

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING
EAST STROUDSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 2, 2021 - 7:15 p.m.

PRESENT IN PERSON: William T. Reese; Carrie Panepinto; Maury Molin; Sonia Wolbert; Roger DeLarco; Borough Manager Brian Bond. Also present were: Solicitor John Prevoznik; Public Works Director Brian Ace; and Borough Engineer Nate Oiler

JOINED VIRTUALLY: Mayor Armand Martinelli

ABSENT: Don Cross

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Solicitor's Report on Executive Session

The Solicitor reported that an Executive Session was held on November 2, 2021 starting at 6:46 p.m., prior to the start of the Council meeting. All members of Council were present, with the exception of Mr. Cross; Mayor Martinelli was also absent. The following matters were discussed: two potential litigation matters and a personnel matter regarding the Union. Executive Session ended at 7:14 p.m. No decisions were made.

October 19, 2021 Council Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2021 Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments – Agenda Items

None.

93-95 Crystal Street Land Development

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to accept the application for a waiver of the land development requirements and forward to the Planning Commission for review and recommendation and to authorize the Zoning Officer to issue a temporary occupancy permit for the project pending completion of land development process and contingent upon all building inspections being completed and satisfactory. The motion carried unanimously.

SROSRC Report:

The SROSRC report was distributed via email. A motion was made by Ms. Panepinto and seconded by Ms. Wolbert to accept the SROSRC report. A copy of this report is attached to the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

IBW Update:

A motion was made by Mr. DeLarco and seconded by Mr. Molin to award the Asbestos Study to Westchester Environmental with a base proposal cost of \$6,650.00, which includes 100 asbestos tests. If more asbestos tests are required, each additional test is \$16.00. The motion carried unanimously.

East Stroudsburg Community Alliance (ECA):

Ms. Wolbert reported the Christmas Tree Lighting Event will take place on December 3, 2021. Mr. Bond confirmed a Christmas tree will be delivered and decorated prior to the event.

Engineer's Report:

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

ESU Information Commons

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Mr. DeLarco upon request of ESU to extend the timeframe in which to record the Land Development Plan as set forth in the East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania, Keystone Information Commons Conditional Use Decision and Order and Land Development Agreement for a period of thirty days until December 2, 2021. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. DeLarco and seconded by Ms. Wolbert to authorize the Borough Manager and Borough Council President to re-execute and redate the Land Development Plans in order to allow for the Land Development Plans previously executed to be recorded in the public land records of the Monroe County Courthouse. The motion carried unanimously.

Emergency Generator for Well Nos. 3

A motion was made by Mr. DeLarco and seconded by Mr. Molin to table the request for Payment Application No. 2 in the amount of \$45,688.50 for work completed through October 21, 2021. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. DeLarco and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to table the authorization for the Borough to submit Payment Application No. 2 to the Commonwealth Financing Authority for partial reimbursement under the PA Small Water and Sewer Grant. The motion carried unanimously.

Brown Street Waterline Replacement

A motion was made by Mr. DeLarco and seconded by Ms. Wolbert to authorize advertisement of construction bids for the Brown Street waterline replacement project, with a bid opening date in January 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

Brewskie's

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. Molin to authorize the release of required improvement in the amount of \$38,845.00, reducing the required improvement security to a balance of \$93,791.00 for the cost of remaining improvements, as recommended by the Borough Engineer in the attached letter. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. Molin to authorize a reduction of the letter of credit by \$38,845.00 to a balance of \$93,791.00 for the required improvements for the Brewskie's project as recommended by the Borough Engineer. The motion carried unanimously.

Zoning/Land Development Procedures

A motion was made by Mr. DeLarco and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to authorize the Borough Engineer and the Borough Manager to work together to set up a process to track and implement land development procedures and agreements with a cost not to exceed \$5,000.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments – New Business

James Fondi, owner of 229 Washington Street, addressed Council with concerns about property violations he has received at this location. Mr. Prevoznik advised that once a ticket is issued, Council has no authority to waive tickets. Mr. Fondi was told that he can dispute the ticket with the Magistrate's Office once he receives the citation.

Reports:

Public Works:

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

Professional Services status of Forge Road

Mr. Bond reported that the Borough is in receipt of a Professional Services Agreement and the payment to work with Mr. Hannig for the Forge Road project. We are currently waiting for more information from a survey for inverts and manholes located on the property.

Finance:

The financial reports were distributed via email. A motion was made by Mr. DeLarco 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:

No report.

Sonia Wolbert:

Ms. Wolbert asked the status of the easement request at a property located at 214 Washington Street. Mr. Bond advised the Borough has not received any response to requests. This topic will be forwarded to Executive Committee for further discussion.

Don Cross:

Absent.

Maury Molin:

Mr. Molin reported that the final 150th Committee Meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Roger DeLarco:

No report.

Carrie Panepinto:

No report.

Solicitor John Prevoznik, Esq.:

Mr. Prevoznik reported receipt of two property tax appeals. Mr. Prevoznik advised that Chris Brown typically handles the tax appeals. Council agreed to allow Mr. Prevoznik forward the appeals to Chris Brown.

Manager's Report:

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to approve the 2022 Stroud Area Regional Police Department budget as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to accept the letter of resignation for Monte Rafaniello from the Rental Inspector position, effective November 3, 2021. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Wolbert to approve hiring Jon Walker as the Assistant Maintenance Foreman at an hourly rate of \$27.25, as recommended by the Personnel Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to ratify the approval to advertise a Budget Work Session for the 2022 East Stroudsburg Borough Budget for Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 5:15 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Wolbert to set and advertise a Special Council Meeting for Thursday, November 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the 2022 budget and any other business that may come before Council. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to authorize advertising for a part-time Rental Inspector at an hourly rate of \$17.50. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. Molin to appoint Marguerite Hope to the Shade Tree Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. DeLarco and seconded by Ms. Wolbert to approve the renewal of the electrical supplier contract with Constellation Energy for three years with a locked rate of \$0.07268 per KWh. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Mr. DeLarco to approve the request from the Latino Community of St. Matthew's Church to hold the Procession of Our Lady of Guadalupe parade on December 1, 2021, at 5:00 p.m., contingent upon all forms, fees, and permits are provided. The motion carried unanimously.

Bill Reese:

No report.

Approval of Warrant List 211102

A motion was made by Mr. DeLarco and seconded by Mr. Molin to approve Warrant List 211102 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

NEXT MEETING:

Budget Work Session Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.; Regular Council Meeting Tuesday, November 16, 2021, at 7:15 p.m., both in person at the East Stroudsburg Borough Municipal Building and virtually on Facebook on the East Stroudsburg Virtual Meeting page.