 50 percent of all restricted units;
 - (3) No more than 20 percent of all restricted units, rounded up or down to the nearest whole number in either direction, are efficiency or one-bedroom units;
 - (4) At least 30 percent of all restricted units, rounded up or down to the nearest whole number in either direction, are two-bedroom units;
 - (5) At least 20 percent of all restricted units, rounded up or down to the nearest whole number in either direction, are three-bedroom units; and
 - (6) The remainder of the restricted units, if any, are allocated at the discretion of the developer in accordance with Stockton's Housing Element and Fair Share Plan.

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- (e) Unless otherwise approved pursuant to (k) below, in each affordable development, restricted units that are age-restricted or supportive housing must be structured such that, at a minimum, the number of bedrooms within the restricted units equals the number of restricted units. For example, the standard may be met by creating a two-bedroom unit for each efficiency unit. In affordable developments with 20 or more restricted units that are age-restricted or supportive housing, two-bedroom and three-bedroom units must compose at least five percent of those restricted units.
- (f) Unless otherwise approved pursuant to (k) below, in each affordable development, the following income distribution requirements must be satisfied by all of the restricted units in the development as well as by, considered in isolation, the restricted units that are age-restricted, the restricted units that are supportive housing, and the restricted units that are neither age-restricted nor supportive housing:
- (1) At least 50 percent of all restricted units are low-income or very-low-income units;
 - (2) At least 50 percent of all restricted efficiency or one-bedroom units, rounded up or down to the nearest whole number in either direction, are low-income units or very-low-income units;
 - (3) At least 50 percent of all restricted two-bedroom units, rounded up or down to the nearest whole number in either direction, are low-income units or very-low-income units;
 - (4) At least 50 percent of all restricted three-bedroom units are low-income units or very-low-income units;
 - (5) At least 50 percent of all restricted units with four or more bedrooms, rounded up or down to the nearest whole number in either direction, are low-income units or very-low-income units; and
 - (6) Any very-low-income units are distributed between each bedroom count as proportionally as possible, to the nearest whole unit, to the total number of restricted units within each bedroom count. For example, if half of the restricted units are two-bedroom units, then half of the very-low-income units should be two-bedroom units.
- (g) For the purposes of determining bonus credits pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-311(k)(5), the minimum number of three-bedroom units required pursuant to subsections (d), (e) and (f) of this section is determined by taking 20 percent of the total number of family housing units in Stockton's Fair Share Plan and Housing Element, not by summing up the three-bedroom-unit requirements calculated for each affordable development.

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- (h) In determining the initial rents and initial sale prices for compliance with the affordability average requirements for restricted units other than age-restricted units and assisted living facilities, the following standards apply:
- (1) An efficiency unit is affordable to a one-person household;
 - (2) A one-bedroom unit is affordable to a one-and-one-half-person household;
 - (3) A two-bedroom unit is affordable to a three-person household;
 - (4) A three-bedroom unit is affordable to a four-and-one-half-person household; and
 - (5) A four-bedroom unit is affordable to a six-person household.
- (i) For age-restricted units and assisted living facilities, the following standards apply:
- (1) An efficiency unit is affordable to a one-person household;
 - (2) A one-bedroom unit is affordable to a one-and-one-half-person household;
 - (3) A two-bedroom unit is affordable to a two-person household or to two one-person households; and
 - (4) A three-bedroom unit is affordable to a two-and-one-half-person household.
- (j) The provisions of this section do not apply to affordable developments financed pursuant to UHORP, MONI, or CHOICE or to assisted living residences, each of which must comply with applicable Agency regulations.
- (k) The requirements of subsections (d), (e), and (f) above must be satisfied by all restricted units in Stockton, considered in the aggregate. The individual requirements of subsections (d), (e), and (f) above may be waived or altered for a specific affordable development with written approval from the Dispute Resolution Program if such waiver or alteration would not result in a material deviation from the municipal housing element and fair share plan. Any waiver or alteration that would result in a material deviation from the municipal housing element and fair share plan must receive written approval from the Dispute Resolution Program or, if the municipality does not participate in the Dispute Resolution Program, from a county-level housing judge.
- (l) Accessibility requirements
- (1) The first floor of all restricted townhouse dwelling units and all restricted units in all other multistory buildings shall be subject to the technical design standards of the Barrier Free Subcode, N.J.A.C. 5:23-7, and all applicable accessibility requirements.
 - (2) All restricted townhouse dwelling units and all restricted units in other multistory buildings in which a restricted dwelling unit is attached to at least one other dwelling unit shall have:
 - (i) An adaptable toilet and bathing facility on the first floor;
 - (ii) An adaptable kitchen on the first floor;

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- (iii) An interior accessible route of travel on the first floor;
 - (iv) An adaptable room that can be used as a bedroom, with a door or the casing for the installation of a door, on the first floor; and
 - (v) An accessible entranceway as set forth at P.L. 2005, c. 350 (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-311a, et seq.) and the Barrier Free Subcode, N.J.A.C. 5:23-7.
- (3) Where a unit has been constructed with an adaptable entrance, upon the request of a disabled person who is purchasing or will reside in the dwelling unit, an accessible entrance shall be installed, using funds deposited by the developer in the affordable housing trust fund for this purpose, consistent with applicable law.
- (4) Full compliance with these provisions shall not be required where an entity demonstrates that it is site impracticable to meet the requirements, as determined in accordance with the Barrier Free Subcode.
- (m) Maximum rents and sales prices
- (1) In establishing rents and sales prices of affordable housing units, the administrative agent shall follow the procedures set forth in UHAC, N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.4, -26.6, -26.7, and -26.13, as may be amended and supplemented, utilizing the regional income limits established by the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency or applicable State agency.
 - (2) The average rent for all restricted rental units within each affordable development shall be affordable to households earning no more than 52 percent of regional median income. The maximum rent for all restricted rental units within each affordable development shall be affordable to households earning no more than 60 percent of regional median income, except as permitted where an enhanced very low income set aside is provided in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.4.
 - (3) The developers and municipal sponsors of restricted rental units shall establish at least one rent for each bedroom count for very low income, low income, and moderate-income units, provided that at least 13 percent of all restricted units within Stockton are affordable to very low-income households.
 - (4) At least 50 percent of the restricted rental units in each affordable development shall be affordable to low-income households, and at least 13 percent of all restricted rental units shall be affordable to very low-income households, consistent with N.J.S.A. 52:27D-329.1 and N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.4.
 - (5) The maximum sale price of restricted ownership units within each affordable development shall be affordable to households earning no more than 70 percent of regional median income, and each affordable development must achieve an

affordability average of no more than 55 percent of regional median income for restricted ownership units.

- (6) At least 50 percent of the restricted ownership units in each affordable development shall be affordable to low-income households, and at least 13 percent of all restricted ownership units shall be affordable to very low-income households.
- (7) The initial purchase price for all restricted ownership units shall be calculated so that the monthly carrying cost of the unit, including principal and interest based on a mortgage loan equal to 95 percent of the purchase price and an interest rate consistent with the Federal Reserve H.15 rate, together with taxes, homeowner and private mortgage insurance, and condominium or homeowner association fees, does not exceed 28 percent of the eligible monthly income of the appropriate size household, subject to the affordability average requirements of UHAC.
- (8) The initial rent for a restricted rental unit shall be calculated so as not to exceed 30 percent of the eligible monthly income of the appropriate size household, subject to the affordability average requirements of UHAC.
- (9) The resale price of restricted ownership units and increases in rents of restricted rental units shall be determined in accordance with UHAC.
- (10) Tenant paid utilities that are included in the utility allowance shall be so stated in the lease and shall be consistent with the utility allowance approved by the DCA for its Section 8 program or other applicable guidance.

§7. Affirmative Marketing Requirements.

- (a) At such time as affordable housing units are created, Stockton shall adopt by resolution an affirmative marketing plan, subject to approval of the Division of Housing and Community Resources or its successor, compliant with N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.16, as may be amended and supplemented.
- (b) The affirmative marketing plan shall be a regional marketing strategy designed to attract buyers and renters of affordable units in the housing region in which Stockton is located. The plan shall attract persons of all majority and minority groups, regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, gender identity or expression, affectional or sexual orientation, disability, age (except for housing for older persons as permitted by law), number of children, source of lawful income, or any other characteristic protected by the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination, N.J.S.A. 10:5-1, et seq., and shall be intended to reach potentially eligible households that are least likely to apply for the units.
- (c) At such time as an administrative agent is appointed, said agent shall ensure the affirmative marketing of affordable units. Stockton may designate a qualified municipal staff person approved by the State to serve as administrative agent for this purpose, or it may contract with one or more experienced administrative agents approved by the State.

- (d) The affirmative marketing plan shall, at a minimum:
- (1) Describe the random selection method that will be used to select occupants of affordable housing units and identify any occupancy preferences permitted by N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.17(k);
 - (2) Identify the media to be used in advertising and publicizing the availability of affordable units, including newspapers and other publications, online housing search websites, municipal and county websites, social media platforms, and non-digital means such as flyers or postings at public buildings and transportation locations;
 - (3) Identify specific community and regional organizations that will assist in the outreach to low- and moderate-income households, including but not limited to Fair Share Housing Center, the New Jersey State Conference of the NAACP, the Latino Action Network, local branches of the NAACP serving the housing region, senior citizen advocacy organizations, and supportive housing advocacy organizations;
 - (4) Describe how the plan will provide language access, including outreach and materials in languages commonly spoken in the municipality and region; and
 - (5) Set forth application procedures and requirements, including any application fees, consistent with UHAC.
- (e) In implementing the affirmative marketing program, the administrative agent shall:
- (1) Post a listing of available affordable housing units on the New Jersey Housing Resource Center at least sixty (60) days before the random selection process or lottery for such units, in accordance with applicable statutes and UHAC;
 - (2) Within one business day of listing rental units that are reserved for individuals with special needs who are homeless, or that constitute permanent supportive housing, notify the local Continuum of Care of the availability of such units;
 - (3) Publish at least one (1) advertisement in a regional newspaper serving the housing region;
 - (4) Advertise the units on at least one (1) widely-used housing search website; and
 - (5) Undertake at least two additional regional marketing strategies, one (1) digital and one (1) non-digital, using the sources identified in the affirmative marketing plan, and continue advertising and outreach until all units being brought to market at that time have been sold or rented or until sufficient applications have been received to fill the units plus anticipated turnover.

- (f) In carrying out the affirmative marketing process, the administrative agent shall comply with the Fair Chance in Housing Act, N.J.S.A. 46:8-52 through -64, and all applicable provisions of Federal and State fair housing law.
- (g) The municipal housing liaison shall monitor the implementation of the affirmative marketing plan by each administrative agent and developer and shall report on affirmative marketing activities in any required municipal monitoring reports.

§8. RANDOM SELECTION AND OCCUPANCY PREFERENCES.

- (a) The administrative agent shall use a random selection process to select income eligible households for referral to restricted units, consistent with N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.17(k), as may be amended and supplemented. The random selection process may occur before or after household income certification and may divide the applicant pool into groups based on bedroom count, income category, or other factors expressly permitted by UHAC.
- (b) Occupancy preferences shall be limited to those expressly permitted by N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.17(k), which may include:
 - (1) A preference for very low-, low-, and moderate-income households who live or work within the housing region;
 - (2) A subordinate preference, subject to the regional preference, for very low-, low-, and moderate-income households who live or work in New Jersey;
 - (3) For preservation or replacement projects, a preference for income eligible households displaced by rehabilitation or demolition of restricted units; and
- (4) A veterans' preference for up to fifty percent of the restricted units in a particular project, if permitted by State law and UHAC.
- (c) No residency preference limited solely to Stockton shall be used unless expressly permitted by statute, UHAC, and any applicable court order or mediation agreement.
- (d) Any occupancy preferences shall be described in the affirmative marketing plan and in the administrative agent's operating manual.

§9. OCCUPANCY STANDARDS.

- (a) Any unit that, prior to the effective date of the amendments to the regulations as promulgated pursuant to P.L. 2024, c.2 (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.1), received substantive certification from the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH), was part of a judgment of compliance from a court of competent jurisdiction, or became subject to a grant agreement or other contract with either the State or a political subdivision thereof, shall be subject to the UHAC regulations (N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.1 et seq.) that were in effect prior to the effective date of the amendments promulgated pursuant to P.L. 2024, c.2.

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- (b) Developments approved as part of a compliance certification or that otherwise contain restricted units subject to the UHAC regulations shall satisfy the following occupancy standards:
- (1) For any 100-percent affordable development comprising one or more restricted units:
 - (i) Restricted units must meet the minimum square footage required for the number of inhabitants for which the unit is marketed and the minimum square footage required for each bedroom, as set forth in the applicable municipal code or the Neighborhood Preservation Balanced Housing eligibility requirements at N.J.A.C. 5:43-2.4, whichever is greater;
 - (ii) Each bedroom in each restricted unit must have at least one window; and
 - (iii) Restricted units must include adequate air conditioning and heating;
 - (2) For developments comprising market-rate rental units and restricted rental units:
 - (i) Restricted units must use the same building standards (for example, plumbing, insulation, siding) as market-rate units of the same unit type (for example, flat, townhome) within the same development, except that restricted units and market-rate units may use different interior finishes;
 - (ii) Restricted units and market-rate units within the same affordable development must be sited such that restricted units are not concentrated in less desirable locations;
 - (iii) Restricted units may not be physically clustered so as to segregate restricted and market-rate units within the same development or within the same building, but must be interspersed throughout the development, except that age-restricted and supportive housing units may be physically clustered if the clustering facilitates the provision of on-site medical services or on-site social services;
 - (iv) Residents of restricted units must be offered the same access to communal amenities as residents of market-rate units within the same affordable development. Examples of communal amenities include, but are not limited to, community pools, fitness and recreation centers, playgrounds, common rooms and outdoor spaces, and building entrances and exits;
 - (v) Restricted units must include adequate air conditioning and heating and, if market-rate units provide cooling and heating, restricted units must use the same type of cooling and heating sources as market-rate units of the same unit type;

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- (vi) Each bedroom in each restricted unit must have at least one window;
 - (vii) Restricted units must be of the same unit type (for example, flat, townhome) as market-rate units within the same building; and
 - (viii) Restricted units must be of at least the same size as the most common market-rate unit(s) of the same type and bedroom count within the same development, but under no circumstances shall any restricted unit or bedroom be less than 90 percent of the minimum size prescribed by the applicable municipal code or Neighborhood Preservation Balanced Housing eligibility requirements at N.J.A.C. 5:43-2.4, whichever prescribes the greater minimum size;
- (3) For developments containing for-sale units, including those with a mix of rental and for-sale units, subsection (b)2 above shall govern the rental units, while for-sale units shall adhere to the following:
- (i) Restricted units must use the same building standards as market-rate units of the same unit type (for example, flat, townhome, single-family home), except that restricted units and market-rate units may use different interior finishes;
 - (ii) Restricted units may be clustered, provided that the buildings or housing product types containing the restricted units are integrated throughout the development and are not concentrated in an undesirable location or in undesirable locations;
 - (iii) Restricted units may be of different housing product types than market-rate units, provided that developments containing market-rate townhomes or single-family homes offer restricted housing options that also include townhomes or single-family homes;
 - (iv) Restricted units must meet the minimum square footage required for the number of inhabitants for which the unit is marketed and the minimum square footage required for each bedroom, as set forth in the applicable municipal code or the Neighborhood Preservation Balanced Housing eligibility requirements at N.J.A.C. 5:43-2.4, whichever provides the greater minimum square footages;
 - (v) Penthouse and end units may be reserved for market-rate sale, provided that the overall number, value, and distribution of affordable units across the development is not negatively impacted by such reservation(s);
 - (vi) Residents of restricted units must be offered the same access to communal amenities as residents of market-rate units within the same affordable

development. Examples of communal amenities include, but are not limited to, community pools, fitness and recreation centers, playgrounds, common rooms and outdoor spaces, and building entrances and exits;

- (vii) Each bedroom in each restricted unit must have at least one window; and
- (viii) Restricted units must include adequate air conditioning and heating.

§10. CONTROL PERIODS FOR RESTRICTED OWNERSHIP UNITS AND ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS.

- (a) Control periods for restricted ownership units shall be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.5 and -26.6, as may be amended and supplemented. Each restricted ownership unit shall remain subject to the requirements of this ordinance until the municipal obligation to maintain controls under UHAC has expired.
- (b) The deed restriction and mortgage lien securing the affordability controls for restricted ownership units shall be in the form required by UHAC and shall be recorded as a first or second lien on the property, as required by UHAC.
- (c) The administrative agent shall have the responsibility to ensure that deed restrictions, mortgage liens, and all other affordability controls required by UHAC and this ordinance are properly executed and recorded and shall monitor compliance.
- (d) Enforcement mechanisms, including but not limited to restrictions on refinancing, capital improvements, resale, and transfer, shall be in accordance with UHAC.

§11. RESTRICTIONS FOR RESTRICTED OWNERSHIP UNITS, HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATION FEES AND RESALE PRICES.

- (a) Price restrictions and resale prices for restricted ownership units shall be governed by N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.6 and -26.7, as may be amended and supplemented.
- (b) Homeowner association fees for restricted ownership units shall be treated in accordance with UHAC, and the administrative agent shall approve homeowner association fee schedules to ensure that affordability is maintained.
- (c) The administrative agent shall establish resale prices for restricted ownership units based upon the formula required by UHAC and this ordinance.

§12. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO RESTRICTED OWNERSHIP UNITS.

- (a) The administrative agent shall review and approve requests for capital improvements by owners of restricted ownership units prior to the commencement of the improvements, consistent with N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.9.

- (b) Eligible capital improvements and treatment of capital improvement costs in calculating resale prices shall be as set forth in UHAC and this ordinance.

§13. CONTROL PERIODS FOR RESTRICTED RENTAL UNITS.

- (a) Control periods for restricted rental units shall be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.11 and -26.12, as may be amended and supplemented.
- (b) Each restricted rental unit shall remain subject to the requirements of this ordinance until the municipal obligation to maintain controls under UHAC has expired.

§14. RENT RESTRICTIONS FOR RENTAL UNITS.

- (a) Rent restrictions for restricted rental units shall be governed by N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.13, as may be amended and supplemented.
- (b) Annual increases in rents shall be consistent with UHAC and any applicable settlement agreements or court orders.
- (c) The administrative agent shall annually review and approve proposed rent increases for restricted rental units.

§15. TENANT INCOME ELIGIBILITY.

- (a) Tenant income eligibility shall be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.14, as may be amended and supplemented, and shall be determined as follows:
- (1) Very low-income rental units shall be reserved for households with a gross household income less than or equal to 30 percent of regional median income.
 - (2) Low-income rental units shall be reserved for households with a gross household income less than or equal to 50 percent of regional median income.
 - (3) Moderate-income rental units shall be reserved for households with a gross household income less than or equal to 80 percent of regional median income.
- (b) The administrative agent shall certify a household as eligible for a restricted rental unit when the household satisfies UHAC income eligibility requirements, and the proposed rent does not exceed applicable affordability standards.

§16. ADMINISTRATION.

- (a) The position of municipal housing liaison (“MHL”) for Stockton shall be established at the time affordable housing units are proposed, and shall be appointed by resolution or other appropriate action.

- (b) The MHL must be either a full-time or part-time employee of Stockton and shall meet all qualification and training requirements imposed by the State.
- (c) The MHL shall be responsible for oversight and administration of the affordable housing program for Stockton, including but not limited to:
 - (1) Serving as the Borough's primary point of contact for all inquiries from the State, affordable housing providers, administrative agents, and interested households;
 - (2) Coordinating the implementation of the affirmative marketing plan and affordability controls;
 - (3) Supervising any contracted administrative agent;
 - (4) Monitoring the status of all restricted units in Stockton's Housing Element and Fair Share Plan;
- (5) Preparing monitoring and reporting forms as required by the State or the court. AHMS access may be authorized only by the MHL (or designee who must be a municipal employee); and
- (6) Where applicable, providing the administrative agent with the municipal operating manual(s), Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, and ordinances.
- (d) Stockton shall, as may be required, appoint one or more administrative agents for ownership units and one or more administrative agents for rental units, which may or may not be the individual(s) or entity(ies), to carry out the responsibilities of an administrative agent as set forth in UHAC and this ordinance.

§17. ENFORCEMENT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING REGULATIONS.

- (a) The provisions of this ordinance shall be enforceable by Stockton, the State, or any other party entitled by law to enforce affordable housing controls, in accordance with UHAC, the Fair Housing Act, and applicable case law.
- (b) A violation of the requirements of this ordinance, including but not limited to failure to file required reports, failure to comply with affirmative marketing requirements, or unauthorized transfer or rental of a restricted unit, shall be subject to enforcement action, which may include legal or equitable relief, fines, or other remedies as authorized by law.
- (c) Stockton may, to the extent permitted by law, pursue any remedies available at law or in equity to enforce the provisions of this ordinance, UHAC regulations, and any deed restriction or mortgage instrument used to secure affordability controls.

§18. APPEALS.

Appeals from all decisions of an administrative agent designated pursuant to this ordinance shall be filed in writing to the Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program or with the Superior Court of New Jersey or such other body or agency as may be authorized by law.

§19. REPEALER, SEVERABILITY, AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

- (a) All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are repealed as to such inconsistencies.
- (b) If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.
- (c) This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication as provided by law.

RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Lipsen explained the need to hire an office manager, and he stated that Ms. Franklin is a Stockton Borough resident. Brown added that she will be an asset to the borough, with the increasing administrative burdens that the borough is required to meet.

Motion made by Brown and seconded by Meltzer to approve Resolution 2026-32
All were in favor.

**RESOLUTION 2026-32
RESOLUTION APPOINTING KIM FRANKLIN AS OFFICE MANAGER FOR THE
BOROUGH OF STOCKTON HUNTERDON COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

WHEREAS, there is a need to appoint an Office Manager; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough of Stockton Governing Body appoints Kim Franklin as Office Manager with the following salary:

\$7,280 for four hours per week

Motion made by Mann and seconded by Gilinger to approve Resolution 2026-33
Roll call: Brander, Brown, Fisher, Gilinger, Mann and Meltzer.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Motion passes.

**RESOLUTION 2026-33
BOROUGH OF STOCKTON
AMENDMENT TO 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 2026, effective January 1, 2026 unless noted:

Deputy Clerk	\$9,000
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Mayor Lipsen asked for a roll call vote for Resolution 2026-32, being that one was not called.

Roll call: Brander, Brown, Fisher, Gilinger, Mann and Meltzer.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

Motion made by Brown and seconded by Meltzer to approve Resolution 2026-34.

Discussions ensued regarding the benefits this will bring to Stockton.

Roll call: Brander, Brown, Fisher, Gilinger, Mann and Meltzer.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

RESOLUTION 2026-34

AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE MORRIS COUNTY COOPERATIVE PRICING COUNCIL TO BECOME A MEMBER FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2021 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

WHEREAS, the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council (“MCCPC”) was created in 1974 to conduct a voluntary cooperative pricing system with municipalities, boards of educations, and other public bodies located in the County of Morris and adjoining counties; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the MCCPC is to provide substantial savings on various goods and services to its members through the cooperative public bidding process; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stockton in Hunterdon County desires to enter into an Agreement with the MCCPC, which is administered by Randolph Township as Lead Agency, to become a member of the MCCPC for the period of October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2026.

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

1. The Council of the Borough of Stockton hereby authorizes the execution of an Agreement with the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council by the Township of Randolph as Lead Agency dated October 1, 2021 pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5). Said Agreement is to

become a member of the MCCPC for a five (5) year period from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2026.

2. The Borough of Stockton Clerk is hereby directed to submit a copy of this adopted Resolution, along with an executed Agreement, to Randolph Township as Lead Agency of the MCCPC. Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council 502 Millbrook Avenue, Randolph, NJ 07869-3799 Tel: (973) 989.7059 • Fax: (973) 989.7076 2 3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon final passage according to law.

4. All appropriate Borough of Stockton officials are authorized and directed to perform all required acts to affect the purpose of this Resolution.

Motion made by Mann and seconded by Gilinger to approve Resolution 2026-35.

Roll call: Brander, Brown, Fisher, Gilinger, Mann and Meltzer.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

RESOLUTION 2026-35

-WHEREAS, various 2025 bills have been presented for payment this year, which bills were not covered by order number and/or recorded at the time of transfers between the 2025 Budget Appropriation Reserve in the last two months of 2025; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-59 provides that all unexpended balances carried forward after the close of the year are available, until lapsed at the close the succeeding year, to meet specific claims, commitments or contracts incurred during the preceding fiscal year, and allow transfers to be made from unexpended balances which are expected to be insufficient during the first three months of the succeeding year; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-59, that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to make the transfers listed below:

From	Amount	To	Amount
Engineering (2025)	400.00	Affordable Housing (2025))	400.00

Total	400.00	Total	400.00
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Mayor Lipsen spoke on adding a resolution to the next agenda in support of truck restrictions (lowering weight limit to five tons) on Bridge Street.

Attorney Maddox and Planner, Joanna Slagle spoke on the next resolution (Resolution 2026-36) which endorses the amended housing element for fair share housing.

Motion made by Brown and seconded by Mann to approve Resolution 2026-36

Roll call: Brander, Brown, Fisher, Gilinger, Mann and Meltzer

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

BOROUGH OF STOCKTON, HUNTERDON COUNTY

RESOLUTION 2026-36

ENDORISING AMENDMENT TO THE HOUSING ELEMENT AND FAIR SHARE PLAN ADOPTED BY THE PLANNING BOARD

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stockton (the “Borough”) filed a Declaratory Judgment Action in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hunterdon County, captioned IMO Borough of Stockton, Docket No HUN-L-58-25 (the “Declaratory Judgment Action”), pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.2, -304.3, and -304.1(f)(1)(c) of the New Jersey Fair Housing Act, N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301, et seq. (collectively, the “FHA”), and in accordance with Section II.A of Administrative Directive #14-24 (“Directive #14-24”) of the Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program (the “Program”), seeking a certification of compliance with the FHA; and

WHEREAS, the Stockton Borough Planning Board adopted a Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan (“HEFSP”) on June 3, 2025 by way of resolution, which was endorsed by the Borough of Stockton Council on June 19, 2025 by way of Resolution No. 2025-51, in compliance with the FHA and Administrative Directive #14-24 and pursuant to the Municipal Land Use Law, N.J.S.A. 40:55D-1, et seq.; and

WHEREAS, Fair Share Housing Center (“FSHC”) filed a challenge pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.1(f)(2)(b) to the Borough’s HEFSP on August 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Borough and FSHC entered into a Settlement Agreement dated December 17, 2025, as authorized by Borough Council Resolution No. 2025-92, arising out of the Declaratory Judgment, which determines the Borough’s affordable housing obligation and the mechanisms for how the obligation will be addressed (“Settlement Agreement”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to and consistent with the terms of the Settlement Agreement, the Borough is required to amend the HEFSP before March 15, 2026 to ensure compliance with the Settlement Agreement; and

WHEREAS, upon notice duly provided pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:44D-13, the Stockton Borough Planning Board (“Planning Board”) held a public hearing on amendments to the HEFSP on February 3, 2026 and adopted the amendments to the HEFSP on the same day; and

WHEREAS, a true copy of the amendments to the HEFSP and the resolution of the Planning Board adopting the amended HEFSP is attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the Stockton Borough Council wishes to endorse the HEFSP as amended and seeks approval of the amended HEFSP from the Court.

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

1. The foregoing “Whereas” clauses are hereby incorporated herein as if fully restated.
2. Council hereby endorses the Amended Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, as adopted by the Stockton Borough Planning Board on February 3, 2026 via the resolution attached hereto as part of Exhibit A.
3. Council authorizes and ratifies the filing with the Court (i) the Amended Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, (ii) the resolution of the Planning Board adopting the Amended Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, (iii) this Resolution of Council endorsing the Amended Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, and (iv) any additional documents the professionals deem necessary or desirable.
4. Council reserves the right to further amend the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, should that be necessary.
5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

PAYMENT OF BILLS AND VOUCHERS

Motion made by Mann and seconded by Brown to approve Resolution 2026-31

Brown questioned a new bill from Edmunds. Mayor Lipsen explained that this is an upgrade to the financial processing system for the finance department.

Roll call: Brander, Brown, Fisher, Gilinger, Mann and Meltzer

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution 2026-31**

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 \$431,031.00

MAYOR'S REPORT, BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings Committee: No report

Community Outreach No report

Grounds Committee: No report

Infrastructure Committee Brown explained the Morris County Co-op and buying new water meters through the co-op. They will be installed by in-house personnel. There will be no charge to the homeowner. By joining Mayor Lipsen added that they had a very long infrastructure meeting, which is mostly focused on the meters, but also planning for a lot of different things in the future. They are trying to identify water leaks. With the new staff they're making great strides and working more efficiently.

Personnel, Finance, & Operations Committee: No report

Public Safety Committee: Mayor Lipsen spoke about the fire that occurred recently. He spoke with some community members and outside people, and they are continuing to look at details. The takeaway was that the response from the fire department was appropriate and there were no errors by Delaware Township Fire Department. They will continue discussing and investigating and have an OEM meeting to finalize the Emergency Management Plan.

Stockton School Committee: Mann reported that he attended the Heritage Commission training for grants. If we want to apply for a grant it has to be done by April 16th. He is waiting to hear back from the architect. Brander reported that the architect did get back to at the end of the day will be prepared to talk more on that at the next meeting.

Mayor's Report and Council Comments:

Mayor Lipsen stated that the budget season is coming and if there are budget requests, to have them prepared by the March meeting.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Lipsen opened the floor to public comment.

No pub comment

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion by Gilinger, seconded by Mann to approve a resolution to go into executive session, all were in favor. Attorney Maddox made a statement to clarify about the discussion on cannabis applications and stated that there is a placeholder right now for a resolution. Ms. Maddox explained that for the public's benefit, now that the Council has gone through the solicitation and receipt of applications and made a final decision on the applications. This executive session discussion will focus on providing legal advice and options to the council on its next steps. As indicated on the agenda, formal action will likely be taken after the executive session.

**RESOLUTION 2026-38
AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOORUGH 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:

- Matters involving the potential purchase, lease or acquisition of real property (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(5))
- Contract negotiations – shared services for zoning office (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(7))
- Cannabis licensing discussion/obtain legal advice - matters falling within the attorney-client privilege (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(7))

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

A motion by Mann and seconded by Brown to return to regular session was unanimously approved by voice vote.

ACTION ON ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Brown and seconded by Gilinger to adopt Resolution 2026-39.

Roll call: Brander, Brown, Fisher(recused) Gilinger, Mann and Meltzer

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

**Stockton Borough Council
RESOLUTION 2026-39
AUTHORIZING THE QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT TO AWARD ONE OR MORE**

CONTRACTS BELOW THE BID THRESHOLD (IN THE AGGREGATE) IN FURTHERANCE OF THE BOROUGH'S REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF THE CANNABIS ORDINANCE, CANNABIS REGULATIONS AND REQUEST FOR CANNABIS APPLICATIONS DOCUMENTATION

WHEREAS, Stockton Borough's Chief Financial Officer Diane McDaniel is a Qualified Purchasing Agent under New Jersey law; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution 2025-63 adopted on July 21, 2025, Council increased the bid threshold for purchases and contracts under the Local Public Contracts law to the maximum permitted, which is currently \$53,000; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3 permits Council to authorize the QPA to award contracts not exceeding the bid threshold without the necessity of a Council resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Borough seeks to contract for professional and consulting services which may be necessary to assist Council and the Council's Cannabis Review Committee as they analyze and review the cannabis ordinance, cannabis regulations, and the Borough's Request for Cannabis Applications documentation.

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 Cannabis Review Committee is authorized and directed to solicit proposals for professional and consulting services in furtherance of the Borough's analysis and review of the cannabis ordinance, cannabis regulations, and Request for Cannabis Applications documentation.
2. Diane McDaniel shall be and hereby is authorized to execute one or more contracts in furtherance of the above. Any such awards shall be made in consultation with the Cannabis Review Committee.
3. The terms and conditions of any resulting contracts shall be consistent with this Resolution and subject to the approval of the Borough Attorney.

Motion made by Mann and seconded by Brown to adopt Resolution 2026-40

Roll call: Brander, Brown, Fisher(recused) Gilinger, Mann and Meltzer

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

Stockton Borough Council

Resolution 2026-40

IMPOSING TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON THE SOLICITATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF CANNABIS BUSINESS APPLICATIONS

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2024, Council adopted Ordinance 24-12 to permit Class 5 cannabis businesses in Stockton Borough's CR zone and define the process and criteria for

municipal approval of up to one Class 5 retail license in the Borough; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to a Request for Cannabis Applications (“RFA”), the Borough received two applications on or before the August 6, 2025 deadline; and

WHEREAS, based on its evaluations and scoring of both applications, and its investigations of the two applicants and contents of their applications, Council’s Cannabis Review Committee issued to Council written findings and analysis which concluded that neither applicant achieved the minimum score prerequisite to consideration of issuance of a resolution of local support by the Borough, and as a result, recommended that Council deny the issuance of a resolution of support to both applicants; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 25-88, Council accepted the Review Committee’s recommendations and found it to be in the best interests of the Borough to deny the issuance of a resolution of support; and

WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing, Council and the Cannabis Review Committee are in the process of reviewing the Borough’s cannabis ordinance and regulations, along with the RFA documentation, to determine whether amendments to the cannabis ordinance, regulations and RFA materials are in the Borough’s best interests; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the Borough to complete this necessary review and analysis before the Borough solicits and accepts new cannabis applications.

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

1. The recitals in the above “Whereas” clauses are hereby incorporated herein as if fully restated.
2. Council hereby imposes a temporary moratorium on the Borough’s solicitation and acceptance of new cannabis business applications for a term of 90 days.
3. The purpose of this temporary moratorium is to enable Council and the Cannabis Review Committee to complete an appropriate analysis and review of the Borough’s cannabis ordinance, cannabis regulations and Request for Cannabis Applications documentation, and to make any changes to those documents that that may be in the Borough’s best interests.
4. The temporary moratorium may be extended by subsequent resolution of Council should Council and the Cannabis Review Committee need additional time to complete their analysis and review.

Mayor Lipsen announced that Mr. Gilinger will be added to cannabis committee.

NEXT MEETING

Mayor Lipsen announced the next regular meeting is March 16, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:11PM.

Laurie A. Courter

Laurie A. Courter, Borough Clerk