

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING
EAST STROUDSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2022 – 7:15 p.m.

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

ABSENT: William Reese; Edmund Freeborn.

Ms. Huber was present for roll call and the start of the meeting, then left the building and joined virtually. Ms. Huber returned at 7:45 p.m. and was present in person for the duration of the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Report on Executive Session:

The Solicitor reported that an Executive Session was held on September 6, 2022, starting at 6:57 p.m., prior to the start of the Council meeting. Ms. Huber, Mr. Molin, Ms. Wolbert, and Ms. Panepinto were present. Mayor Brozusky and Mr. Prevoznik were also in attendance. Brian Bond was present from 6:57 p.m. until 7:02 p.m., and returned at 7:12 p.m. Personnel matters, negotiations regarding potential litigation, and property acquisition were discussed. Executive Session ended at 7:14 p.m. No decisions were made.

August 16, 2022 Council Minutes:

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to approve the Minutes of the August 16, 2022 Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

August 24, 2022 Council Work Session Minutes:

A motion was made by Ms. Panepinto and seconded by Mr. Molin to approve the Minutes of the August 24, 2022 Council Work Session. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments – Agenda Items:

None.

Veto of Ordinance 1391, Chapter 150 – Vehicles and Traffic, Article III, Parking Regulations, Section 26, Parking Prohibited in Certain Areas Except for Special Purposes:

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to table overriding the veto of Ordinance 1391, Chapter 150 – Vehicles and Traffic, Article III, Parking Regulations, Section 26, Parking Prohibited in Certain Areas Except for Special Purposes. The motion carried unanimously.

SROSRC Report:

SROSRC Executive Director, Autumn Hawthorne, reported that summer activities at SROSRC were successful and a formal report will be submitted at the end of September. The Mom and Me Mascaraed is scheduled for Saturday, September 24, 2022. SROSRC is seeking volunteers to join advisory groups to discuss potential dog parks, improvements to skate parks, tennis and pickle ball courts, and recreation in general in the three municipalities of Stroudsburg Borough, East Stroudsburg Borough, and Stroud Township. Those interested should contact the SROSRC office at 570-426-1512. *Back to the Future* will be shown at the next Movie in the Park on Friday,

October 7, 2022 at Dansbury Park. A comedy show fundraiser supporting SROSRC and Pocono Cinema and Cultural Center is scheduled for Monday, November 7, 2022.

Police Report:

The SARPD report will be presented at the September 20, 2022 Council meeting.

East Stroudsburg Community Alliance (ECA):

A Pickle Me Poconos walk through with representatives from ECA, the Borough of East Stroudsburg, and the Chamber of Commerce is scheduled for Wednesday, September 7, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Engineer's Report:

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

Middle Dam Project:

Mr. Oiler reported that the Middle Dam project is still underway. The substantial completion date of November 16, 2022 is anticipated to be met by the contractors, with a final completion date in December.

A motion was made by Ms. Panepinto and seconded by Mr. Molin to declare a drought watch for the Borough of East Stroudsburg based on the recommendation of the Borough Engineer and the PA DEP which also declared a drought watch for Monroe County. The motion carried unanimously.

Brown Street Water Main Project:

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to approve Payment Request No. 2 in the amount of \$97,875.00 to Ankiewicz Enterprises, Inc. for work completed through August 30, 2022, as recommended by the Borough Engineer. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Panepinto and seconded by Mr. Molin to authorize the Borough to submit a drawdown application to the Commonwealth Financing Authority for partial reimbursement under the PA Small Water and Sewer Grant. The motion carried unanimously.

Stemple Street CDBG Project:

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to approve Payment Request No. 2 – Final, in the amount of \$9,721.94 to M&J Excavation, Inc., representing the release of retainage withheld, contingent upon favorable review of the Contract Closeout Documents by the Borough Solicitor and the Monroe County Redevelopment Authority, as recommended by the Borough Engineer. The motion carried unanimously.

2022 CDBG Funding Application for the Crystal Street Project:

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to proceed with the preparation of conceptual design and documents required for submission to the Monroe County Redevelopment Authority for the authorization of CDBG funds for the Crystal Street Project. The motion carried unanimously.

WWTP Copper Update:

Mr. Scott is continuing to work with the Borough staff to implement a procedure for copper reduction.

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

Public Comments – New Business:

Margaret Muth reported a work area sign in the view of traffic at the intersection of Crystal and Ridgeway Streets. Mr. Oiler will ask the contractors performing work on Brown Street to move the sign out of the line of sight.

Ratification of Motions Made in Ms. Huber's Absence:

Ms. Huber returned to the meeting in person at 7:45 p.m. Ms. Huber confirmed she listened to the meeting over the phone while she was not present in person and agreed with all business that had been conducted. A motion was made by Ms. Huber and seconded by Mr. Molin to ratify all of the actions taken by Council during this meeting and in the absence of Ms. Huber. The motion carried unanimously.

Continuation of Public Comments – New Business:

Ms. Kessler asked the status of Terra Greens Golf Course and stated the conditions at the course are terrible. Mr. Bond advised the golf course does not have an irrigation system for the fairways. Ms. Wolbert added this is the first complaint that Council has heard about the course this year.

Reports:**Public Works:**

The Public Works Report was distributed via email. A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to accept the Public Works Report as distributed and attach to the Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Zoning:

The Zoning Report was distributed via email. A motion was made by Ms. Huber and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to accept the Zoning Report as distributed and attach to the Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Finance:

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

Operations Committee:

Ms. Wolbert reported that the recommendation from the Operations Committee is to not move forward with hiring any of the candidates who applied for the Borough Manager's position. Mr. Bond has agreed to stay on as the Interim Borough Manager.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Huber to retain Brian S. Bond as the Interim Borough Manager and to notify the two finalists of the decision. The motion carried unanimously.

Utility Committee:

No report.

Community Relations Committee:

No report.

Zoning and Planning Committee:

A motion was made by Ms. Panepinto and seconded by Mr. Molin to authorize the advertising and to set a public hearing for Ordinance 1393, amending Chapter 151, Vehicles, Parking; Article I, Residential Permit Parking, of the East Stroudsburg Borough Code of Ordinances for Tuesday, October 4, 2022, at 7:20 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Victor Brozusky:

Mr. Brozusky reported receipt of an email invitation from Representative Matt Cartwright's office for a virtual meeting with regards to the rail service. Mr. Brozusky plans to attend and will forward the email to Council members. The Mayor reported that he attended the Unity in the Community event held at Dansbury Park and commented on how well Jane Gagliardo coordinated the successful event.

Bill Reese:

Absent.

Ed Freeborn:

Absent.

Maury Molin:

Mr. Molin reported that Pick Up the Poconos is scheduled for Saturday, September 24, 2022.

Erika Huber:

Ms. Huber asked if the Borough has received a response from a letter that was sent to PennDOT with regard to the concerns at the intersection of Ridgeway and Crystal Streets. Mr. Bond stated that he did not receive a letter and that he will recontact PennDOT about this issue.

Carrie Panepinto:

Ms. Panepinto reported a constituent asked if the crosswalks in town are going to be repainted and asked when Lions Street and East Broad Street are scheduled to be paved.

Solicitor John Prevoznik:

No report.

Manager's Report:

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to approve Resolution 15-2022 authorizing the Borough Council President to sign the PA DEP 902 Grant for brush grinding, repairing the bailer, and replacing the stairs at the Recycling Center. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Panepinto and seconded by Mr. Molin to approve Resolution 16-2022, approving the distribution of funds by the Brodhead Creek Regional Authority for payment of the Eagle Valley project including the final payment to the contractor and the return

of \$29,630.83 of unused funds back to the East Stroudsburg Borough Water Fund. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to appoint Ed Freeborn as the East Stroudsburg Borough Voting Delegate at the 2022 Municipal Leadership Summit, contingent upon Mr. Freeborn is available to attend the event. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Huber and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to appoint Brian Bond as the East Stroudsburg Borough Alternate Voting Delegate at the 2022 Municipal Leadership Summit. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Huber to authorize Ed Freeborn and Brian Bond to attend the 2022 Pennsylvania Municipal League Leadership Conference on October 5 through October 8, 2022 in Pittsburgh, PA, at a cost not to exceed \$2,000.00. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Huber to resubmit a request to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to change the name of Sambo Creek and Little Sambo Creek and to authorize the Manager to contact the surrounding municipalities and the County Commissioners to ask them to join the petition. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Huber and seconded by Mr. Molin to authorize a drawdown in the amount of \$60,336.56 for RKR Hess Invoice 113330 for \$33,043.45 and Invoice 113735 for \$27,293.11, with regards to the Middle Dam project. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Huber and seconded by Ms. Panepinto to ratify hiring Matt Ampansah as a seasonal, part-time Pro Shop employee at an hourly rate of \$11.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bond reported receipt of a request from the Stroudsburg School District to use 11 golf carts for their homecoming parade on Friday, October 21, 2022. No action taken.

Sonia Wolbert:

Ms. Wolbert discussed a request from a constituent for a stop sign on Analomink Street near the Stemple Street intersection to reduce speeders.

A motion was made by Ms. Panepinto and seconded by Ms. Huber to direct Borough staff to ask the Stroud Area Regional Police Department to conduct a speed study on Analomink Street.

Ms. Wolbert reported there will be a meeting in the near future with the Rail Authority to discuss the rail service in our area.

Approval of Warrant List 220906:

A motion was made by Ms. Panepinto and seconded by Mr. Molin to approve Warrant List 220906, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Ms. Panepinto and seconded by Ms. Huber to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at 7:15 p.m.

NEXT BUDGET WORK SESSION:

Thursday, September 22, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

CRYSTAL STREET PUBLIC INPUT MEETING:

Monday, September 26, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

NEXT WORK SESSION:

Monday, September 26, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.