

**BOROUGH OF STOCKTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
APPROVED: 5/9/16**

**REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 11, 2016**

A Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton was called to order by Mayor Timothy Nemeth at 7:06 pm on February 8, 2016. The following members of the Borough Council were present: Mr. Adam Juncosa, Mr. Aaron Lipsen, Mr. Nic Messina, Mrs. Kate Steffanelli and Mr. Donald Vandegrift. Mr. Tony Grecco was absent. Borough Administrator/Clerk Michele Hovan was also present. There were three members of the public present.

Mayor Nemeth read the "Sunshine Statement" indicating the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act and led the flag salute.

Mayor Nemeth opened the meeting to the public. Mr. John Anderson, JCP&L Area Manager, reported that the company successfully completed the planned vegetation removal and described the policy regarding tree canopies, further stating that most of the Borough roads were listed on the work list. Mr. Dave Reading of the Mt. Amwell Project asked if the results of the title search for the abandoned cemetery was complete, to which Mr. Butler replied it was and that he had not yet briefed Council and intended to do so in closed session. Mr. Butler said the results could be discussed at the next Council meeting. There being no additional comment, the meeting was closed to the public on motion by Mr. Messina, seconded by Mr. Vandegrift and carried.

Memorandum of Understanding -- Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic Management
Mr. Norm Torkelson, Stockton representative on the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic Management Committee, briefed Council on the history of the committee and said that committee policies were undergoing revision, necessitating a Memorandum of Understanding to ensure that Stockton's voting privileges continued. After a brief discussion that included the appointment process for representatives, a review of the sample document and on motion by Mr. Messina, seconded by Mr. Lipsen and carried, the execution of the MOU was approved.

Minutes - the Minutes of the March 14, 2016 Regular Meeting were approved on motion by Mr. Lipsen, seconded by Mr. Juncosa, and carried, with Mr. Messina abstaining due to his absence.

Ordinance No. 16-01 -- Cable Franchise Renewal -- Second Reading/Public Hearing
Ms. Hovan read Ordinance No. 16-01 by title and explained that the BPU review of the ordinance was still pending and that the public hearing would be carried until May 9, 2016.

Ordinance No. 16-02 -- Delegation of Authority to Approve the Issuance of Raffle Licenses
Second Reading/Public Hearing
AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES WITHIN THE BOROUGH CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON TO AUTHORIZE THE MUNICIPAL CLERK TO APPROVE THE GRANTING OF RAFFLE LICENSES IN THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY

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Ms. Hovan read Ordinance No. 16-02 by title and explained that the ordinance would permit the Clerk's office to approve raffle licenses in town subject to the State guidelines instead of asking Council to pass an approving resolution each time.

Mayor Nemeth opened the meeting to the public. There being no questions or comments, the meeting was closed to the public on motion by Mr. Vandegrift, seconded by Mr. Messina and carried. Resolution No. 2016-39, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office and to adopt Ordinance No. 16-02, as adopted on motion by Mr. Juncosa, seconded by Mrs. Steffanelli and carried.

Roll Call: Ayes: Juncosa, Lipsen, Messina, Steffanelli, Vandegrift
 Nays: None
 Absent: Grecco
 Abstain: None

Ordinance No. 16-03 – Exceed the 2016 Municipal Budget Appropriations Limit and to Establish a Cap Bank - First Reading

“ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE 2016 MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK”

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance No. 16-03 by title and explained that the cost of living cap adjustment was required to be adopted prior to the adoption of the municipal budget.

Resolution No. 2016-40, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office and to introduce Ordinance No. 16-03, was adopted on motion by Mr. Vandegrift, seconded by Mr. Lipsen and carried.

Roll Call: Ayes: Juncosa, Lipsen, Messina, Steffanelli, Vandegrift
 Nays: None
 Absent: Grecco
 Abstain: None

Ordinance No. 16-04 – Minimum/Maximum Salaries -First Reading

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR AND DETERMINE A SCHEDULE OF MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM SALARIES FOR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance No. 16-04 by title and explained that the ordinance was last revised in full in 2006 and that adjustments were made in keeping with anticipated current ranges for the next several years and that the actual 2016 salary resolution would follow budget adoption.

Resolution No. 2016-41, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office and to introduce Ordinance No. 16-04, was adopted on motion by Mr. Vandegrift, seconded by Mr. Lipsen and carried.

Roll Call: Ayes: Juncosa, Lipsen, Messina, Steffanelli, Vandegrift
 Nays: None
 Absent: Grecco
 Abstain: None

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Resolutions – the following resolutions, as filed in the Borough Clerk’s office, were presented for adoption.

2016-42 Temporary Emergency Appropriations

Ms. Hovan explained that the funds would provide for operational costs to carry through to budget adoption. On motion by Mr. Messina, seconded by Mr. Lipsen and carried, Resolution No. 2016-42 was adopted.

Roll Call: Ayes: Juncosa, Lipsen, Messina, Steffanelli, Vandegrift
 Nays: None
 Absent: Grecco
 Abstain: None

2016- 43 2016 Lawn Maintenance

Ms. Hovan explained that she sent out four proposal requests for the service, received two in response and that they were identical. Ms. Hovan said that the current vendor and another local contractor solicited by Mr. Lipsen were the responders. Ms. Hovan said that she did not feel comfortable making a recommendation given the history of the Council’s interest on the service and especially because other factors in addition to price were necessary to break the tie. A brief discussion followed and Mr. Lipsen and Mrs. Steffanelli commented that since the service provided by the current vendor was acceptable, there was no reason to not award the contract again. On motion by Mr. Messina, seconded by Mr. Lipsen and carried, Resolution No. 2016-43 was adopted, awarding the 2016 lawn maintenance contract to Sowsian’s Landscapes.

Roll Call: Ayes: Juncosa, Lipsen, Messina, Steffanelli, Vandegrift
 Nays: None
 Absent: Grecco
 Abstain: None

Introduction of 2016 Municipal Budget

Ms. Hovan and Ms. McDaniel summarized the highlights of the 2016 Municipal Budget, including the increases for worker’s comp and new funding for the flood insurance program and additional appropriations for the park. Ms. Hovan announced that the public hearing would be held on May 9th. On motion by Mr. Vandegrift, seconded by Mr. Lipsen and carried, Resolution No. 2016-44 to introduce the 2016 Municipal Budget was adopted.

Roll Call: Ayes: Juncosa, Lipsen, Messina, Steffanelli, Vandegrift
 Nays: None
 Absent: Grecco
 Abstain: None

Claims for Payment – in response to a question raised by Mr. Vandegrift regarding payment for the blinds at Borough Hall, Ms. McDaniel replied she would prepare a check for approval. On

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motion by Mr. Vandegrift, seconded by Mr. Lipsen and carried, the claims for payment were approved.

Roll Call: Ayes: Juncosa, Lipsen, Messina, Steffanelli, Vandegrift
 Nays: None
 Absent: Grecco
 Abstain: None

Discussion: NJDOT Local Aid Grant – Glenwood Lane

Ms. Hovan announced that the Borough received a notice of award for funding assistance for the reconstruction of Glenwood Lane. Ms. Hovan said that a bond ordinance would be prepared to fund the project, which would likely be constructed in the fall of 2016 or spring of 2017.

Discussion – Route 29 Mid-Block Crosswalk

Ms. Hovan distributed the response letter from NJDOT regarding the Borough's request in install a crosswalk on Rt. 29 by Cravings which would require changes to the parking lot driveway and that the investigation could not continue until such time as the changes were approved.

Council Liaison Reports – Mr. Lipsen said that the Canal Commission was willing to assist in the clearing of brush along the path and near the baseball field. Discussion arose regarding the park funding and the park master plan and Ms. Hovan said that she would prepare the ordinances for the next meeting.

Mr. Butler asked for a closed session to report on the findings of the title search for the abandoned cemetery. On motion by Mr. Vandegrift, seconded by Mr. Lipsen and carried, Council entered executive session at 8:35pm. Mayor Nemeth reconvened the meeting at 8:37pm and announced the next meeting would be held on May 9, 2016. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm on motion by Mr. Vandegrift, seconded by Mr. Messina and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Hovan, RMC
Borough Clerk