

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING
EAST STROUDSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2022 – 7:15 p.m.

PRESENT IN PERSON: Sonia Wolbert; Edmund Freeborn; Maury Molin; Carrie Panepinto; Erika Huber; Mayor Victor Brozusky; Borough Manager Brian Bond. Also present were: Solicitor John Prevoznik; Public Works Director Brian Ace; and Borough Engineer Nate Oiler

ABSENT: William T. Reese

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Solicitor's Report on Executive Session:

The Solicitor reported that an Executive Session was held on February 1, 2022 starting at 6:30 p.m., prior to the start of the Council meeting. All members of Council were present, except for Mr. Reese. Mayor Brozusky, Brian Bond, Nate Oiler, were also in attendance. Violations and potential litigation strategies against a zoning violator were discussed. Executive Session ended at 7:19 p.m. No decisions were made.

January 18, 2022 Council Minutes:

Ms. Huber noted that the Minutes state she attended the January 18, 2022 Council meeting in person when she actually attended virtually. A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to approve the Minutes of the January 18, 2022 Council meeting as amended to read that Ms. Huber attended the meeting virtually. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing, East Stroudsburg Borough Amended 2022 Budget:

A motion was made by Mr. Freeborn and seconded by Mr. Molin to recess the regular meeting and convene a public hearing on the 2022 East Stroudsburg Borough Budget. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Prevoznik stated that under the Borough Code, the budget must be approved by the end of December for the following year. When there is an election year, the new Council has the opportunity to reopen the budget to work on and amend it. He also noted that if Council were to amend last year's tax resolution, then it would have to do so within the time frame as the amended budget. Mr. Prevoznik advised that the proposed budget needs to be available and advertised for public inspection for at least ten days prior to adoption. Finally, he noted that the process must be completed by February 17.

Mr. Freeborn asked Mr. Bond to compare the two budgets. Mr. Bond reported that the original budget was a 23 percent increase, and the amended budget shows a 14 percent increase.

Mr. Gress, of 36 Lions Street, expressed his concern with the deteriorating streets throughout the Borough, but the budget does not show how much money is allocated for paving. Mr. Gress also suggested the Recycling Center have extended hours on Saturdays.

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

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

A motion was made by Mr. Freeborn and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to approve the East Stroudsburg Borough Amended Budget for the Year 2022 as presented and advertised. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing, Ordinance 1385, amending Ordinance 1384, Fixing the Real Estate Tax Rate for the Year 2022:

A motion was made by Mr. Freeborn and seconded by Mr. Molin to recess the regular meeting and convene a public hearing, Ordinance 1385, amending Ordinance 1384, Fixing the Real Estate Tax Rate for the Year 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bond read Ordinance 1385 aloud. This ordinance repeals Ordinance 1384 and sets the Real Estate Tax Rate for the Year 2022 at a sum of 4.4717 mills.

With no questions from Council or the public, a motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Huber to enter exhibits 1 through 3 into evidence (Ex. 1 – Sign In Sheet; Ex. 2 – Proof of Publication; Ex. 3 – Copy of Ordinance 1385). The motion carried unanimously.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Mr. Freeborn to repeal Ordinance 1384 and approve Ordinance 1385, Fixing the Real Estate Tax Rate for the Year 2022, as presented and advertised. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments – Agenda Items:

Ms. Kessler of 124 Analomink Street asked when the next Recycling Committee meeting is. Mr. Bond advised the meeting date has not yet been determined.

Mike O'Donnell, who represents the owner of 214 Washington Street, asked the status of the occupancy permit of the building located on this property. The building was built over a culvert and the culvert started to collapse, potentially impacting the structure of the building. Mr. Bond advised that the Borough was on site on February 1, 2022 to run a camera through the storm water line that runs under the building. The pictures were provided to the Borough Engineer and Borough Solicitor for their review. Mr. Bond will send the pictures to Mr. O'Donnell and the owner, Mr. Davis. Mr. Bond will schedule a meeting with Borough officials and the property owner within one week to continue discussing a resolution.

SROSRC Report:

The SROSRC Report was distributed via email.

A motion was made by Ms. Huber and seconded by Mr. Molin to accept the SROSCR Report as submitted and attach to the Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Veterans Park Update:

Mr. Molin reported a Veterans Park Committee Meeting was held on January 27, 2022. The Hometown Heroes Banners project was discussed. Once all documents are reviewed by the Borough Solicitor, the banners will be available for the public to purchase and will be hung near Veterans Park.

Police Report:

The SARPD Report will be presented at the February 15, 2022 Council Meeting.

East Stroudsburg Community Alliance (ECA):

Ms. Wolbert reported that the ECA Executive Board met with representatives of the Pocono Chamber of Commerce last week to discuss Pickle Fest returning to East Stroudsburg in 2022. Ms. Wolbert stated that the ECA and the Borough need to improve communication with the Chamber of Commerce to ensure a successful event.

Engineer's Report:

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

Middle Dam Rehabilitation:

A motion was made by Mr. Freeborn and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to approve Payment Request No. 5 in the amount of \$125,641.51 to Pioneer Construction Co., Inc. for work completed through November 30, 2021, as recommended by the Borough Engineer. The motion carried unanimously.

Emergency Generator Well #3:

A motion was made by Mr. Freeborn and seconded by Mr. Molin to approve Payment Request Application No. 3 in the amount of \$9,636.25 to North End Electric for work completed through January 23, 2022 and reduction in retainage to 5%, in accordance with the recommendation of the Borough Engineer. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Freeborn and seconded by Ms. Panepinto approving the Borough to submit Payment Application No. 3 in the amount of \$9,636.25 to the Commonwealth Financing Authority for partial reimbursement under the PA Small Water and Sewer Grant. The motion carried unanimously.

Brown Street Water Main Project:

A motion was made by Mr. Freeborn and seconded by Ms. Huber to issue Notice of Intent to Award and Award the contract to Ankiewicz Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$474,830.00, contingent upon Borough Solicitor, Engineer, and Manager approval of the submitted contract documents. The motion carried unanimously.

940 Holding LLC Discussion:

Mr. Oiler reported that a Notice of Violation notice was issued for the project at 296 Washington Street. There are items in the Development Agreement that are outstanding.

A motion was made by Ms. Huber and seconded by Mr. Freeborn authorizing the Notice of Violation and the Development Agreement be forwarded to the new Zoning Officer for action. The motion carried unanimously.

214 Washington Street Discussion:

Per the discussion held in the beginning of this Council Meeting, a motion was made by Mr. Freeborn and seconded by Mr. Molin instructing the Borough Manager to set up a meeting with Mr. Davis, the owner of 214 Washington Street, no later than February 8, 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Freeborn and seconded by Ms. Huber to accept the Engineer's Report as submitted and attached to the Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments – New Business:

Ms. Gagliardo, of 115 West Broad Street, addressed Council with a few items of concern. Ms. Gagliardo asked if there could be better communication to the public about the Council Meeting scheduled times and any changes to the normal schedule. Ms. Gagliardo asked if the leaf collection for 2022 has been extended per complaints that were discussed at previous Council Meetings. Mr. Bond stated the leaf collection is scheduled from October 11 through December 9, 2022, with the option to extend it to December 16, 2022 if the weather permits. Ms. Gagliardo asked when the new parking signs will be posted on her street, as discussed at previous Council Meetings. Mr. Bond advised he is working on an extensive proposed ordinance that will change parking restrictions throughout the Borough. Ms. Gagliardo mentioned that the street lights on the exit and entrance ramps of I-80 near Prospect Street are never lit, making it dark and unsafe. Mr. Bond advised these lights are PennDOT's responsibility. A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to instruct the Borough Manager to contact PennDOT and inquire about the lighting at Exit 308 to have the issue corrected. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Kessler, of 124 Analomink Street, expressed her concern with the lack of visibility due to the design of the new bridge when turning onto Crystal Street from Ridgeway Street. A motion was made by Mr. Freeborn and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to instruct the Borough Manager to contact PennDOT with regard to the Borough's concerns regarding sight distance for turns onto and from Crystal Street now that the bridge replacement project is complete. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gress, of 36 Lions Street, commented on the lack of sidewalks in the Borough as well as speeding on East Broad Street. He stated that both conditions pose a danger to pedestrians. Also, Mr. Gress mentioned the condition of telephone poles throughout the Borough and suggested we contact the Public Utility Commission to address the issue.

Reports:

Public Works:

The Public Works Report was distributed via email. A motion was made by Mr. Freeborn and seconded by Mr. Molin to table the approval of the Public Works Report to provide time for Council to review it. The motion carried unanimously.

Zoning:

The Zoning Report will be available for the February 15, 2022 Council Meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Freeborn and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to table the approval of the Zoning Report. The motion carried unanimously.

Finance:

The Finance Report was distributed via email. A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Mr. Freeborn to approve the Finance Report as distributed and attach to the Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Victor Brozusky:

Mr. Brozusky reported the contractor's fence at the Dunkin' construction site on North Courtland Street is still on the edge of the sidewalk making it difficult for pedestrians. Also, the sidewalk has not been shoveled. Mr. Bond advised he will send our Enforcement Officer out to issue any applicable violations for not clearing the sidewalk. A motion was made by Ms. Huber and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to instruct the Borough Engineer to review the fence at the Dunkin'

construction site on North Courtland Street to see if the issue can be corrected. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Brozusky reported he was recently on the 96.7 morning radio show with Gary Cee and will be returning in the future. Mr. Brozusky also stated that he will be working with ECA to coordinate summer events on Crystal Street.

Bill Reese:

Absent.

Ed Freeborn:

No report.

Maury Molin:

Mr. Molin reported that the Monroe County Control Center announced that the East Stroudsburg Fire Department will be receiving funds for radio replacement. Mr. Molin also reported that the 150th Anniversary quilt is completed and will soon be presented to Council. Mr. Molin advised there is a vacancy on the Naming Committee. Ms. Huber volunteered to serve on the Naming Committee. Mr. Molin asked with the next Zoning Hearing Review Committee (ZORC) Meeting will be. After discussion, it was agreed to schedule ZORC meetings for the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

Erika Huber:

No report.

Carrie Panepinto:

Ms. Panepinto would like to start a Community Garden and will be the Chair of the Committee. Mr. Molin and Ms. Huber volunteered to serve on the Community Garden Committee. Laura Kessler also volunteered to be part of the Committee. Ms. Panepinto reported the ongoing parking issue within the fire lanes in the Kimco Plaza off Lincoln Avenue. Ms. Wolbert asked Mr. Bond to discuss this issue with the Parking Enforcement staff to rearrange working hours in order to enforce the fire lane parking.

Solicitor John Prevoznik:

No report.

Manager's Report:

A motion was made by Ms. Panepinto and seconded by Ms. Huber to approve Resolution 6-2022 setting Bank Depositories in Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust and online banking access of Borough officials and employees as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Freeborn and seconded by Ms. Huber to authorize the letting of the Terra Greens Municipal Golf Course Grounds Equipment Bid contingent upon the Solicitor's approval. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Freeborn and seconded by Ms. Molin to ratify the 2022 East Stroudsburg Borough Boards and Committees list as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Freeborn and seconded by Mr. Molin to schedule and advertise a Borough Council Work Session for Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 5:15 p.m. at the East Stroudsburg Borough Municipal Building to discuss goals for the Borough in 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Freeborn and seconded by Mr. Molin to table the request to advertise the seasonal part-time Golf Pro Shop Attendants, seasonal part-time Golf Maintenance Mechanic, and seasonal full-time Golf Grounds Maintenance positions. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Huber to approve listing the following recycling equipment for sale on Municibid; 1997 GMC 3500 1-Ton truck and snowplow, VIN 1GDJK34F8VF046254; 1999 C.S. Bell Electric Conveyor, Serial Number WEC 016; 1988 REM Electric Conveyor, Serial Number 896-88; Prodeva Electric Conveyor, (no year or serial number found). Mr. Bond noted that Stroudsburg Borough approved the sale of equipment at its August 17, 2021 Council Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bond informed Council that he met with J.D. Eckman, Inc., the company who will be performing the I-80, Exit 308 construction work. The company is requesting permission to use the Borough's property behind the Twin Borough's Recycling Center as a staging area during the project. Mr. Bond will discuss this further with the Borough Engineer and Solicitor before requesting authorization.

Sonia Wolbert:

Ms. Wolbert reported receipt of a letter from the Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm, requesting consideration for the Borough's funding through the American Rescue Plan. Ms. Wolbert provided Mr. Bond with the letter.

Approval of Warrant List 220201:

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to approve Warrant List 220201 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Ms. Panepinto and seconded by Mr. Freeborn to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, February 15, 2022, at 7:15 p.m.