

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING
EAST STROUDSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
TUESDAY DECEMBER 14, 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 Russ Scott

ABSENT: Don Cross; 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 December 14, 2021 starting at 6:53 p.m., prior to the start of the Council meeting. All members of Council were present, except for Mr. Cross. Mayor Martinelli was also absent. The following matters were discussed: the Collective Bargaining Agreement; Zoning appeal strategy; and strategies for delinquent accounts. Executive Session ended at 7:14 p.m. No decisions were made.

December 7, 2021 Council Minutes

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

Public Hearing – East Stroudsburg Borough 2022 Budget

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. Molin to recess the regular meeting and convene a Public Hearing on the East Stroudsburg Borough 2022 Budget. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bond advised the proposed budget was reviewed by Council in November and was approved at that time to advertise the budget for public review. A copy of the proposed budget was available at the Municipal Building, the Borough's website, the Monroe County Law Library, and the *Pocono Record*. Mr. Bond reviewed the proposed 2022 East Stroudsburg Borough budget, which includes a tax increase of 0.8021 mills. Mr. Bond stated the tax increase is necessary for multiple reasons, including the Borough's estimated taxable revenue decreased, and our share of the Stroud Area Region Police Department increased.

With no questions from Council or the public, a motion was made by Ms. Panepinto and seconded by Mr. Molin to enter exhibits 1 through 3 into evidence (Ex.1 – Proof of Publication; Ex.2 – Copy of Budget; Ex. 3 – Sign in Sheet). The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to close the public hearing and reconvene the regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to approve the East Stroudsburg Borough Budget for the Year 2022, as presented. The motion carried 3-1 with 1 Abstention (Yeas: Ms. Panepinto, Mr. Reese, Mr. Molin; Nay: Ms. Wolbert; Abstained: Mr. DeLarco).

Public Hearing – Ordinance 1384, Fixing the Real Estate Tax Rate for the Year 2022

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. Molin to recess the regular meeting and convene a Public Hearing on Ordinance 1384, Fixing the Real Estate Tax Rate for the Year 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bond reviewed the proposed ordinance which sets the tax rate at a sum of 4.6507 mills on all real property within the Borough of East Stroudsburg subject to taxation for the fiscal year 2022. The breakdown is as follows: General Fund – 2.7 Mills; Fire Apparatus Fund - 0.069 Mills; Street Fund – 0.113; Debt Services Fund – 1.0333 Mills; Parks/Recreation Fund – 0.482 Mills; Street Lighting Fund – 0.1794 Mills; and Pension Fund – 0.074 Mills.

With no questions from Council or the public, a motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. Molin to enter exhibits 1 through 3 into evidence (Ex.1 – Proof of Publication; Ex. 2 – Sign In Sheet; Ex. 3 – Copy of Ordinance). The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Wolbert to close the public hearing and reconvene the regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to approve Ordinance No. 1384, Fixing the Real Estate Tax Rate for the Year 2022, as advertised. The motion carried 4-1 (Yae: Ms. Panepinto; Mr. Reese; Mr. Molin; Mr. DeLarco; Nay: Ms. Wolbert).

Council President Service Proclamations

Mr. Reese read aloud service proclamations in honor of Mr. DeLarco and Mayor Martinelli's length of service for the Borough of East Stroudsburg. Mr. DeLarco served on Council since 1990, and Mr. Martinelli has been the Mayor since 1998.

Public Comments – Agenda Items

None.

SROSRC Report:

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to accept the SROSRC Report as presented and attached to the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Veterans Park Update:

Mr. Reese advised there will be a Veterans Park Committee meeting on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. to discuss Hometown Hero Banners.

IBW Update:

There was a discussion of the IBW property. Mr. Bond stated he is looking for direction on the future of the property. Mr. Prevoznik advised the topic be referred to the Finance Committee, and schedule a meeting with Chuck Leonard. Mr. DeLarco agreed to remain on the IBW Committee as long as it is acceptable by the new Mayor and Council members.

Police Report:

The SARPD report was distributed via email. A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. Molin to accept the SARPD Report as presented and attach to the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

East Stroudsburg Community Alliance (ECA):

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to direct the Borough Manager to send a letter to ECA, advising them that Council is willing to meet with them and ECA should provide a date and time for the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Engineer's Report:

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

Joint Landfill Monitoring

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to approve the Professional Services Agreement with RKR Hess to coordinate sampling, prepare and submit the 2022 Joint Municipal Landfill Monitoring Reports to PA DEP on behalf of the three municipalities at a cost not to exceed \$19,950.00 shared equally by the three municipalities, contingent upon approval of the other two municipalities. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. Molin to approve RKR Hess to submit Request for Proposals for the PA DEP certified testing laboratories. Total estimated costs of testing laboratories are \$8,500.00 to \$9,500.00, which will be shared by all three municipalities. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments – New Business

None.

Reports:

Public Works:

No report.

Zoning/Codes:

No report.

Finance:

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to approve utilizing Tom Josiah, CPA, for audit preparation work at a rate of \$115.00 per hour, not to exceed 100 hours. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Armand Martinelli:

Absent.

Sonia Wolbert:

No report.

Don Cross:

Absent.

Maury Molin:

Mr. Molin suggested that a Comprehensive Plan meeting be scheduled soon. Mr. Molin would also like the parking study, including alternate side of the street parking and changing traffic patterns, to be addressed in the near future.

Roger DeLarco:

No report.

Carrie Panepinto:

Ms. Panepinto asked what residents can do with their leaves now that collection has ended for the year. Mr. Bond advised they can take their leaves to the Recycling Center.

Solicitor John Prevoznik, Esq.:

No report.

Manager's Report:

A motion was made by Ms. Panepinto and seconded by Ms. Wolbert to cancel the regular Council Meeting scheduled for December 21, 2021. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to set and advertise the 2022 Borough Council Reorganizational Meeting for Monday, January 3, 2022 at 7:15 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. Molin to approve releasing the remaining fire escrow in the amount of \$5,087.11 for 145 South Courtland Street, as the Final Certificate of Occupancy has been issued. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. Molin to table the 2022 RKR Hess fee schedule. The motion carried unanimously.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Wolbert to approve entering a sub-recipient agreement with the Redevelopment Authority of Monroe County for Fiscal Year 2020 Monroe County CDBG Program Coronavirus funds for the Healthy Home Repair Program. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to direct the Manager to set up a meeting with Stroud Township to discuss possible joint ventures regarding the Golf Course. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to table the approval of the 2022 Salary and Wage schedule. The motion carried unanimously.

Eagle Valley Pump Station Update:

Mr. Bond reported that the Borough will be receiving \$200,000.00 from the escrowed funds, as per the request of the Borough Manager, as the Eagle Valley Pump Station project is under budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Wolbert to approve the request from St. Matthew's Church for the Autochthonous Expression of Ecuadorian Identity on Saturday, January 1, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Bill Reese:

Mr. Reese mentioned a driveway on Analomink Street that does not have a curb cut. Mr. Bond advised that he will pass the information to the Zoning Officer.

Approval of Warrant List 211214

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. Molin to approve Warrant List 211214 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. Molin to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

NEXT MEETING:

Reorganizational Meeting/Regular Meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 3, 2022 at 7:15 p.m.