

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

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Solicitor's Report on Executive Session:

The Solicitor reported that an Executive Session was held on March 15, 2022 starting at 5:34 p.m., prior to the start of the Council meeting. All members of Council were present; Mayor Brozusky was also in attendance. Labor Attorney, John McLaughlin, attended by telephone at 5:35. The Borough Manager and Solicitor were present but were excused at 5:35 p.m. Mr. Bond returned at 6:37 p.m. Mr. Prevoznik returned at 6:48 p.m. Mr. Prevoznik spoke with Attorney McLaughlin at 7:12 p.m., who reported personnel matters were discussed. Executive Session ended at 6:53 p.m. No decisions were made.

March 1, 2022 Council Minutes:

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Huber to approve the Minutes of the March 1, 2022 Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments – Agenda Items:

None.

SROSRC Report:

No report.

Veterans Park Update:

Mr. Reese reported the next Veterans Park Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 21, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. in Council Chambers.

Police Report:

The SARPD report was distributed via email. There were no questions or comments on the report.

East Stroudsburg Community Alliance (ECA):

Ms. Wolbert reported that ECA has three new board members; Linda Rice, of Mountain View Vineyard; Crystal Charplain, of TepsBest; and Courtney Quarasimo, of JustQ.

Engineer's Report:

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

There were no action items. Mr. Oiler reported that the DRBC Docket for the Water Treatment Plant discharge has been approved.

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

Public Comments – New Business:

Ms. Kessler, of 124 Analomink Street, expressed her concern about large non-profit organizations in our area that produce a lot of waste that does not get recycled. Ms. Kessler suggested that a letter be sent from Council requesting the large companies start using organic materials. Ms. Wolbert stated this can be discussed at the upcoming Council Work Session.

Reports:

Public Works:

The Public Works Report was distributed via email. A motion was made by Mr. Freeborn and seconded by Mr. Reese to approve the Public Works Report as distributed and attached to the Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Zoning:

The Zoning Report was distributed via email. A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Huber to approve the Zoning Report as distributed and attached to the Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Finance:

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

Mayor Victor Brozusky:

Mr. Brozusky reported that he has been working with the East Stroudsburg South High School security team to find a resolution to the traffic issue during student drop-off. A second drop-off location on Maple Avenue has been implemented, which seems to be working well and alleviates vehicle congestion.

Mr. Brozusky recognized the Maintenance Department for their good job of plowing the streets during the latest snowstorm.

Bill Reese:

Mr. Bond provided a sketch plan of the sidewalk to be installed in Veterans Park. Mr. Bond reported that the sidewalk will be installed by Borough employees.

The Golf Committee will schedule a meeting for the near future.

Ed Freeborn:

Mr. Freeborn had nothing to report from the Finance Committee.

Mr. Freeborn confirmed that the recycling truck took his tin cans from curbside collection and is very pleased that the new truck can accommodate this commodity.

Maury Molin:

Mr. Molin suggested that Council Chambers gets a fresh coat of paint and reorganized. Mr. Bond stated that there is money in the budget to make aesthetic improvements to Council Chambers.

The next Naming Committee meeting will be held on April 14, 2022, at 4:00 p.m., in Council Chambers.

Mr. Molin requested a date be scheduled for a Town & Gown with East Stroudsburg University. Ms. Wolbert will work on scheduling that event.

Mr. Molin reported the 150th Anniversary Committee has \$2,700.00 in its account.

Erika Huber

Ms. Huber stated the driver of the new recycling truck is a good driver as she witnessed him maneuvering tight turns. Ms. Huber also recognized the Maintenance Department for keeping the streets clean during the recent snowstorm.

Carrie Panepinto:

Ms. Panepinto asked Mr. Bond to confirm the date of the next Recycling Committee meeting.

Ms. Panepinto will be scheduling the Community Garden Committee meeting.

Solicitor John Prevoznik:

Mr. Prevoznik reported there are four hearings scheduled for April 7, 2022, at Magistrate Muth's office, which will be heard for contempt and frequent violators of ordinances. Mr. Prevoznik will attend the hearings on behalf of the Borough.

Mr. Prevoznik advised Council that the inspection report for the Washington Street culvert was issued. The report was distributed and reviewed. The structural engineer opined that he would not advise issuing a certificate of occupancy based on the facts of the situation known as this time. The report also provided a method in which further information could be developed. Mr. Prevoznik requested that Council accept the inspection report so as to be able to forward same to the owners of the building located at 214 Washington Street. A motion was made by Mr. Freeborn and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to accept the Washington Street culvert inspection report prepared by Hanover Engineering and further to authorize the Borough Manager to forward it to the current owners of 214 Washington Street. The motion carried unanimously.

Manager's Report:

A motion was made by Mr. Freeborn and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to approve a request from the Pocono Dulcimer Club to purchase 20 meter bags for parking lot No. 2 for Saturday, April 23, 2022 for the Pocono Dulcimer Club Spring Festival. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Mr. Freeborn to approve a request from Habitat for Humanity for a donation of a round of golf for two with a cart at the Terra Greens Municipal Golf Course for the "She Nailed It" fundraiser to be held on Sunday, May 15, 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Freeborn and seconded by Mr. Reese to approve the request to change the date of the ESU Campus Recreation and Wellness Rec Ex 5K run/walk from Sunday, April 24, 2022 to Sunday, May 1, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Freeborn and seconded by Mr. Reese to approve the 2022 Salary and Wage sheet as presented, retroactive to January 1, 2022 and attach to the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Reese and seconded by Mr. Freeborn to approve the hiring of Thomas Kitts as the full-time Code Enforcement Officer at an hourly rate of \$19.50, as recommended by the Personnel and Finance Committees. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Freeborn and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to approve the hiring of Connell Jones as the full-time Parking Enforcement Officer at an hourly rate of \$15.00, as recommended by the Personnel and Finance Committees. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Mr. Freeborn to approve the hiring of Rick Widdoss, Sr. as a part-time Golf Maintenance worker at \$12.88 per hour with a start date of March 21, 2022, as recommended by the Personnel and Finance Committees. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Panepinto and seconded by Mr. Molin to approve the hiring of Steve Bybee as a part-time Golf Maintenance worker at \$12.88 an hour with a start date of March 21, 2022, as recommended by the Personnel and Finance Committees. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Mr. Reese to approve the hiring of Steve Schoupe as a part-time Golf Maintenance worker at \$12.88 an hour with a start date of March 21, 2022, as recommended by the Personnel and Finance Committees. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Freeborn and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to approve the hiring of Paul Porter as a part-time Golf Maintenance worker at \$12.88 an hour with a start date of March 21, 2022, and as a part-time Golf Pro Shop worker at \$10.76, as recommended by the Personnel and Finance Committees. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Freeborn and seconded by Mr. Reese to approve the hiring of Jim Dennis as a part-time Golf Pro Shop worker at \$10.76 an hour with a start date two days prior to opening, as recommended by the Personnel and Finance Committees. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Mr. Freeborn to approve Resolution 11-2022, authorizing the 2021 Budget Line Item transfer of the Twin Boro's Recycling in the amount of \$79.48 from budget line item 32-427.230 to budget line item 32-427.250. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Huber and seconded by Mr. Freeborn to table the approval of JD Eckman to utilize the area behind the Recycling Center for a staging area and worksite trailer. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Huber and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to table the approval of a request from East Stroudsburg University to allow free parking on Saturday, April 9 and Saturday, May 21, 2022, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for Open House/Campus Day. The motion carried unanimously.

Sonia Wolbert:
Comprehensive Plan Task Force Report:

A motion was made by Mr. Freeborn and seconded by Mr. Molin to authorize RKR Hess to complete a conceptual drawing of Crystal Street sidewalk widening with a one-way traffic pattern. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Freeborn and seconded by Mr. Reese to direct the Zoning Ordinance Review Committee to have a rough draft of the Amended Zoning Ordinance for Light Industrial by May 3, 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to direct the Zoning Ordinance Review Committee to have a rough draft of the Prospect/Ridgeway Overlay District Ordinance by June 7, 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Wolbert reported a recommendation from the Comprehensive Plan Task Force to form a Train Task Force Committee. Ms. Wolbert will appoint members to this task force at the next Council meeting.

Approval of Warrant List 220315:

A motion was made by Mr. Freeborn and seconded by Mr. Molin to approve Warrant List 220315 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Panepinto and seconded by Mr. Freeborn to ratify Interim Check List #220309 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mr. Freeborn and seconded by Ms. Huber to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 7:15 p.m.