

East Stroudsburg Borough, October 6, 2015

A regular meeting of the East Stroudsburg Borough Council was held at the Municipal Building on Tuesday, October 6, 2015. The following members were in attendance: Peter Begley, Edward Flory, Roger DeLarco, William Reese, Richard Smith, and Sonia Wolbert. Also attending were: Solicitor John C. Prevoznik, Manager James S. Phillips; Director of Public Works Steven DeSalva; Codes Official Marvin Walton; and Russell Scott IV, Engineering Representative of RKR Hess, a Division of UTRS.

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance – President DeLarco

Council President Roger DeLarco called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Maury Molin.

Moment of Silence

A moment of silence and reflection was observed by all in attendance.

Minutes of September 24, 2015 Regular Council Meeting

Mr. Flory made a motion, seconded by Mr. Begley, to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2015 Council meeting as submitted; the motion unanimously.

Carried ✓

Public Comments – Agenda Items

Courtney Russ said she was present on behalf of her father, Norman Hanna of 336 East Brown Street, who has received notification from the Borough concerning delinquent water/sewer payments due and possible shut-off of water service. Ms. Russo said Mr. Hanna is unable to come up with the amount of initial payment required by the Borough to enter into a repayment agreement, and presented financial information showing his current income and list of living expenses and bills in order to show what amount he would be able to pay.

Mr. Begley asked if the Borough was requiring an up-front payment of 50% of the total amount owed? Mr. Prevoznik said yes, the Borough has asked for an initial payment of 50% because of the large amounts owed and the additional costs the Borough is incurring to collect these overdue accounts. Mr. Begley said he feels the Borough should “give a break” in case of a long-time Borough resident such as Mr. Hanna.

Ms. Russo said her father’s mortgage is now caught up, his gas and electric accounts are current – but it is almost impossible for him to come up with over \$5,000 at one time, now.

Richard Wible of State Rep. David Parker’s office said there are extenuating circumstances in this case, and he hopes that the Borough will be able to work with Mr. Hanna on this issue. Mr. DeLarco said the Collections Committee of Council will provide Mr. Hanna an opportunity to meet with the Committee and will let Ms. Russo know when that will occur.

### Fire Chief Bryan Wallie – New Fire Pumper Truck for Acme Hose Company No. 1

Mr. Wallie said the Fire Company needs to replace its 1984 Pumper. The current lead Pumper is a 1999 model, and it is starting to require more than routine maintenance. Chief Wallie said the cost of fire apparatus has increased significantly. The good news is that once this Pumper is replaced, we should not have to replace another truck for many years. However, the bad news is the price of the new truck will be about \$670,000; although some discount options are available. Mr. Reese asked when are the deadlines for the discounts? Mr. Wallie said the order time is 10-11 months to build the new truck; one of the discounts is to pay for the truck chassis ahead of time, and save about \$10,000.

Mr. Phillips noted that the Borough has only about \$285,000 currently in its Fire Truck Replacement Account. The balance of cost would have to be funded via loan financing.

Mr. Begley asked if the Borough will be able to get anything for sale of the old 1984 Ford Pumper? Chief Wallie said we probably will not be able to realize much from sale of the old truck because of its age.

Mr. DeLarco said loan financing is essential for purchasing the new Pumper since we do not have enough funds in the Fire Truck Replacement account at present.

### Bids Opened 9/24/15 for Municipal Building Entry Security Renovations

Mr. Phillips noted the two bids received for this project were opened 9/24/15. Mr. Prevoznik asked how long the bids are good for? Mr. Phillips said at least sixty days. Mr. DeLarco noted that preliminary discussions have been held with Concord Financial Services concerning loan financing, but we need to submit a preliminary list of capital projects, including the fire truck and this municipal building work, in order to obtain a proposal for the loan financing. Mr. Reese said he had initiated this building security work, and is in favor of including this project in the loan financing.

### Resolution No. 32-2015 Recognizing Acme Hose Company No. 1 on the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Volunteer Fire Department

Mr. DeLarco read the Proclamation/Resolution of Mayor and Council recognizing the Fire Department and commending the officers and members of the Department on their dedicated service to the community. Mr. Reese made a motion, seconded by Mr. Begley, to adopt proposed Resolution No. 32-2015 as submitted; the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Flory invited everyone to attend the Block Party/Celebration of the Fire Co. Anniversary to be held this Saturday on Crystal Street.

### Proposed Ordinance No. 1303 Amending Chapter 78 Entitled Fees, Establishing An Administrative Fee for Repayment Agreements for Collection of Delinquent Water and Sewer Fees

Mr. Phillips said the proposed Ordinance would add an administrative fee to the fees established under Chapter 78, and initially the fee would be set at \$200. Mr. Reese made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wolbert, to authorize advertising a public hearing on the proposed ordinance as submitted at the next meeting, October 20, 2015. The motion carried unanimously.

Proposed Ordinance No. 1304 Approving Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with Stroudsburg Borough for the Establishment of a Joint Construction Code Board of Appeals

Mr. Reese made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wolbert, to authorize advertising a public hearing on the proposed ordinance as submitted, subject to Stroudsburg Borough taking the same action. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Prevoznik said the Borough needs persons with specific backgrounds to serve on this Board; an engineer or architect, a contractor, etc.

Public Comments – New Business

Dr. Marcia Welsh, President of East Stroudsburg University, distributed copies of an Economic Impact Study of State System of Higher Education (SSHE) Schools, prepared for SSHE.

Marie Summa of 249 East Broad Street asked if Council was aware of the graffiti vandalism that occurred over the weekend – at several business places along Dansbury Terrace. Mrs. Summa said security cameras are needed. Mr. Flory said business owners could install their own security cameras. Mrs. Summa said more police patrols are needed in the downtown area.

Correspondence

Mr. Phillips reported receipt of the following items of correspondence:

- i. PA Auditor General – General Municipal System Pension System State Aid received for the 2015 Year - \$98,020.87
- ii. PA Auditor General – Volunteer Fire Relief Association State Aid received for the 2015 Year - \$52,000.00.
- iii. Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the 2016 Year for the Borough Pension Plan for Non-Uniform Employees administered by PMRS (Sept 29, 2015 Memo).
- iv. PA Municipal Retirement System (PMRS) – 2014 Year Comprehensive Financial Report
- v. Monroe County Control Center (MCCC) – Proposed 2016 Year Operating Budget for MCCC.

Reports

Mr. DeSalva said the Streetscape Lighting Project construction is about 1/3 complete. Also, he has completed a computerized compliance schedule/calendar for the Sewage Treatment Plant permit.

Mr. Walton reported that the next Planning & Zoning Committee meeting would be held next Friday, October 16, 2015 at 8:00 a.m.

Mr. Scott reported on the following:

- RKR Hess will be preparing an updated schedule for work on the Middle Dam to send to PA DEP.
- The E&S Permit has been received for the repair of scour area on the Little Sambo Creek, along Dansbury Park.
- Gregory Pond Trail project closeout documents have been received from the contractor.
- Disinfection Byproduct monitoring work is continuing
- The drinking water infrastructure survey report was submitted to the consultant for PA DEP.
- Elizabeth Street waterline replacement plans have been completed and transmitted to the Borough
- RKR Hess has submitted a proposal for wetlands permitting for the replacement of a section of water transmission line exposed in the Sambo Creek.
- RKR Hess has submitted a proposal for slip-lining levee culvert pipes.

Mr. Reese noted that there will be discussions at the Committee meeting on swimming pool operations considerations

Mr. Flory asked the status of fire hydrant repairs on King Street? Mr. Flory made a motion, seconded by Mr. Reese, to direct that the two hydrants on King Street requiring repairs be completed in the next month; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Prevoznik noted that Council had approved a motion at the last meeting to approve the Contribution Agreement for the Ridgeway St. Bridge Replacement Project, but subject to the other parties also approving the agreement. Mr. Begley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Reese, to authorize approval/signing of the Contribution Agreement prepared by PennDOT for the Ridgeway St. Bridge project; without conditions. The motion carried by a vote of 5-1, with Mr. Flory voting no.

Mr. DeLarco noted that he had a discussion with the Chairperson for the Planning Commission about the "sandwich board" signs issue and is concerned with their reluctance to consider these signs.

Mr. Begley asked if there was anything new to report concerning the vacant house on Perry Street? Mr. Walton said the issue is not overgrown weeds in the yard, but overgrowth of the shrubbery. Mr. Begley asked if the Borough requires a certain type/color of number for the 911 house numbers, and was advised no; they just have to be large enough to be visible.

Mr. Phillips reported on the installation of armed forces flags for the Veterans Bridge that is planned to be in place in time for the Veterans Day Parade.

Mr. Smith said people from Head Start had talked to him about the need for white lines to be installed on Oak Street and along 4<sup>th</sup> Street between Oak St. and Courtland St.

Mrs. Wolbert said she had talked to Susan Randle of ECA about the sandwich board signs concerning a new presentation to the Planning Commission. After discussion, Mrs.

Wolbert made a motion, seconded by Mr. Begley, to have the Manager send a letter to the Planning Commission requesting that the Planning Commission work with the Committee of ECA and Council to come up with a zoning amendment allowing A-frame signs in some form; the motion carried unanimously

#### List of Bills Payable – October 6, 2015

Mr. Flory made a motion, seconded by Mr. Begley, to ratify expenditures and payroll made through October 6, 2015 and approve the List of Bills Payable as submitted; the motion carried unanimously

#### Executive Session for Discussion of Real Estate and/or Litigation Matters

Mr. Begley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Flory, to adjourn into executive session at 9:07 p m ; the motion carried unanimously.

At 10:02 p m. Council members reassembled in the meeting room, and Mr. Flory made a motion, seconded by Mr. Begley, to reconvene the public meeting; the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Prevoznik said the executive session was held to discuss several litigation matters including delinquent collections; and no decisions were made.

#### Ratification of Repayment Agreements for Delinquent Water/Sewer Charges

Mr. Flory made a motion, seconded by Mr. Reese, to ratify approval of repayment agreements signed with property owners for the following addresses:

- Braeside Apartments, 238 Braeside Avenue
- Garrett and Emily Disbrow, 54 Lenox Avenue.
- Denise Kees, 130 Center Street.
- Tess and Tate Trust, 112 Ridgeway Street

#### UGI Repaving of East Broad Street and Lackawanna Avenue Road Openings

Mr. Flory made a motion, seconded by Mr. Reese, to require UGI to perform milling and repaving of road openings on East Broad Street and Lackawanna Avenue based on the recommendation of the Director of Public Works, subject to final approval of the scope of work by the Manager; the motion carried unanimously

#### Adjournment

With no further business, Mr. Flory made a motion, seconded by Mr. Begley, to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 p.m.; the motion carried unanimously

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James S. Phillips, Secretary