

**BOROUGH OF STOCKTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
APPROVED: 5/13/19**

**REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 8, 2019**

The April 8, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton was called to order by Mayor Timothy J. Nemeth at 7:09 pm on April 8, 2019. 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.

Ms. Hovan called the roll. The following members of Council were present: Mr. Paul Bergquist, Mr. Adam Juncosa, Mr. Aaron Lipsen, Mr. Michael Mann and Mr. Donald Vandegrift. Mr. Nic Messina was absent. Borough Administrator/Clerk Michele Hovan, Chief Financial Officer Diane McDaniel and Borough Engineer Dennis O'Neal were also present. There was one member of the public present.

Mayor Nemeth opened the meeting to the public. Mr. Tom Sherman, 4 Ferry Street, thanked the Council for filling the holes in the park access path and offered to help with some maintenance, fixing basketball hoop, etc. Mr. Lipsen said he appreciated his offer. There being no further questions or comments, the meeting was closed to the public on motion by Mr. Juncosa, seconded by Mr. Bergquist and carried unanimously.

Engineer's Report/Update on Sewer System Repairs/Road & Misc. Projects – Mr. O'Neal said that the most major issue to report on is the I&I issue in the sewer system and that the investigation performed by his firm of 80 manholes revealed that nine has severe leaks. He discussed that the conditions were aggravated by excessive rainfall and that the area saw more than 20 additional inches of rain in 2018 compared to average years. Mr. O'Neal said that repairing the leaky manholes was not a magic bullet to cure all ills but it would significantly slow the rate of water into the collection system. In response to a question raised by Mr. Vandegrift, Mr. O'Neal said that after the leaks were repaired, the Borough should tie the lines and implement a plan for continued maintenance.

Mr. O'Neal also updated the Council on the plans to improve Moore Street and Hilltop Drive, fielding questions as needed. Mr. O'Neal offered that consideration be given to creating a one-way access to Moore due to the narrow conditions and noting the pending loss of parking once spaces are striped. After considerable discussion, Council unanimously voted to keep Moore Street a two-way road. Mr. Lipsen questioned if parking could be added to Hilltop Drive for access into the My Ben area, an idea that lacked support by the rest of the Council.

Mr. O'Neal briefly discussed the water allocation issue, noting that NJDEP will permit one connection on Mill Street for now and that continued monitoring of the flow will dictate future changes in the absence of a new water supply. Mr. O'Neal stated that the hydrogeologist is working to identify the well site, most likely on the My Ben area, but that additional research is still being conducted and consult with NJDEP is still required. Additional discussion ensued, including with Hilltop and Moore, with Mr. Vandegrift asking about the curbing and drainage issues. Mr. O'Neal said that the work has been factored into the design.

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In response to a question raised about the wellhouse, Mr. O'Neal reported that the cistern wall has a crack that is being addressed and in response to the Ferry Street drainage issues, Mr. O'Neal said that he has previously met and corresponded with Mr. Johnson that the issues are the responsibility of the homeowner. Regarding the low volume hydrants, Mr. O'Neal explained that the water flow is a system issue, not a resolve that can happen by replacing hydrants. Mr. Lipsen asked if a few hydrants could be addressed and Mr. O'Neal said that he would investigate that option.

Resolution No. 2019-39 – Emergency Temporary Appropriation for Sewer Utility
Resolution No. 2019-39, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office and to declare and authorize expenditures to address the sewer emergency, was adopted on motion by Mr. Mann, seconded by Mr. Juncosa and carried unanimously.

Roll Call: Ayes: Bergquist, Juncosa, Lipsen, Mann, Vandegrift
 Nays: None
 Absent: Messina
 Abstain: None

Discussion – Renewable Energy Program Update – Mayor Nemeth tabled the discussion until a later date due to Mr. Messina's absence.

Minutes – March 11, 2019 Regular Meeting – the meeting minutes for the March 11 meeting were approved on motion by Mr. Mann, seconded by Mr. Vandegrift, and carried.

Ordinance No. 19-03 – Exceed Cap Limits/Establish Cap Bank – First Reading
“ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE 2019 MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION
LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK”

Ms. Hovan said that the annual ordinance enables the Borough to adjust the cap for cost of living and to bank unneeded funds for future budget cycles. Ms. Hovan said that the public hearing would be held on May 13, 2019.

Resolution No. 2019-40, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office and to introduce Ordinance No. 19-03 was adopted on motion by Mr. Vandegrift, seconded by Mr. Juncosa and carried.

Roll Call: Ayes: Bergquist, Juncosa, Lipsen, Mann, Vandegrift
 Nays: None
 Absent: Messina
 Abstain: None

Ordinance No. 19-04 – Sewer Capital – Pump Station Improvements – First Reading
“CAPITAL ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF
NEW OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS FOR USE BY THE
STOCKTON BOROUGH SEWER UTILITY, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF
STOCKTON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, AND THE EXPENDITURE OF

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\$100,000.00 FROM THE SEWER UTILITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE FINANCING THEREOF”

Ms. Hovan said that the ordinance would fund the estimated balance of emergency repairs. Ms. Hovan said that the public hearing would be held on May 13, 2019.

Resolution No. 2019-41, as filed in the Borough Clerk’s office and to introduce Ordinance No. 19-04 was adopted on motion by Mr. Vandegrift, seconded by Mr. Juncosa and carried.

Roll Call: Ayes: Bergquist, Juncosa, Lipsen, Mann, Vandegrift
 Nays: None
 Absent: Messina
 Abstain: None

Ordinance No. 19-05 – Sewer Rates – First Reading

“AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 04-08 ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SEWER CHARGES AND RENTALS FOR THE USE OF THE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM OF THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON" ADOPTED BY THE STOCKTON BOROUGH COUNCIL ON MAY 12, 2008”

Ms. Hovan said that the ordinance reflects a 3% increase to sewer rates as the fees to Lambertville MUA have soared with the increase in flow. Ms. Hovan added that the rates have not required adjustment in a number of years. Ms. Hovan said that the public hearing would be held on May 13, 2019.

Resolution No. 2019-42, as filed in the Borough Clerk’s office and to introduce Ordinance No. 19-05 was adopted on motion by Mr. Vandegrift, seconded by Mr. Mann and carried.

Roll Call: Ayes: Bergquist, Juncosa, Lipsen, Mann, Vandegrift
 Nays: None
 Absent: Messina
 Abstain: None

Resolutions – the following resolutions, Nos. 2019-43 and 2019-44, as filed in the Borough Clerk’s office and listed below, were adopted on motion by Mr. Juncosa, seconded by Mr. Lipsen and carried.

2019-43 Emergency Temporary Appropriations
2019-44 Submission of 2018 Recycling Tonnage Grant Application

Roll Call: Ayes: Bergquist, Juncosa, Lipsen, Mann, Vandegrift
 Nays: None
 Absent: Messina
 Abstain: None

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Introduction of 2019 Municipal Budget

Ms. Hovan and Ms. McDaniel explained that the budget reflects an overall two cent per \$100 in assessed value increase while staying within cap limits and funding the Borough's priorities. Ms. Hovan announced that the public hearing would be held on May 13, 2019.

The following resolutions, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office, to introduce the 2019 municipal budget and to authorize a self-examination of it, were adopted on motion by Mr. Vandegrift, seconded by Mr. Bergquist, and carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2019-45 – Introduction of Budget

Resolution No. 2019-46 – Self-examination of 2019 Municipal Budget

Roll Call: Ayes: Bergquist, Juncosa, Lipsen, Mann, Vandegrift
 Nays: None
 Absent: Messina
 Abstain: None

Claims for Payment – the claims for payment, as attached, were approved on motion by Mr. Vandegrift seconded by Mr. Juncosa carried unanimously.

Roll Call: Ayes: Bergquist, Juncosa, Lipsen, Mann, Vandegrift
 Nays: None
 Absent: Messina
 Abstain: None

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. Mann, seconded by Mr. Juncosa and carried.

Council Liaison Reports

Mr. Lipsen reported that he is seeking estimates for a new shed and said that they are in the \$7,000 range. He said that it measures 12' x 24' and discussed options for exterior siding. He also discussed playground mulch and the merits of spreading it via a clean-up day. Mr. Lipsen said he is waiting on a quote from the exterminator and that the Bridge Street gardens need to be cut down. He added that there are vines in the playground area that need clearing.

Mr. Mann discussed the feasibility of a plastic bag ban similar to the one Lambertville passed. He said he could pass that draft around. Mr. Vandegrift said that Stockton only has one vendor that uses bags and questioned if an ordinance was necessary. Mr. Mann said that adopting an ordinance would send a positive message about the environment. Mr. Mann also requested that the Environmental Commission be re-organized. Ms. Hovan said that it died because of a lack of

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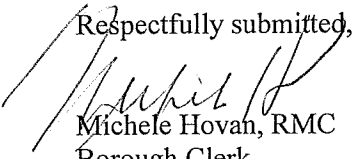
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interest and issues to address. Mr. Mann said he believes there is interest and Mayor Nemeth asked that he send him the names of the potentially interested members.

Mayor Nemeth announced that the next meeting would be held on May 13, 2019 at 7pm. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm on motion by Mr. Vandegrift, seconded by Mr. Mann, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Michele Hovan, RMC
Borough Clerk