

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

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

ABSENT: 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 November 16, 2021 starting at 6:50 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: two personnel matters and strategy with regard to six pending tax appeals. Executive Session ended at 7:22 p.m. No decisions were made.

November 2, 2021 Council Minutes

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

November 11, 2021 Council Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Panepinto and seconded by Mr. Molin to approve November 11, 2021 Council meeting minutes. The motion carried 4-0 (Yea: Mr. Molin, Mr. Reese, Ms. Panepinto, Ms. Wolbert; Abstained: Mr. DeLarco, Mr. Cross).

Public Comments – Agenda Items

None.

SROSRC Report:

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. Molin to approve the Stroud Region Open Space Recreation Commission 2022 budget of \$146,675.00, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

150th Update:

The next 150th Committee meeting is December 6, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. The deadline to submit letters to be included in the 2070 time capsule is December 3, 2021.

Veterans Park Update:

A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Mr. Molin to ratify the expenditure of \$46.43 from the Veterans Park Fund for the replacement of two holly bushes. The motion carried unanimously.

A meeting will be scheduled in December to discuss the Hometown Hero Banners.

IBW Update:

Mr. Scott reported that the asbestos study bid has been awarded to Westchester Environmental. The Notice to Proceed has been issued, and the asbestos study is scheduled for completion by

December 3, 2021. Bid specifications for demolition are being prepared and will incorporate the asbestos study if asbestos is found.

Police Report:

The SARPD report was distributed via email.

East Stroudsburg Community Alliance (ECA):

Ms. Wolbert reported the Christmas Tree Lighting Event will take place on December 3, 2021.

Engineer's Report:

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

Middle Dam Rehabilitation and New Water Supply Intake Line

A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Mr. Molin to approve Payment Request No. 4 in the amount of \$170,813.48 to Pioneer Construction Co., Inc. for work completed through October 26, 2021, as recommended by the Borough Engineer. The motion carried unanimously.

Emergency Generator for Well #3

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Mr. Cross to approve Payment Application No. 2 to North End Electric in the amount of \$45,688.50 for work completed through October 21, 2021, in accordance with the recommendation of the Borough Engineer. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Molin asked if the COVID-19 grant money can be used towards the cost of the emergency generator. Mr. Bond will research and report back to Council.

A motion was made by Mr. DeLarco and seconded by Mr. Molin to authorize the Borough to submit Payment Application No. 2 to the Commonwealth Financing Authority for partial reimbursement under the PA Small Water and Sewer Grant for the Well No. 3 project. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments – New Business

Ms. Kessler, of 126 Analomink Street, expressed concerns raised about the new recycling truck at the last recycling meeting which she attended. Mr. Bond explained that the information that was provided at the recycling meeting was wrong regarding the truck. Mr. Bond presented a fact sheet which contained the dimensions of the new truck. Mr. Bond explained that the truck is not larger than other vehicles/equipment currently utilized by the Borough on its streets. The fact sheet presented a comparison to other vehicles as well as to the existing recycling truck. All materials previously picked up can continue to be picked up and sorted. In addition, the new truck will allow the collection of cardboard and tin cans in separate bins. While Mr. Bond acknowledged that access to the bins was from the right side of the new truck instead of both sides, that did not preclude picking up recycling on both sides of the street. This was done purposely as Mr. Bond relayed that the new truck met current safety standards with regard to how the bins are configured. The current truck does not meet those safety standards.

Mr. Czahor, of 147 Analomink Street, stated that the water on and in front of his property is an ongoing issue. He received the professional services agreement from the Borough and does not think he should have to pay the \$5,000.00 retainer in order for a Borough official to come look at the issue. After discussion, Mr. Czahor agreed that he would pay the hourly rate of \$113.00 for

RKR Hess to evaluate the water situation at his property. The Borough agreed that it would set something up in the next week for the purpose of evaluation.

Mr. Czahor questioned the solid waste invoice he received for a two-unit rental property he owns. Mr. Bond explained that the solid waste ordinance requires a mobile refuse cart per each dwelling unit. This requirement applies to all rentals, and residents in the Borough.

Mr. Amundsen, of 312 East Broad Street, advised Council that his neighbor continues to run what appears to be an illegal business from their home. Mr. Bond stated the information has been passed onto the Borough's Zoning Officer as well as the Parking/Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Bond further stated that he would request the relevant Code Officers to meet with Mr. Amundsen. Mr. Bond also indicated that he would reach out to the police to see if they could increase patrols in the area to look for speeding violations, burnouts, and other traffic violations.

Ms. Gagliardo, of 113 West Broad Street, asked if a particular address in the Borough is listed as a regulated rental. She expressed concerns about the tenant and damage done to her property. Mr. Bond stated he would check into Ms. Gagliardo's inquiry about the status of the rental status of the new address and, if not listed, will take appropriate action under the Borough's ordinances.

A resident who was connected virtually complained about the construction materials at 594 Chestnut Street. Mr. Bond stated he will have an enforcement officer review the situation and, if applicable, issue a notice of violation.

Reports:

Public Works:

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

Mayor Armand Martinelli:

Absent.

Sonia Wolbert:

Ms. Wolbert brought up questions about water revenue listed in the budget which were explained by Mr. Bond and Mr. Scott.

Ms. Wolbert asked about the status of the street lights on the Interborough Bridge that have been out for a few months.

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Ms. Panepinto directing the Borough

Manager to write PPL a letter advising them of the dangerous conditions that are being created along the Interborough Bridge due to PPL's failure to fix the street lights. The motion carried unanimously.

Don Cross:

Mr. Cross inquired about the status of the proclamation to be presented to the 150th Committee. Mr. Bond advised the proclamation will be presented at the next Council meeting.

Maury Molin:

Mr. Molin requested that the Borough Manager prepares a proclamation acknowledging the East Stroudsburg South High School Football team for winning the district title. Mr. Molin would like the proclamation to be presented to the football team and coaches at the next Council meeting. Ms. Panepinto also pointed out that the East Stroudsburg High School soccer team may have also won the district title. The soccer team will be presented its own proclamation if they won.

Roger DeLarco:

Mr. DeLarco advised Brian Ace of an issue with the crosswalk indicator at the intersection of Brown and Ridgeway Streets.

Carrie Panepinto:

Ms. Panepinto inquired as to whether the Recycling Center's Saturday hours could be changed once a month from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to accommodate residents. The current hours of operation on Saturdays are 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Mr. Bond advised he will refer this request to the Recycling Committee.

Solicitor John Prevoznik, Esq.:

No report.

Manager's Report:

Mr. Bond reported that there were two responsive sealed bids on PennBID to the Borough's solid waste collection bids for the years 2022 through 2024. The lowest responsible bidder was Waste Management of Pennsylvania, Inc. for a total price of \$2,728,531.32. The other responsible bidder's bid price was \$3,244,866.72 Mr. Bond reported that the Waste Management bid included two, one-year options which could be exercised at the end of year three. Mr. Bond reported that this is approximately a ten percent increase overall and represents approximately a \$30.00 per container increase. This increase was verified by Tom Stang, of Waste Management, who was participating in the meeting via Webex. Mr. Stang reported that while the Borough's gross tonnage has been significantly lowered (by over 1,000 tons), the increase in the bid was due primarily to labor issues and the cost of getting employees. The cost of fuel was also figured into the increase. It was noted by Mr. Stang that the bid would have been substantially higher if the Borough had not reduced the tonnage as it had. Mr. Bond indicated that the bid still included the pickup of one bulk item per week per unit as directed by Council.

After discussion by Council, a motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to send the Notice of Intent to Award and award the solid waste collection contract to Waste Management of Pennsylvania, Inc. This is a three-year contract with a total price of \$2,728,531.32, with the 2022 payment of \$866,920.00, the 2023 payment of \$908,802.00, and the 2024 payment of \$952,810.00. There are two, one-year optional extensions that are not included in the bid price. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Wolbert to advertise and set a Borough Council meeting for Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at 7:15 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Panepinto and seconded by Mr. Molin to advertise and set a public hearing to set the 2022 Borough Tax by ordinance for Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at 7:20 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. DeLarco to table approving Resolution 27-2021, adopting the 2021 Monroe County Hazard Mitigation Plan update. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to approve advertising for job openings in the following locations: Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs, Pennsylvania State Association of Townships, American Public Works Association, American Water Works Association, Eastern Pennsylvania Water Pollution Control Operators Association, and the *Morning Call*, as applicable. The motion carried unanimously.

Bill Reese:

Mr. Reese expressed his concerns about cars making illegal turns from the Kimco Plaza driveway onto Ridgeway Street. Mr. Bond stated the Borough will be installing bollards along Ridgeway Street.

Approval of Warrant List 211116

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. Molin to approve Warrant List 211116 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Panepinto and seconded by Mr. Molin to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, December 7, 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.