

**STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 16, 2019**

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2019 AT 7:30 PM AT BOROUGH HALL.

Attendance

- Council Members present were: Council President Amy Richard, Vice President, Kathleen Zdonowski, Cindy Hower, Joe Gosnell, Pamela Davis and Rosemarie Wenzelberger. Carl Zito was absent.
- Borough Secretary/Treasurer Anita Caughy and Mayor Ken Zemencsik were present.
- Solicitor Gary Asteak, Chief John Soloe and Asst. Chief Eric Schwab were present.

The Meeting was called to order by Council President, Amy Richard, at 7:30 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

- There were no public comments

Council Comment

- There were no Council comments.

Secretary / Treasurer Report

- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Cindy Hower to approve Council Meeting Minutes of December 2, 2019, as written. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Cindy Hower to approve accounts payable for the General Fund and Sewer Fund through December 16, 2019. Motion carried unopposed.
- A letter from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation was provided to Council advising that an audit was conducted to monitor the Borough's Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. The letter stated that the Borough is in compliance with the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund rules and regulation and that the balances are accurate.

Mayor Report

- Mayor Zemencsik had nothing to report.

Police

- Assistant Chief Eric Schwab read out the calls for service from November 1, 2019 to November 30, 2019. He reported that there was 1 theft pending; 1 Narcotics arrest pending; 23 Traffic Citations; 26 Traffic Warnings, 2 Arrests, 10 Assist Other Agencies, along with miscellaneous calls for a total of 103 for the month of November.

- An Article was provided to Council stating that “More officers have been killed in the line of duty this year than soldiers killed in Iraq in the last seven.” Something to think about.

Solicitor

- Attorney Gary Asteak presented Ordinance No 2019-5 fixing the Tax Rate for 2020 at 14 mills. He stated that the Ordinance has been duly advertised with the budget attached. Amy Richard asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-5.
- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to adopt Ordinance 2019-5 Fixing the Tax Rate for 2020 at 14 mills. Motion carried unopposed.
- The Animal Control Agreement for 2020 with Pibbles Paws was discussed. Attorney Asteak stated that this agreement is sponsored by NAZCOG. The rate has increased from last year by 100%. The rate last year was 50 cents per capita, the cost for 2020 will be \$1.00 per capita. The cost for Stockertown will be \$925.00 for the year to be paid quarterly. John Soloe explained that it would cost the Borough significantly more if they were to handle this problem on their own considering the liability and man power needed.
- Amy Richard asked for a Motion to sign and enter into the Animal Control Agreement.
- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Cindy Hower to execute the Multimunicipal Animal Control Agreement for 2020.

Agenda

- Ryan Hottenstein of Financial S&Lutions attended the Council Meeting to explain the financing options for the Sewer Interceptor Project. He advised Council that he sent requests out to more than 20 prospective lenders and that he would normally receive between 3 to 7 proposals from lenders. Unfortunately, he did not receive any proposals for this request. Mr. Hottenstein then continued to explain the advantage of obtaining Bond Notes to fund the project. He stated that banks will not approve a loan for more than 20 years and the interest rate is usually adjusted after several years. A Bond Note can be paid off in 30 years with a fixed rate. Once Council has confirmation on the amount of the Grant they expect to be awarded, a more accurate payment breakdown can be provided. Entech has applied for the Grant and Amy Richard stated that we should know something around mid-year of 2020. Mr. Hottenstein will continue to work with the Borough to obtain financing for this project.
- Amy Richard informed Council that the Borough has received the Part II Permit which is the Water Quality Management permit for the Interceptor Project. She stated that the only issue in the Permit is with the decommissioning of the current sewer plant. The details for this will be worked out but it will not hold up the Permit.
- Amy Richard advised that the General Fund and Sewer Fund Budgets have been advertised. She asked for Motions to adopt the 2020 Budgets.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Cindy Hower to adopt the General Fund Budget for 2020 in the amount of \$569,271.85. Motion carried unopposed.

- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to adopt the Sewer Fund Budget for 2020 in the amount of \$210,170.00. Motion carried unopposed.
- Amy Richard read a letter of resignation received from Police Chief John Soloe. Chief Soloe has been with the Borough since 2001 and will be greatly missed by all. His letter stated that the many years he has spent with Stockertown have been wonderful and rewarding but it is time to start a new chapter in his life. Amy Richard asked for a Motion to accept Chief Soloe's resignation.
- **Motion** by Pam Davis, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to accept the resignation of Police Chief John Soloe. Motion carried unopposed. Council members thanked him for his service.

Executive Session

- Amy Richard asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session for a personnel matter. She stated that there would be no business conducted afterwards.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Cindy Hower to enter into executive session at 8:30 PM. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Amy Richard to exit executive session and enter back into regular session at 8:42 PM. Motion carried unopposed.

Adjournment

- **Motion** by Pam Davis, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to adjourn the Council Meeting at 8:42 PM. Motion carried unopposed.

The next meeting of Borough Council will be a Reorganization Meeting to be held on January 6, 2020

The foregoing was approved the **6th** day of **January, 2020**.

President of Council

Attest: _____