

**BOROUGH OF STOCKTON  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
APPROVED: 8/11/14**

**REGULAR MEETING  
JUNE 9, 2014**

A Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton was called to order by Council President Neal Esposito at 7:11 pm on June 9, 2014. The following members of the Borough Council were present: Mr. Aaron Lipsen, Mr. Nic Messina, Mr. Tim Nemeth. Mayor Stephen Giocondo, Mrs. Kate Steffanelli and Mr. Donald Vandegrift were absent. Borough Administrator/Clerk Michele Hovan, Borough Attorney Michael Butler, Borough Engineer Dennis O'Neal and Director of Water/Sewers Greg Ent were also present. There were two members of the public present.

Mr. Esposito read the "Sunshine Statement" indicating the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act and led the flag salute. Mr. Esposito opened the meeting to the public. There being no questions or comments the meeting was closed to the public on motion by Mr. Messina, seconded by Mr. Lipsen and carried.

Mr. O'Neal provided an update on the water sampling issue at Well #3, stating that sampling was returned indicating a presence of E-coli and listed steps taken to date and additional steps to conform to NJDEP requirements before the well could return online. General discussion followed and Mr. O'Neal reminded all that the water available currently was safe and free from contaminants. Mr. O'Neal and Mr. Ent fielded questions regarding the issue.

Ordinance No. 2014-2 – Second Reading/Public Hearing – One-hour parking on Bridge Street  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON REGARDING TRAFFIC BY ESTABLISHING A ONE HOUR PARKING ZONE ON BRIDGE STREET, STOCKTON BOROUGH, NEW JERSEY

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance No. 2014-2 by title and said that it sets forth Council's desire to limit parking to one hour on the north side of Bridge Street. Mr. Esposito opened the meeting to the public.

Mrs. Maryann Cook, Mill Street, inquired if the idea had been attempted before and Mr. Messina said that Council had considered many options, including metered parking, to discourage long-term parking in the area. General discussion, including directing motorists to use the park for parking, ensued. Discussion also included the sign locations and options for mounting. Mr. Lipsen offered that the signs could be strapped to the light poles. Mrs. Cook agreed with the idea to encourage people who drive to town then take their bicycles on the tow path to use the park instead of the premium street parking. There being no additional discussion, the meeting was closed to the public on motion by Mr. Nemeth, seconded by Mr. Messina and carried.

Resolution No. 2014-47, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office to adopt Ordinance No. 2014-2, was adopted on motion by Mr. Messina, seconded by Mr. Nemeth and carried.

Roll Call:       Ayes: Esposito, Lipsen, Messina, Nemeth  
                  Nays: None  
                  Absent: Steffanelli, Vandegrift  
                  Abstain: None

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Ordinance No. 2014-3 – First Reading – Direct Deposit Requirement  
“AN ORDINANCE TO MANDATE DIRECT DEPOSIT FOR MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES  
BY THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON PURSUANT TO C. 52:14-15f *et. seq.*”

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance No. 2014-3 by title and explained that the Governor signed a direct deposit requirement into law and that municipalities had to adopt ordinances that set forth their specific directives for it.

Resolution No. 2014-47, as filed in the Borough Clerk’s office to introduce Ordinance No. 2014-3 was adopted on motion by Mr. Lipsen, seconded by Mr. Nemeth and carried.

Roll Call:       Ayes: Esposito, Lipsen, Messina, Nemeth  
                      Nays: None  
                      Absent: Steffanelli, Vandegrift  
                      Abstain: None

Resolutions

Resolution Nos. 2014-48 & 2014-49, as listed below and as filed in the Borough Clerk’s office, were adopted on motion by Mr. Lipsen, seconded by Mr. Messina and carried.

2014-45	Liquor License Renewal – Strackhouse Restaurant, LLC
2014-46	Liquor License Renewal – Tilch Fine Wines, LLC

Roll Call:       Ayes: Esposito, Lipsen, Messina, Nemeth  
                      Nays: None  
                      Absent: Steffanelli, Vandegrift  
                      Abstain: None

Resolution No. 2014-47, as listed below and as filed in the Borough Clerk’s office, were adopted on motion by Mr. Lipsen, seconded by Mr. Messina and carried.

2014-47	Amendment to Resolution No. 2014-32 (Liquor License Transfer)
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Roll Call:       Ayes: Esposito, Lipsen, Messina, Nemeth  
                      Nays: None  
                      Absent: Steffanelli, Vandegrift  
                      Abstain: None

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Discussion: Parking Issues (ongoing discussion)

No additional discussion regarding parking was offered.

Discussion – Sewer Pipe Bill – 5 Bridge Street

Mr. Esposito presented the bill for the plumbing work stemming from a collapsed pipe on the homeowner's side of Bridge Street and asked that Council reimburse the property owner for one-half. Mr. Esposito said that Mr. Bob Ent was in communication with the homeowner and felt that the sharing of the bill was fair. According to Mr. Esposito, Mr. Ent believed that the damage occurred during the reconstruction of Bridge Street in 2008. Mr. O'Neal said that it was unlikely but not impossible that equipment could have contributed to the damage when the trench was dug to install the electrical work for the light poles and he said he had no explanation for why it would take six years to reveal itself. Ms. Hovan asked if Mr. Ent could provide a recommendation in writing so that an insurance claim could be initiated but said it was unlikely that a claim could be made for private property and added that the maintenance bond on the project was no longer in effect to direct responsibility to the contractor. Ms. Hovan suggested that the Borough consider reimbursing the property owner for her insurance deductible as a show of good faith. Mr. Butler and Mr. Messina said they agreed with that approach. Mr. Esposito said he would ask Mr. Ent to talk to the property owner for the requested information.

Discussion – Hunterdon County Community Day – June 21

Ms. Hovan said that Mayor Giocondo requested that the invitation to participate in the County's Community Day be on the agenda. There was no stated desire to participate by any Council members present.

Claims for Payment

The Claims for Payment, as attached, was approved on motion by Mr. Nemeth, seconded by Mr. Messina and carried unanimously.

Roll Call:       Ayes: Esposito, Lipsen, Messina, Nemeth  
                      Nays:   None  
                      Absent: Steffanelli, Vandegrift  
                      Abstain: None

Council Liaison Reports:

Mr. Esposito reported that Moore Street was patched, the Woolverton stone was filled in and the curb was added to Wilson Drive. Mr. Esposito asked about funding for Moore Street and Ms. Hovan reminded that a capital ordinance would need to be adopted to fund it. Mr. O'Neal said he would prepare the estimate and Mr. Esposito said that the delays were due to the handicap sign confusion.

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Mr. Nemeth provided an update on the proposal for Delaware Township PD to enforce Title 39 for Stockton Borough and he and Mr. Butler discussed various provisions that could be included. After some general discussion, Mr. Nemeth said he would confirm that the NJSP would continue as first responders in all ways and acknowledge that enforcement of Title 39 and municipal ordinances would be administered by Delaware. Mr. Nemeth said he would then speak to Delaware and report back to Council.

Mr. Esposito said that the proposal from the fire department to relocate the hydrant in front of the firehouse was reduced to \$1800 and that he was not sure how the issue was missed during Planning Board approval of the addition but Mr. Ent recommended it be relocated. Mr. Messina pursued the issue of why the Planning Board did not address the issue but the question went unanswered. Ms. Hovan stated that the question was also posed to the Planning Board professionals. Mr. Esposito said the bottom line is that the hydrant belongs to the town and it is at risk from being damaged where it is. Mr. Butler inquired if installed bollards could reduce the risk. Discussion continued regarding a sharing of cost and Mr. Nemeth suggested the matter be tabled until the proposal was received. Mr. Butler said he had a call in to the fire chief anyway regarding a mutual aid agreement so he would bring up the hydrant issue as well.

Mr. Esposito opened the meeting to the public. Mr. Greg Cook, Mill Street, said that the flyer delivered about the water E-coli issue prompted residents to call the Borough but that the hours weren't helpful and that the people they needed to talk to weren't at Borough Hall. Ms. Hovan said that Mr. Greg Ent's contact information was also included in the flyer. Mr. Ent expanded on the sampling steps and said that he hand delivered all the flyers in addition to talking to anyone he encountered or who called. Mr. Ent said that another message would be sent via Reverse 911.

Mr. Esposito announced the next meeting would be Monday, July 14, 2014. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41pm on motion by Mr. Nemeth, seconded by Mr. Lipsen and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Hovan, RMC  
Borough Clerk