

East Stroudsburg Borough, October 7, 2014

A regular meeting of the East Stroudsburg Borough Council was held at the Municipal Building on Tuesday, October 7, 2014. The following members were in attendance: Peter Begley, Roger DeLarco, Edward Flory, William Reese, Richard Smith, and Sonia Wolbert. Also attending were: Mayor Armand Martinelli; Manager James S. Phillips; Solicitor John C. Prevoznik; DPW Director Steven DeSalva; Codes Official Marvin Walton; and Engineering Representative Samuel D'Alessandro of R.K.R. Hess Associates, Inc.

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance – President DeLarco

President Roger DeLarco called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The pledge of Allegiance was led by David Bousay.

Minutes of September 16, 2014 Regular Council Meeting and September 25, 2014 Public Hearing

Mr. Flory made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wolbert, to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2014 Regular Meeting and September 25 public hearing as submitted; motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments - Agenda Items

None.

Designation of Date/Time for Halloween Trick or Treating

Mrs. Wolbert made a motion, seconded by Mr. Begley, to designate Halloween Trick or Treating in the Borough for Friday, October 31, 2014 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 27 - 2014 Approving Local Share Account (Monroe County) Grant Application for Middle Dam Rehabilitation Project

Mr. Flory made a motion, seconded by Mr. Begley, to ratify approval of Resolution No. 27-2014 approving submittal of a Local Share Account grant application for the Middle Dam Rehabilitation Project; requesting \$1,400,000 in additional grant funds for the project which is anticipated to cost a total of \$4,170,000. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 28 - 2014 Approving Local Share Account (Monroe County) Grant (Joint) Application for Levee Maintenance Equipment with Stroudsburg Borough

Mr. Begley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Flory, to adopt proposed Resolution No. 28 - 2014 approving the Local Share Account (Monroe County) Grant Application for Levee Maintenance Equipment submitted by Stroudsburg Borough as a joint application of the two municipalities. The motion carried unanimously.

Advertising for Bids for new multi-year contract for Garbage Collection and Disposal

Mr. DeLarco said Council had held the public hearing last month to solicit comments on possible changes to the garbage collection requirements, and the expressed sentiments were to maintain the current unlimited-type service. Mr. Phillips said he is working on revising the specifications slightly, for example, to require disposal costs based on actual quantities reported, but otherwise maintaining the unlimited-type service. Mr. Begley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Smith, to authorize advertising for bid proposals for a new multi-year contract for Garbage Collection and Disposal for 2015 and subsequent years; the motion carried unanimously.

Schedule Public Hearing on Proposed Ordinance No. 1281 Amending the Code of the Borough of East Stroudsburg, Chapter 157 Entitled Zoning, Adding Parking and Driveway Regulation Requirements for Existing Residential Uses

Mr. Walton said the County Planning Commission comments should be received by November to enable scheduling of the required public hearing on this proposed zoning amendment. Mr. Phillips said the agenda just received today for the Planning Commission October meeting does not list review of this Ordinance. After discussion, Mr. Flory made a motion, seconded by Mr. Begley, to table action on this matter; the motion carried unanimously

Public Comments – New Business

Dr. Marcia Welch, President of East Stroudsburg University, expressed concern for the “panhandlers” visible locally, especially at the Exit 308 Interchange of Interstate 80. Mr. Prevoznik noted that there are issues involved with restricting this activity; First Amendment rights may specifically preclude citing someone for such “panhandling”. Mr. DeLarco said this matter affects all the local municipalities and officials are trying to organize a task force to address enforcement issues.

Dr. Welch distributed and reviewed the schedule of events for ESU Homecoming Week set for October 19-26th.

Wanda Lasher said the Crime Watch Group has been monitoring the “panhandlers” as well.

Maury Molin noted that the Schisler Museum of Wildlife and Natural History at ESU is well worth the visit.

Correspondence

- Mr. Phillips reported receipt of the following items of correspondence:
- i. PA Auditor General Office – 2014 General Municipal Pension System State Aid \$89,071.64
 - ii. PA Auditor General Office – 2014 Commonwealth State Aid to Volunteer Fire Relief Association \$58,227.56
 - iii. RKR Hess – Annual Progress Report for two former Joint Municipal Landfill Sites.
 - iv. Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for PMRS-administered Borough Pension Plan for 2015 Year. Mr. Phillips noted that the increase in the MMO for 2015 is due solely to an increase in required amortization of existing pension liabilities for our PMRS-administered Plan.

Reports

Mr. Walton reported that he is making an effort to monitor/enforce requirements for not placing out garbage too early; and also has processed several Disruptive Conduct Reports received from the Regional Police Department for two residences on Prospect Street.

Mr. DeSalva reported that the Streetscape Phase II Project was put out for bids this week, with bids due to PennDOT on October 23, 2014.

Mr. D’Alessandro reviewed his written Engineer’s Report submitted to Council.

Mr. Flory said the Fire Company is having an Open House at the Fire Station this Saturday for Fire Prevention Week.

Mr. Prevoznik said the appeal of the Eagle Valley Realty conditional use decision has been withdrawn, ending the litigation.

Mayor Martinelli noted the proposal he received for a free video of the Terra Greens Golf Course property via a drone. Mr. DeLarco wondered about any FAA requirements for such drones? Mr. Prevoznik said we should find out what it means if the company retains rights to the videos. Mr. Phillips said Bryan Zukawski suggested that the drone flight should be postponed until the scenery is more green after some rain.

Mayor Martinelli said the Borough could put a lot of information, such as winter snow emergencies, on Facebook or Twitter to help get the word out. Mr. DeLarco said someone would need to monitor and maintain a Borough Facebook or Twitter account.

Mrs. Wolbert said Mark Sowers of SROSRC hosted a trail walk this past Sunday at the new Gregory Pond trails. Mrs. Wolbert reminded Council that next Wednesday October 15th is the date for meeting with the consultant on the Revitalization project.

Mrs. Wolbert made a motion, seconded by Mr. Begley, to recognize Shane Izykowski and his group that conducted the recent Street Art Project at the next Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Smith noted a “sunken” manhole on Chestnut Street that may need raised.

Mr. Begley noted he met with the Solicitor to draft an Ordinance/policy on starting Council meetings with public prayer; to be reviewed at the next Council Committee meeting.

Mr. DeLarco suggested that the Borough invite representatives of Pocono Medical Center and the University to tour our new Fire Station – as part of our request for funding for the needs of the Fire Department.

Mr. Phillips reported that the County Commissioners have agreed to use county CDBG funds to upgrade the sidewalk at the Loder Building Senior Citizen Center. Mr. Phillips noted the schedules distributed for the annual Fall Leaf Collection Program beginning next week; and the Water System Flushing set for Wednesday/Thursday nights this week. Finally, Mr. Phillips reported that the Pocono Mountains COG will have a dinner meeting October 27, 2014 at Peppe’s Ristorante.

List of Bills Payable – October 7, 2014

Mr. Begley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Flory, to approve the List of Bills Payable and to ratify expenditures and payroll made through 10/7/14 as submitted; the motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

Mr. Begley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Flory, to adjourn into executive session at 8:17 p.m.; the motion carried unanimously.

At 8:27 p.m. Council members reassembled in the meeting room, and Mr. Begley made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wolbert, to reconvene the public meeting; the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Prevoznik said the executive session was held to discuss potential litigation, and a personnel matter and a real estate matter – no decisions were made.

Appraisal for portion of Terra Greens property

Mr. Begley made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wolbert, to authorize an appraisal of a portion of the Borough’s property, in regards to an easement request for electric service for the rebuilt Pub 199 restaurant on Route 447; the motion carried unanimously.

Ridgeway Street Bridge Replacement Project

Mrs. Wolbert made a motion, seconded by Mr. Begley, to authorize Council President DeLarco to send a letter to State Rep. Mario Scavello pledging Borough

support and outlining terms for a proposal to enable reconstruction/replacement of the Ridgeway St. Bridge by PennDOT. Under the plan, the Borough would be responsible for paying \$66,600 towards the design costs of a new bridge, but PennDOT would be responsible for future ownership and maintenance of the bridge. The motion carried unanimously.

2015 Budget Review and Adoption Schedule

Mr. DeLarco noted the proposed Budget Schedule which Mr. Phillips sent out, and asked Council members to let the Manager know what proposed dates each person would be available for/

Adjournment

With no further business, Mrs. Wolbert made a motion, seconded by Mr. Begley, adjourn the meeting; the motion carried unanimously.

James S. Phillips, Secretary