

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING
EAST STROUDSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
TUESDAY APRIL 21, 2020 -7:15 p.m.

To meet the requirements established by the Office of Open records for virtual meetings, this meeting was recorded with audio and video via Publicinput.com/Webex from the initial announcement of the meeting till its end with the exception of executive session, if any, which shall not be recorded.

VIRTUALLY PRESENT: Roger DeLarco, Carrie Panepinto, Manager Brian Bond, Borough Engineer Nate Oiler, Maury Molin, Finance Director Ken Konz and Zoning Officer Marv Walton

PRESENT (at Municipal Building due to technical difficulties): Bill Reese, Mayor Martinelli, Sonia Wolbert, Don Cross and Solicitor John Prevoznik

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Executive Session

Executive Session was held virtually prior to the start of the regular meeting, from 6:45 p.m. – 7:10 p.m.; three personnel issues, and property acquisition regarding the Eagle Valley Pump Station were discussed and no decisions were made.

April 7, 2020 Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Ms. Panepinto, to approve the April 7, 2020 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments – Agenda Items

None.

SROSRC

The Community center is closed and all staff has been furloughed except the Executive Director who is at half her salary, waiting for Governor's orders to reopen.

Veterans Park

Once the Governor's orders are lifted, the fence at Veteran's Park will be painted.

150th Anniversary

The 150th Anniversary of the Borough of East Stroudsburg has been postponed until 2021.

Police Report

Chief Lyon reported that several safety measures have been put into place within the police department to protect staff and the public. All major, violent crimes have decreased more than 50% and car accidents have decreased more than 40%. There has been a rise in simple assault and retail theft. Domestic violence cases have increased by more than 200%. The entire force is working, but with altered hours to protect the staff.

East Stroudsburg Community Alliance

ECA has suspended all meetings until further notice.

Engineer's Report

The Engineer's Report was distributed.

2019 Street Paving Projects: Elizabeth and Vine Streets

Mr. Oiler reported the request for approval of the final project payment to Gaver Industries, Inc. dba Barker & Barker in the amount of \$11,405.39 as recommended by RKR Hess.

A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Ms. Wolbert to approve the final project payment to Gaver Industries, Inc. dba Barker & Barker in the amount of \$11,405.39 as recommended by RKR Hess. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Oiler reported the MS4 permit was issued in March 2020, and asked Mr. Bond to look for the permit.

Public Comments – New Business

A resident asked why the borough is penalizing its citizens for having extra garbage. They either have to pay for garbage bags for extra trash each week, or they receive fines for protruding garbage in their cans, and suggested the borough provides garbage bags to residents at no cost during this time. Mr. Prevoznik stated this will be a fiscal impact for a temporary time. The borough does not make a profit on garbage bags and we cannot give away bags. Mr. Bond added the borough is currently projected to lose \$90,000.00 per quarter and cannot afford to lose any more. Also, the sale of extra bags has increased by 11% in the past two weeks.

A motion was made by Mr. DeLarco and seconded by Mr. Molin to authorize the Borough Manager to review the issue of handling additional garbage bags and report back to council with a proposal, including a solution, and communicate to the residents that this is an ongoing issue and it will be addressed next meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. DeLarco and seconded by Mr. Molin to allow the Borough Manager to devise a procedure that residents can purchase bags via the website and/or mail and delivery through mail after payment is received. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. DeLarco suggested to Mr. Bond to explore the options and determine if it is worth it and if it is possible.

Reports:

Public Works:

The DPW report was distributed.

Fire Chief's Report:

The Fire Chief's Report was distributed.

Marv Walton:

The Permits, Violations, Inspections and Parking Enforcement Reports were distributed.

Ken Konz:

The March 2020 Borough Financial Statements were distributed.

2019 Annual Financial Audit – BBD is in the process of conducting the annual audit of the Borough Financial Statements. The Borough staff continues to provide answers to all questions as well as supply documents to the auditors on a timely basis. The review is expected to

continue for the next several weeks. BBD has not heard from PRMS, due to this, the pension section of the audit will be delayed.

Mayor Armand Martinelli:

No Report.

Sonia Wolbert:

Ms. Wolbert has received questions from residents regarding the extension of utility payments. Water and Sewer payments are due May 5, 2020. Any payments received after May 5, 2020 are subject to the late fee penalty. Garbage payments are due June 8, 2020 before late fees are imposed. To receive the 8% discount for garbage, payments must be received in full by May 5, 2020.

Don Cross:

Mr. Cross asked the status of the tree trimming and site distance issue at East Broad and Lackawanna intersection. Mr. Bond advised we need to trim some bushes there.

Maury Molin:

Mr. Molin requested that Borough Council send a letter to Dr. Marsha Welsh, congratulating her on her retirement, and a letter to Ken Long, congratulating him on his appointment as interim President of East Stroudsburg University.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Wolbert to authorize the Borough Manager to send congratulatory letters to both, Marsha Welsh, and Ken Long. The motion carried unanimously.

Roger DeLarco:

Mr. DeLarco stated an Audit Committee Meeting and a Collections Committee Meeting will be held next week. Mr. Bond will reach out to arrange the meetings and organize them via Webex.

Carrie Panepinto:

Ms. Panepinto stated she is receiving questions from residents about the parks being closed but the Levee Loop remains open. She requested the Borough clarifies to the public that the parks are closed in order to practice social distancing and the levee loop is open because it can be used while safely practicing social distancing. Mr. DeLarco asked if the police can enforce the closure of the parks. Chief Lyon advised it is a problem everywhere. They can remove people for trespassing, but they can only suggest the practice of social distancing.

A motion was made by Ms. Panepinto and seconded by Mr. Molin to post on the borough's website that the Levee Loop runs through three different municipalities with multiple entry points, therefore is hard to close the levee loop, however, the parks are closed because of social distancing. The motion carried unanimously.

Solicitor John Prevoznik

No Report.

Manager's Report

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Wolbert to allow Mike Stettler to remain on the Borough Health Care Plan through June 30, 2020, as per the amendment by PMHIC

allowing furloughed personnel to remain on the Borough's Health Care Plan. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. DeLarco and seconded by Ms. Wolbert to approve the order presented by the Borough Manager on the Personnel Use Policy, regarding the Borough Manager and the Acting Director of Public Works, as distributed. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Panepinto and seconded by Mr. Cross to accept the letter of resignation of Anita Einolf. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Wolbert asked who will be performing health inspections after April 24. Mr. Bond advised we can use a gentleman from the Department of Health, or the inspector that Stroudsburg Borough uses.

A motion was made by Mr. DeLarco and seconded by Ms. Wolbert to authorize the Borough Manager to hire a health inspector for use after April 24, 2020, based on criteria and their license, as a temporary, qualified Health Inspector until further replacement can be found, not to exceed \$20.00 per hour. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. DeLarco and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to approve the advertising for the position of Assistant Codes/Health Officer, with a salary based on experience. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Walton added the Assistant Codes position and the Health Officer position are two separate positions, and may require two different people to fulfil them. Mr. Reese advised Mr. Walton's suggestion will be taken into consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. DeLarco and seconded by Mr. Molin to advertise Borough Council Meeting by Virtual/Telephonic means and available for public participation via Publicinput.com/Webex as per the regular scheduled times and dates. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Wolbert to authorize the advertising for the Director of Public Works position that is a licensed engineer as recommended by the Personnel Committee, with a salary based on experience. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Mr. Cross to advertise and set a public hearing amending Chapter 126 of the Code of the Borough of East Stroudsburg entitled Sewers in order to provide for an administrative extension of wastewater discharge permits issued pursuant to Ordinance No. 966 for Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at 7:20 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Bill Reese:

Mr. Reese reported the Personnel Committee will meet Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. as there are a number of issues to discuss.

Bills Payable

A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Ms. Wolbert to ratify bills payable through April 21, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. Cross at 9:09 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 @ 7:15 p.m.

