

East Stroudsburg Borough, February 14, 2017

A special meeting of the East Stroudsburg Borough Council was held at the Municipal Building on Tuesday, February 14, 2017. The following members were in attendance: Don Cross, Maury Molin, William Reese, and Sonia Wolbert. Roger DeLarco and Edward Flory were absent. Also attending were: Solicitor John C. Prevoznik; Manager James S. Phillips; and Finance Officer Kenneth Konz.

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance – Vice President Reese

Mr. Reese called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of February 7, 2017 Regular Council Meeting

Mr. Cross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Molin, to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2017 regular meeting as submitted; the motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing on Proposed Ordinance 1319 Amending the East Stroudsburg Code, Chapter 49 Salaries and Compensation, Establishing a new Section 49-3 (Salary of Tax Collector) and Further Establishing a List of Responsibilities for the Borough Real Estate Tax Collector (for the 2018-2021 Term of Office)

Mr. Cross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Molin, to open a public hearing on the proposed ordinance; the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Phillips said the proposed ordinance establishes the salary for the elected Tax Collector position for the 2018-2021 term of office, and the following Exhibits have been prepared for the public hearing:

Exhibit A - notice of the public hearing on the proposed ordinance advertised in the *Pocono Record* on February 7, 2017.

Exhibit B - proof of publication of the notice from the February 7, 2017 *Pocono Record*.

Exhibit C - copy of proposed Ordinance 1319.

Exhibit D – copy of notice to the Monroe County Law Library of an attested copy of the proposed ordinance.

Exhibit E – copy of notice to the *Pocono Record* of an attested copy of the proposed ordinance.

Exhibit F – sign in sheet for the public hearing.

Mr. Phillips said the salary is proposed to be set at the current (2017 year) figure of \$8,216 per year for the four years of the term of office. Mr. Reese asked for comments; and there were none. Mr. Molin made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wolbert, to close the public hearing and reconvene the regular meeting; the motion carried unanimously

Public Comments – Agenda Items

None.

Proposed Ordinance 1319 Amending the East Stroudsburg Code, Chapter 49 Salaries and Compensation, Establishing a new Section 49-3 (Salary of Tax Collector) and Further Establishing a List of Responsibilities for the Borough Real Estate Tax Collector

Mrs. Wolbert made a motion, seconded by Mr. Molin, to adopt proposed Ordinance No. 1319 establishing the salary and responsibilities for the Real Estate Tax Collector for the 2018-2021 term of office as advertised; the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments – Non-agenda Items

None.

Correspondence

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

- i. Brodhead Watershed Association – copies of Green Infrastructure Plan for the Lower Brodhead Watershed

- ii. PA DEP – Draft NPDES Permit issued for Discharge to Sambo Creek from Water Filtration Plant

Lift Drought Warning for Borough Water System

Mr. Phillips said the Borough's main storage reservoir has been back at full capacity since the last meeting, and under the criteria for the Borough's Drought Contingency Plan, the Drought Warning Designation can be lifted. However, the State has Monroe County and surrounding region still listed under a Drought Warning Designation. Council decided to not take action on formally lifting the Drought Warning Designation at this time.

Discussion on Water Rate Increase

Mr. Phillips and Mr. Konz distributed information from the Council Committee and Engineer on the proposed water rate increase to Council members. The recommendation of the Committee is to implement option "B", which involves the new EBU calculations for all residential users and:

- eliminates the 20 kl minimum allowance per quarter for all users,
- reduces the basic rate fee per EBU from \$45.00 to \$42.00 per quarter, and
- reduces the usage (variable) rate from \$0.88 to \$0.85 per kl of water used.

Mr. Prevoznik said if there is general agreement from Council to proceed with Option B, he and Mr. Phillips will work on the proposed ordinance to amend Chapter 154, the Water Code, to implement the new rate provisions. Council members discussed the need to have a public meeting to discuss the proposed rate increase prior to holding the public hearing on the proposed ordinance, with the intent to implement the rate increase for the bills to go out in March.

Executive Session for Discussion of Litigation and/or Personnel Matters

Mr. Molin made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wolbert, to adjourn into executive session at 9:25 a.m.; the motion carried unanimously.

At 9:35 a.m. Council members reassembled in the meeting room, and Mr. Cross 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 a personnel matter; and no decisions were made.

Reschedule February 23, 2017 Committee Meeting

Mr. Molin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wolbert, to reschedule the 2/23/17 Committee meeting and instead hold a special/Committee meeting of Council on Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.; the motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

With no further business, Mrs. Wolbert made a motion, seconded by Mr. Molin, to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 a.m.; the motion carried unanimously.

James S. Phillips, Secretary