



**STOCKTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Date: January 3, 2024 – 7:00 P.M.**

Mayor Aaron Lipsen., called the re-organization meeting of the Stockton Borough Council to order on January 3, 2024, 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 faxed to the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Trenton Times, was posted on the Borough Website, posted on the door at the Municipal Building and filed with the Borough Clerk. Mayor Lipsen announced that website problems delayed agenda posting online.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Lipsen led those in attendance in the pledge to the nation's flag following with a moment of silence for Anthony Butch.

Attorney Maddox administered the oath of offices to the following:

1. William Brown Three-year term expires: 12/31/2026
2. Mike Mann Three-year term expires: 12/32/2026
3. Matthew Fisher One-Year Unexpired Term expires:12/31/2024

ROLL CALL

Present: Brown, Fisher, Folz, Hunt, Mann, Lipsen.

Absent: Kozuhowski.

Borough Attorney Lisa Maddox and Borough Clerk, Laurie A. Courter were also present.

Nomination of Council President:

1-year term to expire December 31, 2024

Mann made a nomination for Hunt for council president, Folz seconded nomination.

Hearing no other nominations, a motion made by Folz and seconded by Mann to confirm appointment, all were in favor.

Remarks by Mayor Aaron Lipsen:

Mayor Lipsen gave a speech which highlighted 2023 and spoke about the plans for Stockton borough for 2024. Mayor Lipsen thanked the citizens, council members and the professionals for all their hard work and gave a special thank you to CFO, Diane McDaniel who kept the borough under budget.

Mayor Lipsen confirmed the following appointment to the Planning Board:

Class 4 member- John Bonanni 4 years 12/31/2027

Public Comment

None

RESOLUTIONS

Motion made by Mann and seconded by Hunt to approve Resolution 2024-17

Roll call: Brown, Fisher, Folz, Hunt, Mann.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution #24-17
Awarding Non-Fair and Open Contract - Borough Attorney**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stockton has a need to appoint a Borough Attorney as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1, et. seq) requires that the Resolution authorizing the award of contracts for Professional Services without competitive bids and the contract itself must be awarded for public inspection; and

WHEREAS, the term of this contract for this service is one year from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Lisa Maddox, Esq and the firm of Mason, Griffin & Pierson, P.C. will provide legal services as sought by the Borough of Stockton at the annual compensation in the proposal which is on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office; and

WHEREAS, Lisa Maddox, Esq and the firm of Mason, Griffin & Pierson, P.C. has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that the firm has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Stockton with the elected officials in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit the firm of Mason, Griffin & Pierson, P.C. from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer, Diane McDaniel, has certified the availability of funds; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that they do hereby provide advice and consent to the appointment of Lisa Maddox, Esq and the firm of Mason, Griffin & Pierson, P.C. to the position of Borough Attorney for a term of one year from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Council authorizes the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to enter into a contract with the firm of Mason, Griffin & Pierson, P.C. as described herein to the satisfaction of the Borough Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the contract, resolution, and other pertinent documents shall remain on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a notice of this action shall be printed once in the Boroughs legal newspaper.

Mann made a motion to introduce and approve the remaining resolutions on the consent agenda, motion seconded by Folz.

Roll call: Brown, Fisher, Folz, Hunt, Mann.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion passes.

Resolutions: (2024-01 through 2024-24)

- 2024-01 Consent Agenda
- 2024-02 Schedule of Regular Meetings
- 2024-03 Rules of Order
- 2024-04 Official Depositories
- 2024-05 Official Newspapers
- 2024-06 Appointments
- 2024-07 Interest & Penalty Rates for Delinquency Charges
- 2024-08 Defense of Tax Appeals
- 2024-09 Stipulations and Rollback Appeals
- 2024-10 Authorized Signatories
- 2024-11 Refunds and Cancellations Under \$10
- 2024-12 Annual Tax Sale
- 2024-13 Fee for Insufficient Check Funds
- 2024-14 Investment of Funds
- 2024-15 Risk Management Consultant
- 2024-16 Statewide Insurance Fund Commissioner
- 2024-18 Bond Counsel
- 2024-19 Borough Engineer
- 2024-20 Maintenance of Tax Maps
- 2024-21 Borough Auditor
- 2024-22 Public Agency Compliance Officer
- 2024-23 Deputy Records Custodian
- 2024-24 Online Payment Transactions
- 2024-25 Temporary Budget Appropriations
- 2024-26 Debt Service-Temporary Budget
- 2024-27 Judge Appointment

**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution #24-01
Consent Agenda**

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton has determined that to increase efficiency, the Consent Agenda shall be adopted with one resolution; and

WHEREAS, the following resolutions require no discussion and have been previously reviewed by each Governing Body member:

- 24-02 Schedule of Regular Meetings
- 24-03 Rules of Order
- 24-04 Official Depositories
- 24-05 Official Newspapers
- 24-06 Appointments
- 24-07 Interest and Penalties for Delinquencies
- 24-08 Defense of Tax Appeals
- 24-09 Tax Appeals
- 24-10 Authorized Signatures
- 24-11 Tax Collector Refunds
- 24-12 Tax Sale
- 24-13 Returned Check Fees
- 24-14 Investment of Funds
- 24-15 Risk Manager
- 24-16 SIF Commissioner
- 24-17 Attorney
- 24-18 Bond Counsel
- 24-19 Engineer
- 24-20 Tax Map Maintenance
- 24-21 Auditor
- 24-22 PACO
- 24-23 Deputy Records Custodians
- 24-24 Auth Online Transaction Payments

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that each of the above listed Resolutions be approved and adopted by the Borough Council with the same legal effect as though each was read in its entirety at the January 3, 2024 meeting and adopted by separate vote.

**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution #24-02
Approving 2024 Borough Council Meeting Schedule**

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act (Ch. 231, P.L. 1975) provides for the giving of annual notice by public bodies of the time, date and location of the regular meetings of such public body to be held during the succeeding year; and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act (Ch. 231, P.L. 1975) hereinafter referred to as the Act, authorizes a public body to make certain other determinations and take certain other actions in conformance therewith.

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

1. Regular meetings of this Council shall be held during the 2024 calendar year at 7:00 p.m. at the Stockton Borough Hall, 2 South Main St, Stockton, New Jersey 08559 on the following dates:

SCHEDULE OF REGULAR MEETINGS

January 3 rd	Re-Organization
January 17 th	3 rd Wednesday
February 12 th	2 nd Monday
March 18 th	3 rd Monday
April 15 th	3 rd Monday
May 20 th	3 rd Monday
June 17 th	3 rd Monday
July 15 th	3 rd Monday
August 19 th	3 rd Monday
September 16 th	3 rd Monday
October 21 st	3 rd Monday
November 18 th	3 rd Monday
December 16 th	3 rd Monday

2. Copies of the Annual Notice Schedule are available to the public for inspection upon request to Laurie A. Courter, Borough Clerk
3. The following newspapers are hereby designated as the newspapers to receive any and all notices required and/or permitted to be given under the Act including, but not limited to, Annual Notice and 48 Hour Notice:
 - a) The Hunterdon County Democrat which is the official newspaper of this public body; and
 - b) The Trenton Times is hereby designated and determined to be the other newspaper that has the greatest likelihood of informing the public within the area of jurisdiction of this Borough of its meetings.
4. Copies of this Resolution and any revisions or modifications thereof, certified to be true copies by the Borough Clerk of this municipality, shall be disseminated and distributed as required by the Act as follows:
 - a) Posted and maintained through the 2024 calendar year on the bulletin board at the Stockton Borough Municipal Building.
 - b) Transmitted or hand delivered to the newspapers designated in paragraph 3 of this resolution;
 - c) Filed with the Borough Clerk of this municipality; and

- d) Mailed to such other persons as may be entitled thereto under the terms of the Act and this resolution.
5. Pursuant to Section 14 of this Act, the Municipal Clerk of this municipality is thereby authorized and directed to mail such notice as may be required an authorized under the Act to any persons requesting the same providing that person has first complied with the following terms and conditions.
- a) Any and all requests for notice under the Act shall be made in writing or by signing a Request List to be maintained in the office of the Municipal Clerk.
 - b) Any person requesting such notice, other than the news media which is expressly excluded from payment of any fee hereunder, shall pay to the Township of Stockton a fee of \$3.00 which said sum is hereby designated to be a reasonable sum, the amount of which is calculated solely to reimburse this Borough for the costs incurred in providing the said notice including but not limited to printing, photocopying cost, clerical time and postage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized to publish the attached schedule of meetings as required in N.J.S.A. 10:4-18.

**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution #24-03
Adopting Parliamentary Procedure**

WHEREAS, the efficient functioning of the Borough Council requires a comprehensive set of rules for the conduct of its business; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to respect the rights of all members of the Borough Council to ensure that they can fairly participate in the work of the Council and properly represent their constituencies in the development of Council resolutions, ordinances, programs, and policies; and

WHEREAS, Robert Rules of Order provides a comprehensive set of rules that have been adopted by many organizations as their rules of order.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, hereby adopts and incorporates herein the latest edition Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised as its basic rules for the conduct of business.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following be followed during public meetings of this body:

1. Any person desiring to address the Borough Council during periods designated for public comment shall first seek recognition by the Mayor or presiding officer, and upon recognition shall state their name and address. All comments shall be addressed to the Mayor or presiding officer.
2. Any person(s) making personal, defamatory, or profane remarks or who willfully utters loud, threatening, or abusive language or engages in any disorderly conduct which disturbs or disrupts the orderly conduct of any meeting shall be called to order by the presiding officer. If such conduct continues, the presiding officer of the Borough, at their discretion, may order such person(s) removed from the meeting.

Stockton Borough Council
Resolution #24-04
Approving Designation of Official Borough Depositories for 2023

BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton hereby designates Northfield Community Bank as an official depository for all Stockton Borough monies for the year 2024, and hereby instructs the Collector of Taxes, Chief Financial Officer and Water/Sewer Clerk to deposit said monies in Northfield Community Bank; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to invest funds that are available in Stockton Borough accounts in any authorized institution in the State of New Jersey at the highest interest rate available, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to place Bond or Tax Anticipation Notes in any recognized bank or savings and loan in the State of New Jersey at the lowest interest rate available.

Stockton Borough Council
Resolution #24-05
Approving Designation of Official Newspapers

WHEREAS, per N.J.S.A 40:53-1 the Governing Body of every municipality may designate an official newspaper or newspapers for the publication of all advertisements and notices required by law to be published by the municipality; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that the following newspapers shall be designated as official newspapers in which legal notices and advertisements may be published:

The Hunterdon County Democrat
The Trenton Times

**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution #24-06
Approving 2024 Appointments**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton that it hereby approves the below list of appointments and/or reappointments for the year 2024:

Borough Council Committees

Buildings Committee:

Thomas Hunt (Chair)
Matthew Fisher
Michael Mann

Community Outreach Committee:

Michael Mann (Chair)
Matthew Fisher
Thomas Hunt

Finance Committee:

Thomas Hunt (Chair)
William Brown
Peter Folz

Grounds Committee:

Peter Folz (Chair)
Matthew Fisher
Kenneth Kozuhowski

Grants Advisory Committee:

William Brown (Chair)
Thomas Hunt
Aaron Lipsen

Infrastructure Committee: (Water & Sewer/Stormwater/Streets)

William Brown (Chair)
Aaron Lipsen
Kenneth Kozuhowski

Planning Board Representatives

Aaron Lipsen Class I Member
Thomas Hunt Lipsen Class III Member

Public Safety:

(Police, Fire, OEM)
Kenneth Kozuhowski (Chair)
Aaron Lipsen
Michael Mann

Planning Board

Class I – Aaron Lipsen	- Mayoral term to expire	12/31/26
Class II– Robert Miller	- 1-year term to expire	12/31/24
Class III-Thomas Hunt	- 1-year term to expire	12/31/24
Class IV John Bonanni	- 4- year term	12/31/27
Alternate #1 –	(Unexpired) 2-year term to expire	12/31/24

Professional/Staff Appointments

Borough Attorney	Lisa Maddox Esq.	1 yr	12/31/2024
Bond Counsel	Meghan Bennett Clark, Esq.	1 yr	12/31/2024
Borough Auditor	Robert Swisher, CPA	1 yr	12/31/2024
Borough Engineer	Adam Wisniewski, PE	1 yr	12/31/2024
Special Projects Professional	Micheal Butler, Esq.	1 yr	12/31/2024
Special Projects Professional	Ferriero Engineering	1 yr	12/31/2024
Purchasing Agent	Diane McDaniel	1 yr	12/31/2024
Construction Office Adm.	Diane McDaniel	1 yr	12/31/2024
Animal Control Officer	Tim Davis	1 yr	12/31/2024
Dog Canvasser/Licensing	Laurie Courter	1 yr.	12/31/2024
Flood Plain Administrator	Robert Miller	1 yr.	12/31/2024
Magistrate	Edward Martin	3 yr	12/31/2026
Prosecutor	John Lanza	1 yr	12/31/2024
Public Defender	Stanley Troy	1 yr	12/31/2024
Sewer Plant Operator	Michael Schneider	1 yr	12/31/2024
Sewer Supervisor	Robert Ent	1 yr	12/31/2024
Tax Search Officer	Diane McDaniel	1 yr	12/31/2024
Water/Sewer Clerk	Diane McDaniel	1 yr	12/31/2024
Water Works Supervisor	Robert Ent	1 yr	12/31/2024
Water Works Operator	Robert Ent	1 yr	12/31/2024
Zoning Officer	Robert Miller	1 yr	12/31/2024
Emergency Management Coordinator		3 yr	12/31/2025
Deputy OEM Coordinator		1 yr	12/31/2024
Lower Delaware Wild& Scenic Rep.		1 yr	12/31/2024

**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution #24-07**

Establishing Rate of Interest on Tax Delinquencies and Grace Period

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:4-67 permits the governing body of each municipality to fix the rate of interest to be charged for non-payment of taxes of assessments; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:4-67 has been amended to permit the fixing of said rate at 8% per annum on the first \$1,500.00 of the delinquency and 18% per annum of any amount in excess of \$1,500.00, and allows an additional penalty of a flat 6% to be collected against a delinquency in excess of \$10,000.00 on properties that fail to pay the delinquency prior to the end of the calendar year.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that taxes shall be collected quarterly with due dates being February 1, May 1, August 1 and November 1, and that a 10-day grace period shall apply, after which unpaid taxes will be charged interest from the due date;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that interest at the rate of 8% per annum up to the first \$1,500.00 of delinquency and at the rate of 18% per annum over \$1,500.00 of delinquency will be collected after the 10-day grace period back to the original due date;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a 6% year-end penalty will be charged for delinquencies over \$10,000.00 as of the 31st day of December 2024.

**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution #24-08
Stipulations & Rollback Appeals**

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton is aware that from time to time, errors are made in computing tax assessments; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Attorney and the Borough Tax Assessor are called upon to defend tax appeals filed with the Hunterdon County Board of Taxation and to agree to stipulations of appeals; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Attorney and the Borough Tax Assessor are authorized by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton to file rollback petitions with the Hunterdon County Board of Taxation for the Borough of Stockton;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton that the Borough Attorney and Tax Assessor of the Borough of Stockton are hereby authorized to file corrective appeals with the Hunterdon County Board of Taxation, to sign stipulations in matters of appeals with the Hunterdon County Board of Taxation and to file rollback petitions with the Hunterdon County Board of Taxation that they feel are proper and the best interests of the municipality.

**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution #24-09
Defense of Tax Appeals**

WHEREAS, said Hunterdon County Tax Administrator requires that the governing body of each municipality in the County of Hunterdon to pass a Resolution to authorize the Assessor of the municipality and their legal counsel to file and prosecute any and all tax appeals before the Hunterdon County Board of Taxation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the legal counsel and the Assessor of Stockton Borough, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey are hereby authorized to file, prosecute, stipulate, modify, agree upon and otherwise perform the duties which are required of said Assessor, in the process of prosecution and/or filing of said Tax Appeals, with the jurisdiction of the Hunterdon County Board of Taxation and the Tax Court of New Jersey.

**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution #24-10
Authorizing Signatories**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stockton authorize the following signatures for all Borough accounts and the signing of checks, notes and bonds or any other negotiable papers requiring signatures for Stockton Borough:

The Mayor or in the absence of the Mayor, the Council President
and The Chief Financial Officer and as necessary, the Borough Clerk.

**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution #24-11
Refunds and Cancellations under Ten Dollars (\$10)**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-17.1 provides that the governing body of a municipality may authorize by Resolution a municipal employee to process, without further action on the part of the governing body, the cancellation of any property refund or delinquency of less than \$10.00;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton does hereby authorize the Tax Collector, Chief Financial Officer, and Utilities Collector to process the cancellation of any property tax refund, delinquency, or any charges and fees imposed by the municipality of less than \$10.00 for the year 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an adopted copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Tax Collector, Chief Financial Officer, and Utilities Collector.

**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution #24-12
Authorizing Tax Sale**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton that it does hereby authorize the Tax Collector of the Borough to conduct an annual tax sale during the year 2024.

**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution #24-13
Authorizing Returned Check Fee**

WHEREAS, State statute permits local authorities to set a fee for returned checks;
and

WHEREAS, the maximum amount to be charged per State statute is \$20.00; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton, hereby desires to set a fee for checks returned by financial institutions for insufficient funds or other reasons by which funds are not able to be collected,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton that a returned check of \$20.00 be imposed for each check presented to the Borough of Stockton that is returned for uncollected funds purposes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution #24-14
Investment of Funds**

WHEREAS, it is desirable that idle funds of the Borough of Stockton be invested in legal investment vehicles at all times; and

WHEREAS, it is occasionally necessary to transfer funds for the purpose of meeting Current, Water or Sewer expenses or for the purpose of effecting investments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton that it does hereby authorize the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough to request bids and to place orders for the investment of idle funds solely in legally authorized investment vehicles, such investments to the investing institution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough is hereby authorized to transfer funds by wire solely for the aforementioned purposes and subject to all pertinent and applicable regulations.

**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution #24-15
Risk Manager**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stockton has joined the Statewide Insurance Fund, a joint insurance fund as defined in N.J.S.A. 40A: 10-36 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws require participating members to appoint a Risk Management Consultant, as those positions are defined in the Bylaws, if requested to do so by the Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stockton has complied with relevant law with regard to the appointment of a Risk Management Consultant; and

WHEREAS, the Fund has requested its members to appoint individuals or entities to that position; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that it hereby appoints USI Insurance Services, LLC, as its local Risk Management Consultant;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Borough Clerk be authorized to execute the attached Risk Management Consultant's Agreement for the fund year 2024.

**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution #24-16
Appointing Fund Commissioner**

STATEWIDE INSURANCE FUND

RESOLUTION APPOINTING FUND COMMISSIONER

2024 Fund year

WHEREAS, Borough of Stockton (hereinafter “Local Unit”) is a member of the Statewide Insurance Fund (hereinafter “Fund”), a joint insurance fund as defined in N.J.S.A. 40A:10-36 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Fund’s Bylaws require participating members to appoint a Fund Commissioner;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the Borough of Stockton that _Laurie Courter is hereby appointed as the Fund Commissioner for the Local Unit for the **Fund Year 2024**; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Diane McDaniel is hereby appointed as the Alternate Fund Commissioner for the Local Unit for the **Fund Year 2024**; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Local Unit’s Fund Commissioner is authorized and directed to execute all such documents as required by the Fund.

**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution #24-18
Awarding Non-Fair and Open Contract – Bond Counsel**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stockton has a need to appoint Bond Counsel as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1, et. seq) requires that the Resolution authorizing the award of contracts for Professional Services without competitive bids and the contract itself must be awarded for public inspection; and

WHEREAS, the term of this contract for this service is one year from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Megan Bennett Clark, Esq. will provide legal services as sought by the Borough of Stockton at the annual compensation in the proposal which is on file in the Municipal Clerk’s Office; and

WHEREAS, Gluck Walrath LLP has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that the firm has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Stockton with the elected officials in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit the firm of Gluck Walrath LLP from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer, Diane McDaniel, has certified the availability of funds; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that they do hereby provide advice and consent to the appointment of Megan Bennett Clark, Esq to the position of Bond Counsel for a term of one year from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Council authorizes the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to enter into a contract with Gluck Walrath LLP as described herein to the satisfaction of the Borough Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the contract, resolution, and other pertinent documents shall remain on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a notice of this action shall be printed once in the Township's legal newspaper.

**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution #24-19
Awarding Non-Fair and Open Contract – Borough Engineer**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stockton has a need to appoint a Borough Engineer as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1, et. seq) requires that the Resolution authorizing the award of contracts for Professional Services without competitive bids and the contract itself must be awarded for public inspection; and

WHEREAS, the term of this contract for this service is one year from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Colliers Engineering and Design, Inc. will provide engineering services as sought by the Borough of Stockton at the annual compensation in the proposal which is on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office; and

WHEREAS, Colliers Engineering and Design, Inc. has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that the firm has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Stockton with the elected officials in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit the firm of Colliers Engineering and Design, Inc. from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer, Diane McDaniel, has certified the availability of funds; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that they do hereby provide advice and consent to the appointment of Colliers Engineering and Design, Inc. to the position of Borough Engineer for a term of one year from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Council authorizes the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to enter into a contract with Colliers Engineering and Design, Inc. as described herein to the satisfaction of the Borough Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the contract, resolution, and other pertinent documents shall remain on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a notice of this action shall be printed once in the Township's legal newspaper.

**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution #24-20
Awarding Non-Fair and Open Contract – Tax Map Maintenance Services**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stockton has a need to contract Tax Map Maintenance Services as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1, et. seq) requires that the Resolution authorizing the award of contracts for Professional Services without competitive bids and the contract itself must be awarded for public inspection; and

WHEREAS, the term of this contract for this service is one year from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Ferriero Engineering, Inc. will provide Tax Map Maintenance Services as sought by the Borough of Stockton at the annual compensation in the proposal which is on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office; and

WHEREAS, Ferriero Engineering, Inc. has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that the firm has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Stockton with the elected officials in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit the firm of Ferriero Engineering, Inc. from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer, Diane McDaniel, has certified the availability of funds; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are authorized to enter into a contract with Ferriero Engineering, Inc. as described herein to the satisfaction of the Borough Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the contract, resolution, and other pertinent documents shall remain on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a notice of this action shall be printed once in the Township's legal newspaper.

**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution #24-21
Awarding Non-Fair and Open Contract – Borough Auditor**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stockton has a need for Auditing Services as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1, et. seq) requires that the Resolution authorizing the award of contracts for Professional Services without competitive bids and the contract itself must be awarded for public inspection; and

WHEREAS, the term of this contract for this service is one year from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Suplee, Clooney & Company will provide Auditing Services as sought by the Borough of Stockton at the annual compensation in the proposal which is on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office; and

WHEREAS, Suplee, Clooney & Company has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that the firm has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Stockton with the elected officials in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit the firm of Suplee, Clooney & Company from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer, Diane McDaniel, has certified the availability of funds; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are authorized to enter into a contract with Suplee, Clooney & Company as described herein to the satisfaction of the Borough Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the contract, resolution, and other pertinent documents shall remain on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a notice of this action shall be printed once in the Township's legal newspaper.

**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution #24-22
Appointment of 2024 PACO**

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et seq. the Borough of Stockton is required to comply with public procurement and contracting regulations; and

WHEREAS, from time to time, the Division of Contract Compliance and EEO in Public Contracts, Department of the Treasury (the “Division”) revises regulations for compliance its statutes and regulations; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 17:27-3.2 and subsequent amendments, each public entity is now required to appoint a Public Agency Compliance Officer to serve as a point of contact between the public entity and the Division; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey is thus required to appoint a Public Agency Compliance Officer and to forward a resolution naming that appointee to the Division for its records.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton hereby appoints

Laurie A. Courter

to serve as Public Agency Compliance Officer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Division of Contract Compliance and EEO in Public Contracts, Department of the Treasury.

**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution #24-23
Appointing Deputy Records Custodians**

WHEREAS, because the Open Public Records Act, NJSA 47:1A-1, et seq., has designated the Municipal Clerk as the custodian of all municipal records, it has become necessary to appoint deputy records custodians to assist in complying with responses to records requests; and

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 Tax Collector is hereby appointed deputy records custodian for all tax records.
2. The Planning Board Secretary is hereby appointed deputy records custodian for the Zoning/Planning and land use records.

3. The Technical Assistant to the Construction Official is hereby appointed deputy records custodian for the Construction Department
4. The CFO is hereby appointed deputy records custodian for the Finance Department
5. The designated deputy records custodians shall report to the Borough Clerk all requests for records and shall follow any instructions given by the Clerk regarding the handling of such records

**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution #24-24
Authorizing the Acceptance of On-Line Credit Card, Online Debit Card,
and E-Check Payments for the Collection of Taxes**

WHEREAS, under New Jersey State Statute 40A:5-43 and New Jersey Administrative Code 5:30-9.1 through 5:30-9.10, municipalities are authorized to accept credit card payments in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Code; and

WHEREAS, subject to those provisions the Borough of Stockton, Hunterdon County seeks to offer to its resident's on-line payment for taxes in the form of credit/debit cards and e-checks; and

WHEREAS, the municipality does not charge for this service, any charges/fees are paid by the property owner to the provider; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, the Tax Office is hereby authorized to accept online credit/debit cards and e-checks as a form of payment for taxes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Tax Collector and to the Chief Financial Officer.

**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution #24-25
Temporary Budget Appropriations**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-19 provides that where any contract, commitment or payments are to be made prior to the final adoption of the 2024 budget, temporary appropriations should be made for the purpose and amounts required in the manner and time therein provided, and

WHEREAS, the date of this resolution is within the first 30 days of the fiscal year, and

WHEREAS, the total appropriations in the 2024 budget, exclusive of any appropriations made for interest and debt redemption charges, capital improvement and public assistance, is the sum of \$785,459-Current, \$107,332-Water and \$240,468-Sewer

WHEREAS, 26.25% of the total appropriations in the 2024 budget, exclusive of any appropriations made for interest and debt redemption charges, capital improvement and public assistance, is the sum of \$206,183-Current, \$28,175-Water and \$63,123- Sewer.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of Stockton Borough, in the County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that the following appropriations be made and a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Chief financial officer for her records.

**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution #24-26**

A RESOLUTION SETTING FORTH THE 2024 DEBT SERVICE TEMPORARY BUDGET

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-19 provides authority for appropriating in a temporary resolution the permanent debt services requirements for the coming fiscal year providing such a resolution is not made earlier than the last ten days of the preceding fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the date of this resolution is subsequent to that date; and

WHEREAS, Principal and interest will be due on various dates from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024, inclusive, on sundry bonds issued and outstanding;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of Stockton Borough, in the County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that the following appropriations be made to cover the period from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 inclusive:

DEBT SERVICE – CURRENT FUND

Payment of Bonds	\$ 21,113.23
Interest on Bonds	\$ 1,737.35

**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution #24-27**

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING EDWARD MARTIN AS MUNICIPAL JUDGE

BE IT RESOLVED that Edward Martin be reappointed as Municipal Court Judge of Stockton Borough for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2024 and expiring December 31, 2026.

Borough Council Comments and Announcements

Hunt discussed the school renovation committee, stated that they are very lucky to have a good group joining this committee. There will be input solicited from the public and any other person who has good ideas will have an opportunity too. There is a lot to be done with respect to finances and phasing out the actual work. Mann added that there will be another community outreach meeting soon in which they will be setting it up with other community leaders.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT – PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mayor Lipsen opened the floor to public comment.

Micheal Oldenwald (sp), Rissler Street, praised the mayor adding that he is committed to civil service, and he overachieved and that the council is in great shape for what the council wants to accomplish. Thanked Mayor Lipsen for his service to the borough.

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

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday January 17, 2024, at 7:00 PM Regular Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Hunt and seconded by Folz to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 PM, all were in favor.

Laurie A. Courter

Laurie A. Courter, Borough Clerk

Approved: