

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING
EAST STROUDSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Bill Reese, Sonia Wolbert, Manager Brian Bond, Don Cross, Maury Molin, Solicitor John C. Prevoznik, Ed Flory, Borough Engineer Russ Scott, Finance Officer Ken Konz, Codes Officer Marv Walton

ABSENT: Roger DeLarco and Mayor Martinelli

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Brian Ace.

February 5, 2019 Minutes

Mr. Bond noted a correction to be made to the February 5, 2019 minutes. The spelling should be changed from “Normandy” to “Normandeu” on page three. A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Mr. Molin, to approve the February 5, 2019 Council Meeting minutes with the noted correction. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing – Ordinance No. 1338

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Mr. Flory to recess the regular meeting and convene a public hearing on Ordinance No. 1338. The motion carried unanimously.

A public hearing for Ordinance No. 1338, Amending Chapter 150 – Vehicles and Traffic, Article III, Parking Regulations, Section 26.3, Borough Parking Lots of the East Stroudsburg Code of Ordinances was led by Mr. Prevoznik. Mr. Walton reported the Zoning Ordinance Review Committee recommended the change. Currently, there is no parking within the borough parking lots from 2:00 am through 7:00 am. The new ordinance would change the enforcement time to no parking in the lots from 2:00 am through 6:30 am. This is the only change of the revised ordinance. Mr. Cross asked what the “special purpose parking zones” refers to that is noted in the code. Mr. Walton advised the “special purpose parking zones” are designated parking areas on the west side of Brodhead Avenue and two lots on Elk Street for parking during church services only, that would otherwise be no parking. Also, one location in front of the Elks Lodge on Washington Street is designated for unloading for handicapped only, and is otherwise a no parking zone. Mr. Walton reiterated these “special purpose parking zones” are not being affected by the ordinance change, only the enforcement times within the borough parking lots.

A motion was made by Mr. Flory and seconded by Mr. Cross to enter exhibits 1 through 5 into evidence and to close the public hearing and reconvene the regular meeting. Ex. 1 - Ex. 1 – Copy of Ordinance, Ex. 2 – Public Notice of Hearing, Ex. 3 – Proof of Publication, Ex. 4 – Transmittal of ordinance to Law Library and Pocono Record, Ex. 5 – Sign In Sheet. The motion was carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Flory and seconded by Mr. Molin to approve Ordinance No. 1338 amending Chapter 150 – Vehicles and Traffic, Article III, Parking Regulations, Section 26.3, Borough Parking Lots of the East Stroudsburg Code of Ordinances, as advertised. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments – Agenda Items

None.

SROSRC

No Report.

Police Report

The January SARPD report was distributed via email. There was not an officer present at tonight’s meeting; everyone was advised to contact Chief Lyon or Captain Gasper at SARPD if there were any questions or police issues.

East Stroudsburg Community Alliance

No Report.

Engineer's Report

The Engineer's Report was distributed.

Middle Dam and New water Supply Intake Line

Mr. Scott reported the budget for the Middle Dam project was provided. The Borough received PennVest funding of \$2,416,000.00 towards the project, an LSA Grant for \$822,000.00, an H2O grant for \$650,484.00 and the balance of \$5,078,316.00 will be funded by the Borough, for a total project cost of \$8,060,800.00. This project is for improvements to the old and outdated dam and to replace waterlines to meet DEP and EPA requirements. Mr. Cross asked how long the project is anticipated to take. Mr. Scott advised it is a very large job and estimates it will take about 18 months to complete.

A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Mr. Molin to approve the RKR Hess Construction Administration and Observations agreement. The motion carried unanimously.

Willow Street Utility, Drainage and Road Improvements

Mr. Scott reported that Northeast Site Contractors has submitted Payment Request No. 4 in the amount of \$26,330.92 for work performed for the period ending January 31, 2019. RKR Hess has reviewed the application and recommended the approval of Payment Request No. 4.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Mr. Flory to approve Payment Request No. 4 in the amount of \$26,330.92 for work performed for the period ending January 31, 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

ESU Information Commons – Revised Application

Mr. Bond requested authorization for Council to sign and record, if necessary, the Joinder Deed Plan prior to signing and recording the Final Land Development Plan.

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. Molin to authorize Council to sign and record, if necessary, the Joinder Deed Plan prior to signing and recording the Final Land Development Plan. The motion carried unanimously.

Veteran's Park Update

Mr. Molin introduced Joe Strasser, a current ESU Student who is with the ESU Veteran's Club. Mr. Strasser served in the Army and is also a graduate of East Stroudsburg South High School. He will begin to work on a 3-D model of Veteran's Park to show the anticipated improvements and will make arrangements with Mr. Flory to review the plans. Mr. Strasser confirmed with council and the Veteran's Park committee that any volunteers who Mr. Strasser brings will receive community service hours. He asked what date he can tell the student senate to plan on working on the park, to which Mr. Flory responded Mid-April to the beginning of May, depending on the weather. Mr. Strasser noted the volunteers will continue with maintenance of the park, as well as litter pick-up as needed. Mr. Reese thanked Mr. Strasser for attending the meeting and for his service, past and present.

Public Comments – New Business

Laura Kessler asked if the Borough could start hanging banners again to advertise non-profit organizations' events. Mr. Bond advised there are too many regulations to meet in order to receive a PennDot highway occupancy permit, and with ADA sidewalk guidelines. When asked if there are any other options, Mr. Bond said from building to building across Crystal Street, but because of liability and insurance reasons, property owners do not want to get involved. Mr. Molin stated the Eagle Scout kiosk at the corner of Crystal and Analomink Streets might be a good spot to post upcoming events.

Ms. Kessler asked if any letters were sent to Senator Scavello's office yet regarding the plastic straw and bag ban. Mr. Bond advised that will be addressed to Pennsylvania Municipal League in the fall.

Ms. Kessler asked if there are any other venues besides the Pocono Record to advertise borough events and ordinance changes. Mr. Prevoznik advised it is Pennsylvania state law to publish certain borough business in a local newspaper. Mr. Flory stated our website is updated. Ms. Wolbert added someone would constantly need to manage and monitor any type of borough social media. Ms. Kessler suggested a volunteer from the university could manage it. Mr. Bond said any type of posts to social media would have to get approved by council and it would be hard to do that on a regular basis to keep social media updated.

Reports

The Fire Chief's report was distributed via email.

The DPW Reports were distributed via email.

Marv Walton:

The Permits, Violations, Inspections, and Parking Enforcement Reports were distributed via email. Mr. Walton reported everything is going well with the ticketing for property maintenance violations; tickets are being issued. Mr. Flory said he still sees a lot of trash cans out when they shouldn't be. Mr. Walton responded that a lot of residents already received tickets for that violation and our enforcement officers will continue to issue tickets.

Ken Konz:

Mr. Konz reported on the savings incurred by East Stroudsburg Borough through the installation of the Basic Power Unit in the Sewer Plant as well as at the Municipal Building. The results of the energy savings device within the Municipal Building are difficult to gauge. Based on the electric bill analysis the expenses actually increased over the base amount in 2007 by an average of 28% per year. A portion of this can be attributed to rate increases by Med-Ed over the years. In addition, the climate has been colder in recent years triggering an increase. Based on the information accumulated, it does not appear that the installation of the energy saving device by EBU has derived any cost savings. However, results were different at the Sewer Plant. Based on the electric bill analysis, expenses decreased over the base amount in 2015 by an average of 16.3% per year which amounts to a savings for the Borough of \$43,630 over a three-year period. Brian Ace added that not only does the unit result in monetary savings, but also provides better power. He explained the unit "cleans" the dirty power coming into the plant, providing "clean" power for the machines and operations at the plant. The clean power makes a noticeable difference in the way the machines and blowers run, and the breakdowns and maintenance issues with the equipment has decreased since installing the energy saving apparatus. In conclusion, the overall results of the installation of energy saving have rendered positive results for East Stroudsburg Borough.

Mayor Armand Martinelli:

Absent.

Roger DeLarco:

Absent.

Sonia Wolbert:

No Report.

Don Cross:

No Report.

Maury Molin:

No Report.

Bill Reese:

No Report.

Ed Flory:

No Report.

Solicitor John Prevoznik, Esq:

Mr. Prevoznik has items for executive session.

Manager's Report:

Mr. Bond reported the request from JTL Intermediate School for permission to use the pond on Terra Greens, next to the bus parking lot, for the school fishing club, which is for their disabled students.

A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Mr. Flory to approve the request from JTL Intermediate School for permission to use the pond on Terra Greens, next to the bus parking lot, for the school fishing club, contingent upon providing proof of insurance. The motion carried unanimously.

Bills Payable

Due to extenuating circumstances, there were no bills payable at this meeting.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Mr. Flory and seconded by Ms. Wolbert to go into Executive Session at 7:47 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Mr. Cross to reconvene the meeting at 8:07 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Prevoznik reported that contractual matters were discussed regarding Kimco and is pending in negotiations.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Wolbert to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, March 5, 2019; 7:00 p.m.