

**BOROUGH OF STOCKTON  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
APPROVED: 1/12/15**

**REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 8, 2014**

A Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton was called to order by Mayor Stephen Giocondo at 7:04 pm on December 8, 2014. The following members of the Borough Council were present: Mr. Aaron Lipsen, Mr. Nic Messina, Tim Nemeth and Mr. Donald Vandegrift. Mrs. Kate Steffanelli was absent. Borough Administrator/Clerk Michele Hovan and Borough Attorney Michael Butler were also present. There were no members of the public present.

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

Minutes – the minutes of the November 10, 2014 regular meeting were approved on motion by Mr. Nemeth, seconded by Mr. Messina and carried.

Ordinance No. 14-05- Second Reading/Public Hearing

“AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON REGULATING THE MAINTENANCE AND CARE OF PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE BOROUGH”

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance No. 14-05 by title. Mr. Butler recapped the changes inserted at introduction, including those regarding noxious weeds which addressed Mr. Lipsen’s concerns. Ms. Hovan said that they sent a copy of the introduced ordinance to the zoning officer and that no comments were returned. Mayor Giocondo 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. Nemeth and carried.

Resolution No. 2014-66, as filed in the Borough Clerk’s office and listed below, was adopted on motion by Mr. Nemeth, seconded by Mr. Vandegrift and carried.

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

Presentation – Paul Ferriero, P.E./Dennis O’Neal, P.E. – FEMA/NFIP Community Rating System  
Mr. Ferriero reported that he recently attended a FEMA class regarding the flood insurance program and said that Stockton could benefit from increasing its rating under the system, which might translate into flood insurance savings to its residents. Mr. Ferriero described the stormwater elements of the program and associated steps that the Borough would work on to earn credits for the CRS system as well as for stormwater management. Mr. Ferriero and Mr. O’Neal said that much of the work could be handled by the Borough Engineer and Administration

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offices. Mr. Ferriero said that combined, \$174,000 in NFIP premiums was paid by Stockton property owners in the past year and that the goal would be for all to receive a rate reduction. Discussion ensued. Ms. Hovan asked if the firm could provide an estimate for the engineer's portion of the work and Mr. Ferriero said that he and Mr. O'Neal would work on it so that the Borough could consider the project in the 2015 budget. Mayor Giocondo thanked Mr. Ferriero and Mr. O'Neal for their time and proactive approach to Stockton issues.

Resolutions

Resolution Nos. 2014-67 through 2014-70, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office and listed below, were adopted on motion by Mr. Nemeth, seconded by Mr. Messina and carried.

2014-67	Budget Transfers
2014-68	Chapter 159 – Alcohol Education, Rehabilitation and Enforcement Grant
2014-69	Request to Bank 2014 County Open Trust Allocation
2014-70	Extension of Shared Services Agreement with Delaware Township for Construction Code Services

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

Resolution No. 2014-71, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office and listed below, was offered for discussion prior to voting. Ms. Hovan said that she sent Request for Proposals out for the project to the current and past contractors and also posted the document for the public on the website. Ms. Hovan said that she again reached out to the contractors the day before proposals were due because she had only received one. Ms. Hovan said that the former contractor asked for and received an extension, which she communicated to the contractor in consult with the Mayor and Mr. Butler. Ms. Hovan said that the extension was granted until 3pm on December 8<sup>th</sup> and that the deadline passed without it being received. Ms. Hovan said that the current contractor, John Sowsian Landscaping, had submitted a proposal and that he also indicated a willingness to extend the contract for an additional year, per the RFP should council wish to exercise that option. Mr. Lipsen said that there were rough patches last year when they first got the contract but that once he was familiar with the town, the issues were resolved. Mr. Lipsen said the contractor was a good guy and Mr. Messina said that he's worked with him on various projects over the years and that he would have no issue with awarding the contact or offering it for the extended period. After additional discussion and on motion by Mr. Vandegrift, seconded by Mr. Nemeth and carried, Resolution No. 2014-71 was adopted to authorize a contract for snow plowing for the 2015 calendar year and with acceptance of the one year extension in accordance with the vendor's proposal. Mr. Vandegrift additionally suggested that the contractor be asked to clear sidewalks at Borough Hall if it can be covered under the contract.

2014-71	2015 Snow Plowing Contract
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                  Nays: None  
                  Absent: Steffanelli  
                  Abstain: None

Claims for Payment

The Claims for Payment, as attached, were approved on motion by Mr. Vandegrift, seconded by Mr. Messina and carried.

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

Mayor's Report

Mayor Giocondo said that it was a pleasure working with this Council and that it is bittersweet to say goodbye to public service after 35 years. Mayor Giocondo said that in addition to his eight years as mayor, he served 14 on council and 12 on the Board of Adjustment. Mayor Giocondo said that he was proud of all that Stockton has accomplished and that he is grateful that issues involving infrastructure, public safety and services were so vastly improved. Mayor Giocondo thanked everyone on current and past councils as well as the professionals, and said that in all his years, he never saw a team as good as the statutory one in place in Stockton. Mayor Giocondo said that the best way to know that everyone is doing a good job is to look out at the audience and see no one there who came to complain.

Council Liaison Reports

Mr. Nemeth asked Ms. Hovan what the status of the police contract was and she replied that it is in attorney review at the Township. Mr. Lipsen asked if there was any discussion about consolidating forces like what was being discussed in Lambertville and Mayor Giocondo and Ms. Hovan said that they were not approached. Mr. Lipsen inquired of the status of the sidewalk work and Ms. Hovan said that the contract was awarded and the work was being scheduled. Mr. Vandegrift discussed the need for a landscape planner for the park plan.

Mayor-elect Nemeth announced that he would be welcoming all to his home after the reorganization meeting on New Year's Day for a celebration and hoped it would be a nice way to thank Mayor Giocondo for his many years of service.

Mayor Giocondo announced the next meeting would be the Reorganization meeting of 2015, to be held on January 1, 2015, New Year's Day, at 3pm.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm on motion by Mr. Vandegrift seconded by Mr. Nemeth and carried.

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Respectfully submitted,

Michele Hovan, RMC  
Borough Clerk