

**STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 16, 2024**

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY,
DECEMBER 16, 2024 AT 7:30 PM AT BOROUGH HALL.

Attendance

- Council Members present were: Council President Amy Richard, Vice President Kathleen Zdonowski, Cindy Hower, Katie Santiago, Joe Gosnell, and Renee Cantwell. Pam Davis was absent.
- Attorney Steven Mills, Mayor Rosemarie Wenzelberger and Candace Keller, Borough Secretary were present.

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Amy Richard at 7:35 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Approval

- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Amy Richard to add discussion and possible action to reduce the number of council members from 7 to 5. Motion carried unopposed.

Secretary / Treasurer Report

- **Motion** by Katie Santiago, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to approve Council Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2024. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to approve accounts payable for the General and Sewer Funds through December 16, 2024. Motion carried unopposed.

Mayor's Report:

- Update on Meeting with Tatamy Police Department. No date has been set to discuss police coverage until after January 6, 2025, per Tatamy Police Department's request.

Police

- Amy Richard reported on School Transportation issues. Amy reported she sent a letter to Nazareth School District regarding the absence of cameras on school buses. She also spoke with Jennings Transportation and BusPatrol, located in Allentown, who provides and installs the cameras. She was told by BusPatrol that Jennings and BusPatrol have been working with the Nazareth School District for several years to get approval to install outside cameras on Jennings's buses, but have been met with continued resistance. Amy Richard will be attending a meeting on Wednesday, December 18th with school board executives to discuss various bus issues.

Solicitor:

- Attorney Steven Mills reported on the process to reduce the number of council members. This action requires a petition to be signed by 5% of the registered electors. The petition would be presented to the Court of Common Pleas to certify the question of the proposal to reduce the number of members of council for a borough from 7 to 5. If approved, the Board of elections would place the petition for referendum of the borough residents at the next general election. This process would take 2 elections to reduce the members to 5. It reduces one member from each election by eliminating the candidate with the lowest vote count in each of the two subsequent elections. The reason for this proposed action is the difficulty recruiting qualified candidates willing commit to serving on the council.
- **Motion** by Renee Cantwell, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to authorize Solicitor Gary Asteak to create a petition to reduce the number of council members from 7 to 5. Motion carried unopposed.
- Attorney Steven Mills reported there are vacancies on the Planning Commission. If anyone is interested, please send a letter of interest to the Borough Office.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Cindy Hower to adopt Resolution 2024-6 fixing the tax rate for 2025 at 18 mills. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to adopt the 2025 General Budget at \$715,501. Budget has been duly advertised and available for inspection. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Katie Santiago to adopt the 2025 Sewer Budget at \$270,196. Budget has been duly advertised and available for inspection. Motion carried unopposed.

Public Works:

- Amy Richard reported the Public Works accomplishments for the month as submitted.

Public Comment:

- Discussion was held amongst residents and council members regarding police coverage and bus stop issues.

Council Comments:

- Rosemarie Wenzelberger requested confirmation of Tatamy Police Department meeting when a date is set.

Adjournment

- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Katie Santiago to adjourn the Council Meeting at 8:40pm. Motion carried unopposed.

The next regular meeting of Borough Council is scheduled for Monday, January 6, 2025.

The foregoing was approved the 6th day of **January, 2025**.

President of Council

Attest: _____