

East Stroudsburg Borough, October 1, 2013

A regular meeting of the East Stroudsburg Borough Council was held at the Municipal Building on Tuesday, October 1, 2013. The following members were in attendance: Peter Begley, Roger DeLarco, Ed Flory, Don Repsher, and Sonia Wolbert. William Reese was absent. Also attending were: Mayor Armand Martinelli, Manager James S. Phillips; Solicitor John C. Prevoznik; Engineering Representative Samuel D'Alessandro of R.K.R. Hess Associates, Inc., Codes Official Marvin Walton, and Stroud Area Regional Police Department Chief William Parrish.

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance – President DeLarco

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

Minutes of September 17, 2013 Regular Council Meeting and September 26, 2013 Special Meeting

Mr. Repsher made a motion, seconded by Mr. Begley, to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting held September 17, 2013 as submitted; the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Flory made a motion, seconded by Mr. Repsher, to approve the minutes of the special Council meeting held September 26, 2013 as submitted; the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments - Agenda Items

None.

Ridgeway Street Waterline and Sewerline Replacement Project – Request by Locust Ridge Contractor for Time Extension for Contracts No. 1 and No. 2

Mr. D'Alessandro said the contractor has run into several issues that have delayed work on the waterline and sewerline projects, and he recommends approval of the time extension request. Mr. Flory made a motion, seconded by Mr. Repsher, to grant the time extension as requested; the motion unanimously.

Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for PMRS Employees Pension Plan for 2014

Mr. Phillips reviewed the MMO for the Pension Plan for 2014, which is actually two MMO's – one for the defined benefit plan for existing employees (\$188,100), and one for the defined contribution plan for new employees (\$4,842).

Proposed Conditional Use Application and Preliminary/Final Land Development Plan for East Stroudsburg University Information Commons Building Project – Request for Extension of Time Limits

Mr. DeLarco asked if there is any limit for the number of time extensions? Mr. Prevoznik said the applicant is requesting the extension, since it is to their advantage to grant the Borough additional review time. Otherwise, Borough Council would have no alternative to a deemed approval other than to not approve the plans. Mr. Repsher made a motion, seconded by Mr. Begley, to grant the time extension as requested. The motion carried by a vote of 4-0 with one abstention. Mr. DeLarco stated he is an officer of the East Stroudsburg University Foundation, and therefore abstained from the vote; he will submit a letter in writing for the record.

American Cancer Society – Request for Waiver of Parade Permit Fee for Fundraiser Walk, Saturday October 12, 2013

Mr. Phillips said the Walk will start and end at the ESU campus, but will utilize local Borough roads; but the participants will use the sidewalks. Mr. Flory asked if anyone was present from the Cancer Society to answer questions? Mr. Phillips said our procedures do not require the applicant to attend a council meeting to make their request.

Chief Parrish said the Department could request mutual aid assistance from the ESU Police for this event.

After discussion, Mrs. Wolbert made a motion, seconded by Mr. Begley, to waive the parade permit fee for this event, and to approve the permit subject to the applicant coordinating traffic control with the East Stroudsburg University Police. The motion carried unanimously.

East Stroudsburg University Exercise Science Department – Parade Permit for Fundraiser for Student Travel Programs, Sunday October 27, 2013

Mr. Phillips said this event will also start and end from the ESU campus, but will utilize some Borough streets. After discussion, Mrs. Wolbert made a motion, seconded by Mr. Begley, to waive the parade permit fee for this event, and to approve the permit subject to the applicant coordinating traffic control with the East Stroudsburg University Police. The motion carried unanimously.

SARPD Report

Chief Parrish said he and Lieutenant Kevin Transue met last week with Scott McClaren and Deanna Jones of Liztech, in response to the concerns about the homeless persons on Crystal Street. Information was disseminated on Crime Watch, and future meetings scheduled. Mr. Flory asked Chief Parrish is he was in agreement with removing the benches along Crystal Street, as has been suggested? Chief Parrish replied, not at this point.

Mr. DeLarco said he spoke to Captain Kimmins about the “loitering” issue. Mrs. Wolbert asked about the police response in the form of “disruptive house” reports? Chief Parrish said he is setting up a meeting between his staff and Codes Official Marvin Walton to review the Borough’s ordinance establishing the rental housing licensing program. Mrs. Wolbert said the concern is that many more “disruptions” have occurred than the number of disruptive conduct reports received from the Police. Mr. Prevoznik said the standard in the ordinance is actual disruptive conduct, as witnessed by a police officer.

Public Comments – New Business

William Sidlosky of 10 Emerson Road said he had called the police recently, when about 20 people at a nearby residence were making noise and disrupting the neighborhood at 2 am in the morning. He said he and his wife are constantly having to put up with college students making noise, breaking beer bottles, and parking all along the road where parking is not permitted. Mr. DeLarco told Mr. Sidlosky he needs to call the Police, each time, and anytime when the neighborhood is being disrupted.

John Bradley of Philadelphia, said he is an attorney representing a Northeast PA Landlords Association being formed. Mr. Bradley said he thinks certain provisions of the Borough’s ordinance are unconstitutional. He is “monitoring” the situation in several northeast PA communities, including Wilkes-Barre, Scranton, and Pittston. Mr. DeLarco told Mr. Bradley he is glad that Mr. Bradley heard some of the comments from residents who are experiencing neighborhood problems; and Council would be interested in hearing his constructive comments.

Correspondence

- Mr. Phillips reported receipt of the following items of correspondence:
- i. PA Auditor General Office – Commonwealth Allocation of General Municipal Pension System State Aid received 9/23/13 - \$89,340.24
 - ii. PA Auditor General Office – Commonwealth Allocation of Volunteer Fire Relief Association Aid received 9/23/13 - \$60,568.90
 - iii. PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) – Inspection Report from 9/19/13 waterline repair work on Route 447 – No violations.
 - iv. Pocono Mountains Council of Governments (COG) – Dinner meeting October 28,

2013 at Peppe's Bistro

- v. Jim Andrews – Suggestion to remove bench seats from planters on Crystal Street
- vi. PA Municipal Retirement System (PMRS) – Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Year ended Dec. 31, 2013.
- vii. Redevelopment Authority of Monroe County – Housing Forum to be held Thursday, October 17, 2013.

Reports

Mr. D'Alessandro reviewed his written Engineer's Report previously submitted; and discussed a potential issue with the levee certification work regarding the drainage areas located outside of the levees.

Mr. Flory asked about installation of the flagpole at the new Fire Station?

Mr. Begley reported on the COG meeting he attended last night; and asked about the traffic signal at N. Courtland St. and Rte. 447 South – permitting right turns on red, from say, 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Mr. Begley also commented that maybe the Borough should remove the planters on Crystal Street, so that the homeless persons will not sit there all day.

List of Bills Payable – October 1, 2013

Mr. Flory made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wolbert, to approve the List of Bills Payable and payroll and expenditures made through October 1, 2013 as submitted; the motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

With no further business, Mrs. Wolbert made a motion, seconded by Mr. Flory, to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.; the motion carried unanimously.

James S. Phillips, Secretary