

MINUTES FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 21, 2020
EAST STROUDSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
TUESDAY JULY 28, 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. It was also noted that the Borough posted on its Website and on the Municipal Building the notice of the continuance of the July 21, 2020 meeting to a time and date certain, specifically, July 28, 2020, at 7:15 p.m., in accordance with legal requirements.

VIRTUALLY PRESENT: Borough Manager Brian Bond, Borough Engineer Russ Scott, and Zoning Officer Marv Walton

PRESENT AT MUNICIPAL BUILDING: Roger DeLarco, Maury Molin, Carrie Panepinto, Sonia Wolbert, Bill Reese, Solicitor John Prevoznik, and Public Works Director Brian Ace

ABSENT: Don Cross, Mayor Martinelli, Ken Konz

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tracy Granger.

Executive Session

The Solicitor announced that there was no executive session.

Public Comments – Agenda Items

None.

Public Comments – New Business

None.

Reports:

Marv Walton:

Mr. Walton requested authorization to advertise and set a public hearing for Ordinance 1369, Amending Chapter 157 – Zoning, 157-100.8, Wireless Telecommunications for Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 7:20 p.m. at the Municipal Building, and refer the proposed ordinance to the Monroe County Planning Commission and the East Stroudsburg Borough Planning Commission, as recommended by ZORC.

A motion was made by Mr. DeLarco and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to advertise and set a public hearing for Ordinance 1369, Amending Chapter 157 – Zoning, 157-100.8, Wireless Telecommunications for Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 7:20 p.m. at the Municipal Building, and refer the proposed ordinance to the Monroe County Planning Commission and the East Stroudsburg Borough Planning Commission, as recommended by ZORC. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Armand Martinelli:

Absent.

Roger DeLarco:

A motion was made by Mr. DeLarco and seconded by Mr. Molin to direct the Borough Manager

to send letters to Senator Scavello, Representative Madden and Governor Wolf and the appropriate Federal Representatives to inquire about funding for municipalities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The motion carried unanimously.

Don Cross: Absent

Maury Molin: No Report.

Sonia Wolbert:

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. Molin to hold off on any new hires until the finances of the Borough are more stable, as recommended by the Finance Committee and the Personnel Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

Carrie Panepinto:

No Report.

Manager's Report

Mr. Bond requested approval of Resolution 9-2020, approving the request from the BCRA to acquire through purchase or eminent domain the entire property, together with all buildings erected thereon and all other property rights attendant thereto, bearing Tax Parcel No. 05-6/1/1/8, located along Business Route 209, Milford Road, Borough of East Stroudsburg, and as more fully described in deed recorded in Monroe County Record Book 2030, Page 9440.

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. Molin to approve Resolution 9-2020, approving the request from the BCRA to acquire through purchase or eminent domain the entire property, together with all buildings erected thereon and all other property rights attendant thereto, bearing Tax Parcel No. 05-6/1/1/8, located along Business Route 209, Milford Road, Borough of East Stroudsburg, and as more fully described in deed recorded in Monroe County Record Book 2030, Page 9440. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bond requested authorization to advertise and set a public hearing for Ordinance 1370, amending Chapter 154, Water, of the codified ordinances of the Borough of East Stroudsburg and amending its Schedule of Rates for Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 7:25 p.m. at the Municipal Building. Mr. Scott advised that he has met with Mr. Konz, Mr. Prevoznik, and Mr. Bond to review the water and sewer revenue, and based on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the water rate structure has been revised on the proposed ordinance to include an increase of 3% per kiloliter. Mr. Scott reviewed the Ordinance in its entirety and explained that there would be a 30 month freeze on the recalculation of EBU's after the August 31, 2020 annual recalculation. Commercial users would have the right to a one-time appeal based on six months of data in order to reduce the EBU calculation. The Ordinance amendment carries over the requirement that if the EBU reduction is granted, there would be a commensurate loss of EDU's as well. The EDU's would have to be repurchased if flows subsequently increased. Mr. Scott also explained that the rate increase is the first phase of what was contemplated to be a series of phases of rate increases to assist in offsetting the substantial cost of infrastructure improvements.

A motion was made by Ms. Panepinto and seconded by Mr. Molin to advertise and set a public hearing for Ordinance 1370, amending Chapter 154, Water, of the codified ordinances of the Borough of East Stroudsburg and amending its Schedule of Rates for Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 7:25 p.m. at the Municipal Building. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bond requested authorization to advertise and set a public hearing for Ordinance 1371, amending Chapter 126, Sewers, of the codified ordinances of the Borough of East Stroudsburg for Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building. Mr. Prevoznik explained that the amendment to Chapter 126, Sewers, mirrored the amendment to Chapter 154, Water, as explained by Mr. Scott except that proposed Ordinance No. 1371 applied to the sewer provisions. Mr. Prevoznik explained further that there was no rate increase being sought in this proposed Ordinance.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Wolbert to advertise and set a public hearing for Ordinance 1371, amending Chapter 126, Sewers, of the codified ordinances of the Borough of East Stroudsburg for Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bond requested authorization to request a proposal from Chris Gibbons for restructuring/consolidating Borough debt and a line of credit.

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to authorize the Borough Manager to request a proposal from Chris Gibbons for restructuring/consolidating Borough debt and a line of credit. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bond requested approval of a Personnel Travel/Vacation Policy for COVID-19. Ms. Wolbert asked how the positions are determined to be eligible to telework. Mr. Bond stated the following positions are able to telework: Zoning Officer, Human Resources, Finance Director, Borough Manager, and the Utility Billing Coordinator.

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. Molin to table the request to approve a Personnel Travel/Vacation Policy for COVID-19 and refer the policy to the Personnel Committee for review. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bond requested authorization to apply for an LSA Grant to provide funding for replacement of all water meters and an AMI system.

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. DeLarco to approve the request of the Borough Manager to apply for an LSA Grant to provide funding for replacement of all water meters and an AMI system. The motion carried unanimously.

Bill Reese

Mr. Reese reported a Town & Gown was held on July 22, 2020 which included Mr. Reese, Ms. Wolbert, Mr. Molin as well as ESU President Walsh, Ken Long, and other representatives from ESU. They discussed recent challenges, community concerns and collaborations, and ESU fall updates. President Walsh's last day is July 31, 2020 and Ken Long will become the interim President while they actively search for a new president. Minsi Hall at ESU will become a quarantine hall if needed, as some students are returning in some capacity. Koehler Field House is maintaining their air conditioning provided by FEMA, in the event the facility is needed again for a temporary hospital.

Solicitor John Prevoznik

Mr. Prevoznik requested authorization for the Chair of Council to execute a repayment agreement with Brian Bond, which states the employee will attend certain training courses and the Borough will incur the costs of paying for such courses, and the employee is obligated to not voluntarily leave or terminate his employ with the Borough until three years after the completing of each such class or training session, otherwise the employee agrees to repay the Borough the cost of such training courses in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. Molin to authorize the Chair of Council to execute a repayment agreement with Brian Bond, which states the employee will attend certain training courses and the Borough will incur the costs of paying for such courses, and the employee is obligated to not voluntarily leave or terminate his employ with the Borough until three years after the completing of each such class or training session, otherwise the employee agrees to repay the Borough the cost of such training courses in accordance with the terms of the agreement. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. DeLarco adjourn at 8:06 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 @ 7:15 p.m. in person at the East Stroudsburg Borough Municipal Building and via virtual/telephonic means.