

**STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2021**

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2021 AT 7:30 PM AT BOROUGH HALL.

Attendance

- Council Members present were: Council President Amy Richard, Vice President, Kathleen Zdonowski, Cindy Hower, Renee Cantwell, Pamela Davis and Rosemarie Wenzelberger. Joe Gosnell was absent due to illness.
- Solicitor Gary Asteak, Mayor Ken Zemencsik and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Anita Caughy were present.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Approval

Public Comment

- Bobbi Conover of Main Street questioned Rosemarie Wenzelberger regarding the Stockertown Youth Association. She asked if donors could see the financial records of the association. Ms. Wenzelberger stated that anyone can see the financial records. Ms. Conover questioned as to what was being done with the donations since there have been no parties lately. Ms. Wenzelberger stated that the lack of parties is due to COVID. Ms. Conover asked that since the SYA is not associated with the Borough if Council would consider forming an association where the Borough would be involved because she doesn't feel comfortable dealing with the SYA. Solicitor Asteak stated that Council can take that under consideration but nothing would be decided at this time. Amy Richard hoped that the SYA and residents could work together. Solicitor Asteak stated that if a group wants to organize different events, that he is sure the Borough would be willing to help.
- Eric Wenzelberger wanted to honor his wife, Rosemarie Wenzelberger, for her 19 years on the Borough Council. Amy Richard also thanked her for her service to the Borough and stated that she is sorry to see her go.

Secretary / Treasurer Report

- **Motion** by Pam Davis, Seconded by Cindy Hower to approve Council Meeting Minutes of November 15, 2021, as written. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Renee Cantwell to approve accounts payable for the General Fund, Sewer Fund and Bond Fund through December 6, 2021. Motion carried unopposed.
- Amy Richard stated that a payment in the amount of \$464,713.63 was paid out of the Bond Fund to the contractor for the Sewer Project. The Bond Fund will now be closed.

- The Bank Balances as of December 1, 2021 were provided to Council. They are as follows:
 - General Fund Savings \$349,865.15
 - General Fund Checking \$ 15,563.72
 - Sewer Fund Savings \$ 14,722.46
 - Sewer Fund Checking \$ 38,141.44
 - Bond Fund (Sewer Project) \$ 0.00
 - Real Estate Tax Account \$ 31,065.50
 - Recreation Fund \$ 3,107.48
 - Highway Aid (Liquid Fuels) \$ 1,719.81
 - Fire Truck Fund \$ 3,558.79
 - Escrow Account \$ 5,421.41
 - Debit Card Account \$ 1,148.96
 - Money Market Account \$447,972.15
 - Police Reserve Fund \$ 49,682.27
 - Public Works Reserve Fund \$ 56,613.05

- The Borough Calendar was reviewed for accuracy by Council which highlighted the 2022 scheduled meeting. January 3, 2022 will be a reorganization meeting.
- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Cindy Hower to approve the 2022 Calendar with scheduled meetings for advertising.

Public Works

- Ken Zemencsik stated that leaf pickup has ended. The leaf box has been removed from the truck but Public Works will pick up the remaining piles of leaves with the backhoe.

Solicitor

- Solicitor Asteak stated that he would like to report on the PA Fish and Boat Commission issue. He spoke with the Representative who has agreed not to cite JOAO Construction because they were just doing what they were instructed to do by the Borough. Solicitor Asteak ask him if he would abate the fine issued to the Borough since the Borough did not mean any harm and did know they were violating any laws. The Representative stated that he would have to take it up to his superiors. JOAO was appreciative that they were cleared of any wrongdoings.
- Solicitor Asteak gave an update on the Grandview matter. He stated that he received a proposed Memorandum of Understanding to settle the litigation. He had a few problems with the memorandum and let Attorney Charlesworth know of the changes he requires. Solicitor Asteak does not feel the matter is ready to discuss at this time.
- Solicitor Asteak presented **Ordinance 2021-2 – Ordinance Fixing the Tax Rate for 2022** which sets a tax rate millage at 16.5 mills. The Ordinance was duly advertised in the Express Times on November 22, 2021 and is ready for consideration for adoption by Borough Council.
- **Motion** by Amy Richard, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski adopting Ordinance 2021-2 fixing the tax rate for the year 2022 at 16.5 mills. Motion carried unopposed.

Agenda

- Amy Richard asked for a Motion to adopt the General Fund and Sewer Fund Budgets for 2022. The General Fund and Sewer Fund Budgets were duly advertised in the Express Times on November 20, 2021.
- **Motion** by Renee Cantwell, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to adopt the General Fund Budget for 2022 in the amount of \$654,896.20. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Renee Cantwell to adopt the Sewer Fund Budget for 2022 in the amount of \$231,970.00. Motion carried unopposed.
- Solicitor Asteak has reviewed the Garbage Contract between the Borough and County Waste. He stated that the contract has been executed in the proper form but that we are still awaiting the completed Performance Bond. He stated that Council needs to approve the County Waste Garbage Contract for three (3) years as the low bidder subject to receipt of the Performance Bond. Amy Richard asked for a Motion to approve the 3-year garbage contract with County Waste.
- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Cindy Hower to approve the three (3) year contract with County Waste subject to receipt of the Performance Bond. Motion carried unopposed.
- Council was provided with the 2022 Nazareth Area Council of Governments Animal Control Service Agreement for the Borough's signature. This is a Multimunicipal Agreement with Pibbles Paws Safe Haven, Inc. designated to perform animal control services. The cost for the year for the Borough of Stockertown is \$1,838.00 for this service. Amy Richard asked for a motion to approve the contract.
- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to approve the signing of the 2022 Animal Control Contract at a cost for the Borough of \$1,838.00. Motion carried unopposed.
- A letter of engagement was presented to Council from Zelenkofske Axelrod LLC, Certified Public Accountants to perform the Borough's 2021 annual audit. The paperwork has been reviewed by Solicitor Asteak who stated that it is a standard agreement.
- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Cindy Hower to approve the signing of the Letter of Engagement received from Zelenkofske Axelrod LLC to perform the 2021 annual audit for the Borough. Motion carried unopposed.
- Solicitor Asteak wished everyone a Happy Holiday. He thanked Rosemarie Wenzelberger and stated that she has served this Borough very well.

Council Comments

- Pictures of designs for new Borough signs were passed around for Council's opinions and comments. Everyone stated that they would be happy with any of the signs as long as the old faded sign was replaced.
- Amy Richard informed Council that DEP has inspected the decommissioning of the sewer plant and it has passed with no violations.
- Amy Richard informed Council of a suggestion to possibly create a dog park where the sewer plant once stood. Ms. Caughy stated that Animal Control is looking for an area for that purpose. Amy Richard really liked that suggestion and would like to look into it further.

Adjournment

- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to adjourn the Council Meeting at 8:22 PM. Motion carried unopposed.

The next regular meeting of Borough Council will be held on December 20, 2021

The December 20, 2021 meeting was cancelled.

The next Council Meeting which will be a Reorganization Meeting to be held on January 3, 2022.

The foregoing was approved the **3rd** day of **January, 2022**.

President of Council

Attest:_____