

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING  
EAST STROUDSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL  
TUESDAY MARCH 16, 2021 - 7:15 p.m.

PRESENT IN PERSON: William T. Reese; Sonia Wolbert; Maury Molin; Carrie Panepinto; Don Cross; Roger DeLarco; Borough Manager Brian Bond. Also present were: Solicitor John Prevoznik; Zoning Officer Marv Walton; Public Works Director Brian Ace; and Borough Engineer Russ Scott  
VIRTUALLY PRESENT; Mayor Armand Martinelli

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Solicitor's Report on Executive Session**

The Solicitor reported that an Executive Session was held on March 16, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., prior to the start of the Council Meeting. The Solicitor reported that all Council members were present, and Mayor Martinelli was absent. Mr. Bond was not in attendance. The Borough Manager's performance and annual evaluation were discussed; no decisions were made. Executive Session ended at 7:14 p.m.

**March 2, 2021 Council Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2021 council meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comments – Agenda Items**

None.

**SROSRC Report:**

No Report.

**Veterans Park:**

Mr. Reese requested approval to ratify the submission of a Lowe's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Hometowns grant application for improvements to Veterans Park.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Wolbert to ratify the submission of a Lowe's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Hometowns grant application for improvements to Veterans Park. The motion carried unanimously.

**150<sup>th</sup> Update:**

The next committee meeting is Thursday, March 25 2021, at 5:00 p.m. in the Borough Council Chambers, and via Webex.

**Police Report:**

The SARPD report was distributed via email. Captain Gasper was in attendance to answer any questions from Council and members of the public. Mr. Molin expressed his concerns with skateboarders and bikers in the Stroudsburg area who ride against the flow of traffic, creating a dangerous situation. He asked Captain Gasper to express his concerns to Stroudsburg Borough. Captain Gasper advised SARPD has received calls and are aware of this activity, and the officers do the best they can to respond and enforce. Mr. Molin asked if there were any incidents during the Christian Hall March held on Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. Captain Gasper reported about 100 people

attended and the event was another great example of a peaceful protest in our area. Mr. Reese commended all police officers and acknowledged the daily acts of heroism by the police all over the nation.

**East Stroudsburg Community Alliance:**

Ms. Wolbert reported the ECA board met last week and hope to start events again this summer.

**Engineer's Report:**

The Engineer's report was distributed.

**North Green Street Paving Project**

Mr. Scott requested authorization for RKR Hess to proceed with advertising bids for the North Green Street Paving CDBG project upon completion of bid plans, bid documents, and approval by the Solicitor and Borough Manager.

A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Mr. Molin to authorize RKR Hess to proceed with advertising bids for the North Green Street Paving CDBG project upon completion of bid plans, bid documents, and approval by the Solicitor and Borough Manager. The motion carried unanimously.

**Middle Dam Rehabilitation Project**

Mr. Scott requested approval to execute the contract and issue the Final Award Notice to Pioneer Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of \$4,898,337.25, contingent upon favorable review of documents by the Borough Manager and Solicitor.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to approve execution of the contract and issue the Final Award Notice to Pioneer Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of \$4,898,337.25, contingent upon favorable review of documents by the Borough Manager and Solicitor.

**ESU Ridgeway Utility Project**

Mr. Scott reported that East Stroudsburg University (ESU) has proposed an underground utility project and improvements to Ridgeway Street, which includes widening the walkways, adding lights and removing utility poles. ESU has requested copies of the design drawings that RKR Hess provided to the Borough of East Stroudsburg about ten years ago for a water and sewer project in that area. Mr. Scott explained that RKR Hess is asking for the Borough's consent to share these drawings with ESU, and assured Council that the Borough would not be billed for anything pertaining to the release of the documents or this project. Mr. Prevoznik clarified that if the Borough does not have any objections to sharing the drawings, the formalities regarding how the drawings are used and their accuracy are solely between RKR Hess and ESU, not the Borough. Mr. Scott confirmed that Mr. Prevoznik's statement was true. Mr. Prevoznik also added that the Borough should request, in exchange for the use of these utility plans, that ESU release the newly developed utility plans once complete for the area in which they are being revised.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Mr. Cross to authorize RKR Hess to release the design drawings and record plans for the Ridgeway Street water and sewer project completed ten years ago, conditioned upon ESU sharing the utility plans they develop for that area, prior to

going to construction and ESU acknowledging that the Borough is not responsible for the accuracy or the content of the shared utility plans. The motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comments – New Business**

None.

**Reports:**

**Brian Ace/Public Works:**

The DPW report was distributed via email. No questions were asked.

**Marv Walton:**

Mr. Walton's reports were distributed via email. No questions were asked.

**940 Holdings, LLC., 268 Washington Street**

The Borough recently approved the Land Development Plan for 940 Holdings, LLC., and Mr. Walton requested the Borough withdraw the two appeals that were filed prior to the approval of the plan.

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. Molin to withdraw the zoning appeal, in regard to the issuance of zoning permits, for 940 Holdings, LLC. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. Molin to withdraw the UCC appeal, in regard to the UCC construction permits, for 940 Holdings, LLC. The motion carried unanimously.

**Finance:**

The financial reports were distributed via email.

**Mayor Armand Martinelli:**

Mr. Martinelli asked the status of his request in regard to an ordinance for dirt on our roadways. Mr. Prevoznik advised Mr. Oiler of RKR Hess is currently working on a smaller storm water ordinance that would include projects that do not necessarily require an NPDES permit.

**Sonia Wolbert:**

No Report.

**Don Cross:**

Mr. Cross requested the status of paving Chestnut Street between First and Second Streets, that was listed on the proposed paving schedule for 2021. Mr. Bond advised the Borough did not have the cash flow to pave that area of Chestnut Street, and the only paving in the Borough for 2021 will be North Green Street and East Fifth Street.

**Maury Molin:**

Mr. Molin reported the receipt of a letter from a constituent and provided a copy to Mr. Reese, Mr. Bond, and Mr. Walton. The letter expresses concerns of a blighted property on Fulton Street and other issues regarding this property. Mr. Molin added that this citizen has attempted to work with his neighbor to no avail. Mr. Walton advised he will look into this matter and also

encourages residents to report issues to the Borough in a timely manner instead of waiting for a potentially dangerous dispute to arise.

Mr. Molin expressed his concerns about pedestrian safety on Crystal Street since there is more traffic and more pedestrians in this area, especially with the restaurants and new businesses on this street. Mr. Molin requested the Borough Manager contact TPD for an RFP to conduct a pedestrian safety study of the Crystal Street business area.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Mr. Cross to authorize the Borough Manager to contact TPD for an RFP to conduct a pedestrian safety study of the Crystal Street Business Area. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Martinelli asked if a Borough-wide pedestrian study could be performed, not just the Crystal Street business area. Mr. Bond suggested the study for the Crystal Street business area be requested first, and then request adding a Borough-wide pedestrian safety study to be incorporated with the traffic and parking study that has already been approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Mr. DeLarco to authorize the Borough Manager to contact TPD to include a Borough-wide pedestrian safety study in the overall Borough traffic and parking study which has previously been approved. The motion carried unanimously.

**Roger DeLarco:**

No Report.

**Carrie Panepinto:**

Ms. Panepinto reported concerns of roosters and chickens near Grand Street and asked Mr. Walton if they are allowed to be there. Mr. Walton said they are allowed, as long as they comply with all the sections of the ordinance.

Ms. Panepinto reported a school bus parked in a private driveway and asked if there are any restrictions. Mr. Walton advised as long as the vehicle is licensed and insured, it is okay to be parked in a private driveway. Mr. Walton will look into this matter.

**Solicitor John Prevoznik, Esq.:**

No Report.

**Manager's Report:**

Mr. Bond requested approval to ratify the activation of the Borough Credit Card issued to the Borough Manager for the purpose of advertising open positions and purchases with a maximum of \$5,000.00 as per the Borough Credit Card Policy.

A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to ratify the activation of the Borough Credit Card issued to the Borough Manager for the purpose of advertising open positions and purchases with a maximum of \$5,000.00 as per the Borough Credit Card Policy. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bond requested authorization for the Council President, Vice President, and Borough Manager to take any and all action to close on the 2021 General Obligation Note in the amount of \$3,050,000.00, with a tentative closing date of March 31, 2021.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to authorize the Council President, Vice President, and Borough Manager to take any and all action to close on the 2021 General Obligation Note in the amount of \$3,050,000.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bond requested the approval of a letter of resignation from Gary Serfass, part-time parking enforcement officer, effective Thursday, March 18, 2021.

A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Mr. Molin to accept the letter of resignation from Gary Serfass, effective Thursday, March 18, 2021. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bond requested approval to hire Leo Yanovich as a part-time seasonal pro shop attendant at the hourly rate of \$10.50 per hour.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Mr. Cross to approve hiring Leo Yanovich as a part-time seasonal pro shop attendant at the hourly rate of \$10.50 per hour. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bond requested approval to increase the salary range of the Golf Course Maintenance Supervisor to a range of \$16.00 to \$28.00 per hour, as recommended by the Golf, Personnel, and Finance Committees.

A motion was made by Ms. Panepinto and seconded by Mr. Molin to approve the salary range increase of \$16.00 to \$28.00 per hour, as recommended by the Golf, Personnel, and Finance Committees. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bond reported the request from the resident at 494 Chestnut Street to remove the handicapped parking space located in front of the residence. The resident that requested this space no longer resides at this address.

A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to approve the request to remove the handicapped parking space located in front of 494 Chestnut Street. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Bill Reese:**

Mr. Reese reported there is a Personnel Committee Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 17 at 4:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building.

#### **Approval of Warrant List 210316**

A motion was made by Ms. Panepinto and seconded by Mr. Molin to approve Warrant List 210316, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Mr. Cross to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, April 6, 2021, @ 7:15 p.m. in person at the East Stroudsburg Borough Municipal Building and virtually on Facebook on the East Stroudsburg Virtual Meeting page.