

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING  
EAST STROUDSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL  
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 - 7:15 p.m.

PRESENT IN PERSON: William T. Reese; Carrie Panepinto; Maury Molin; Sonia Wolbert; 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 September 21, 2021 starting at 6:47 p.m., prior to the start of the Council meeting. All members of Council were present; Mayor Martinelli was absent. The following matters were discussed: Strategy on an appeal to a Zoning Hearing Board matter, and a personnel matter. Executive Session ended at 7:17 p.m. No decisions were made.

**September 7, 2021 Council Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Mr. Molin to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2021 Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

**Golf Course Discussion**

Ms. Wolbert asked the status of the golf cart lease or purchase contract. Mr. Bond advised that the contract for leasing the carts was reviewed and he decided that the Borough should not pursue the lease option. The purchase agreement for 24 golf carts was provided to Council in the agenda packet. Mr. Prevoznik noted that he was not provided with this information and, therefore, was not able to review it prior to the meeting. Mr. Bond stated that, under the purchase agreement, the Borough would be responsible for maintenance of the golf carts. Ms. Wolbert expressed her concern with the payment of the carts. The original plan that was presented to Council was to lease the carts. The Borough would have received money from the golf carts that would have been traded in and that money would have been put towards the purchase of necessary equipment for the golf course. Mr. Bond explained that if the Borough purchased the 24 carts, the trade-in value would be deducted from the invoice and the Borough would be responsible for \$66,960.00. Mr. Bond advised that the golf course has five carts which are currently out of service. He noted that on a busy day, if there is not a full fleet of carts the course loses revenue. Mr. Bond also noted that the golf course still needs lawn maintenance equipment (a fairway mower, a spreader, a roller, and an aerator). Mr. Prevoznik added that the purchase agreement requires that the carts that are being traded in must be in running condition and be able to get on the truck at the time of pick up to be eligible for a refund. In addition, the agreement states that the carts being returned will be inspected and any damage above normal wear and tear will be documented and billed to the Borough. Mr. Prevoznik stated that based on the contract, it was difficult to say how much the refund will be on the old golf carts.

A motion was made by Mr. DeLarco and seconded by Mr. Molin to table the motion to purchase 24 Yamaha Drive 2 EFI Golf Carts under Sourcewell Contract Nos. 051717-YGC for the total price of \$66,960.00 after trade in of the 24 current golf carts until a meeting scheduled for September 29, 2021 at 5:15 p.m., to allow further review by the Finance Committee and Council.

The motion carried 5-1 (Yea: Ms. Wolbert, Ms. Panepinto, Mr. Molin, Mr. Cross, Mr. DeLarco; Nay: Mr. Reese).

**Public Comments – Agenda Items**

Gary Walck, of Fulton Street, commented on the discussion golf cart purchase. Mr. Walck believes it is a lot of money to spend on 24 golf carts and mentioned that the course is small enough to walk it. Even though the course has started to make profit, he is concerned about the future of the golf course due to the amount of money the golf course has lost in the past. He asked since the Borough is not purchasing a maintenance agreement with the carts, is there someone on staff who can perform the required maintenance of these carts. Mr. Reese stated that the superintendent of the course has experience in maintaining golf carts.

**SROSRC Report:**

No report.

**Veterans Park:**

Mr. Reese advised that the Veterans Park Committee will take over the Hometown Hero Banners program. A date for the next committee meeting will be determined. The committee requested the Borough Manager to send an email to Giant to inquire about the status of the grant application. The Monroe County Commissioners approved the Borough's request for funds towards the sidewalk improvements within Veterans Park. A check will be sent to the Borough in the amount of \$11,100.00.

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

The next committee meeting is scheduled for September 30, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. The closing ceremony will be held Sunday, October 17, 2021 at the Elks Lodge on Washington Street.

**IBW Update:**

Mr. Bond advised he is currently working with Mr. Oiler on the demolition specs for bid documents.

**Police Report:**

The SARPD report was distributed via email. Captain Gasper announced that the SARPD hired a new officer. A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Mr. Cross to accept the SARPD report as presented.

**East Stroudsburg Community Alliance (ECA):**

Ms. Wolbert reported that the ECA has requested approval to close Crystal Street on December 3, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. for an ECA holiday event.

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. Molin to authorize the closing of Crystal Street on December 3, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. for an ECA holiday event. The motion carried unanimously.

**Engineer's Report:**

The Engineer's report was distributed. A copy of the report is attached to the Minutes.

**Interstate 80 Exit 308 Realignment Project – Utility Impacts**

Mr. Oiler requested approval of Resolution 22-2021, granting an easement to Met-Ed to relocate overhead and underground electrical facilities in the Borough's right of way and accepting a Borough easement on Met-Ed property for the Exit 308 project.

A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to approve Resolution 22-2021 which Resolution authorizes the grant of an easement to Met-Ed to relocate overhead and underground electrical facilities in the Borough's right of way and authorizes the Borough to accept an easement from Met-Ed for its utility mains which need to be relocated as a result of the Exit 308 project. The motion carried unanimously.

**Green Valley Apartments**

Mr. Oiler requested authorization to approve the escrow request for \$375,576.25, as recommended by RKR Hess.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Wolbert to approve the escrow release request in the amount of \$375,576.25, as recommended by RKR Hess. The motion carried unanimously.

**MS4**

Mr. Oiler requested authorization to submit the MS4 report prepared by RKR Hess and Borough Staff.

A motion was made by Ms. Panepinto and seconded by Mr. Cross to authorize submission of the MS4 report prepared by RKR Hess and Borough Staff. The motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comments – New Business**

None.

**Reports:**

**Brian Ace/Public Works:**

The DPW report was distributed via email. A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. Molin to accept the DPW reports as presented. The motion carried unanimously. A copy of the report is attached to the Minutes.

**Zoning/Codes:**

The Zoning/Codes reports were distributed via email. A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to accept the Zoning/Codes reports as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Copies of the reports are attached to the Minutes.

**Finance:**

The financial reports were distributed via email. A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. Molin to accept the financial reports as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Copies of the reports are attached to the Minutes.

**Mayor Armand Martinelli:**

Mayor Martinelli commended the officers of SARPD for their enforcement efforts at parties in the Borough.

**Sonia Wolbert:**

No report.

**Don Cross:**

No report.

**Maury Molin:**

Mr. Molin reported that Clean Up the Poconos is Saturday, September 25, 2021.

Mr. Molin reported that there is a vacancy open to community members on the Naming Committee. Anyone interested in becoming part of the committee can reach out to Mr. Molin.

**Roger DeLarco:**

No report.

**Carrie Panepinto:**

No report.

**Solicitor John Prevoznik, Esq.:**

Mr. Prevoznik asked Mr. Bond and Mr. Walton if any communication was had with the representatives of the former Armory property. Mr. Prevoznik suggested Mr. Bond contact the lawyer who is representing the property owners for a status update.

**Manager's Report:**

Mr. Bond reported the request from Habitat for Humanity for a donation of a round of golf for two with cart for a fundraising event on September 24, 2021.

A motion was made by Ms. Panepinto and seconded by Mr. Molin to approve the request from Habitat for Humanity for a donation of a round of golf for two with cart for a fundraising event on September 24, 2021. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bond requested approval of the 2022 Non-Uniform Defined Contribution MMO in the amount of \$38,245.00.

A motion was made by Ms. Panepinto and seconded by Mr. Cross to approve the 2022 Non-Uniform Defined Contribution MMO in the amount of \$38,245.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bond requested approval of the 2022 Non-Uniform Defined Benefit MMO in the amount of \$179,223.00.

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. Molin to approve the 2022 Non-Uniform Defined Benefit MMO in the amount of \$179,223.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bond reported the request from the Monroe County Area on Aging to utilize Parking Lot #5 on October 23, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for parking for a craft fair.

A motion was made by Mr. DeLarco and seconded by Mr. Molin to approve the request from the Monroe County Area on Aging to utilize Parking Lot #5 on October 23, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for parking for a craft fair. Meter bags are to be purchased for the metered spaces and the reserved spaces shall not be used. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bond reported the request from the Salvation Army to purchase parking meter bags to bag the west side of Washington Street from Day Street to the Elks Club on Monday, November 22, 2021 and Tuesday, December 21, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for the holiday food distribution event. The bags will be purchased by an anonymous donor.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Mr. Cross to approve the request from the Salvation Army to purchase parking meter bags to bag the west side of Washington Street from Day Street to the Elks Club on Monday, November 22, 2021 and Tuesday, December 21, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for the holiday food distribution event. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bond requested approval to hire Lee Philips as the Maintenance Director at the hourly rate of \$31.35, as recommended by the Personnel and the Finance Committees.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Mr. Cross to hire Lee Philips as the Maintenance Director at the hourly rate of \$31.35, as recommended by the Personnel and the Finance Committees. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bond requested approval to advertise the Assistant Director of Maintenance at the hourly rate of \$27.95, as recommended by the Personnel and the Finance Committees.

A motion was made by Mr. DeLarco and seconded by Mr. Cross to approve advertising for the Assistant Director of Maintenance at the hourly rate of \$27.95, as recommended by the Personnel and the Finance Committees. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bond requested authorization to extend an offer of employment to the top three applicants for the Maintenance Department openings as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, as recommended by the Personnel Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to approve extending an offer of employment to the top three applicants for the Maintenance Department openings as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, as recommended by the Personnel Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bond reported the request from the owners of 163 Grand Street to remove the handicapped parking space in front of their residence as a handicapped person no longer resides there.

A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Mr. Molin to approve the request from the owners of 163 Grand Street to remove the handicapped parking space in front of their residence as a handicapped person no longer resides there. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bond reported the request from the owners of 153 Grand Street for the placement of a handicapped parking space in front of their residence.

A motion was made by Ms. Panepinto and seconded by Mr. Molin to approve the request from the owners of 153 Grand Street for the placement of a handicapped parking space in front of their residence. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bond requested approval to accept Marv Walton's letter of resignation effective October 1, 2021.

A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to accept Marv Walton's letter of resignation effective October 1, 2021. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bond requested approval to advertise for an opening on the Shade Tree Committee.

A motion was made by Ms. Panepinto and seconded by Mr. Molin to approve advertising for an opening on the Shade Tree Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bond reported the request from the East Stroudsburg Area School District for the use of ten golf carts on Friday, October 8, 2021 for Homecoming.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Mr. Cross to deny the request from the East Stroudsburg Area School District for the use of ten golf carts on Friday, October 8, 2021 for Homecoming, due to unavailability of carts. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bond reported the request from the Stroudsburg Area School District for the use of 11 golf carts on Friday, October 29, 2021 for Homecoming.

A motion was made by Ms. Panepinto and seconded by Mr. Molin to deny the request from the Stroudsburg Area School District for the use of 11 golf carts on Friday, October 29, 2021 for Homecoming. It is recommended that they contact Glenbrook Golf Course with their request. The motion carried unanimously.

**Bill Reese:**

Mr. Reese reported that there is a vacancy on the Recycling Committee. Anyone interested in becoming part of the committee can reach out to the Borough Manager.

**Approval of Warrant List 210921**

A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to approve Warrant List 210921 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. Molinto continue the meeting to a time and date certain at 8:33 p.m. The continued meeting date is to be posted on the Borough's Website and a notice issued through *Savvy Citizen*. The motion carried unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, September 29, 2021, @ 5:15 p.m., in person at the East Stroudsburg Borough Municipal Building and virtually on Facebook on the East Stroudsburg Virtual Meeting page.