

**STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 20, 2017**

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2017, AT 7:30 PM AT BOROUGH HALL.

Attendance

- Council Members present were: Council President Amy Richard, Vice President, Kathleen Zdonowski, Robin Davis, Cindy Hower, Rosemarie Wenzelberger and Carl Zito. Joe Gosnell arrived at 7:50 PM
- Mayor Charlie Davis and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Anita Caughy were present.
- Solicitor Gary Asteak, Chief John Soloe and OIC Eric Schwab were present.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

- Eric Wenzelberger stated that Public Works did a good job with the snow removal.

Council Comment

- Carl Zito reported that the stop sign at the intersection of Center Street and Bushkill Street was knocked down that day. Anita Caughy stated she would inform Alex Hennings to repair the sign the next morning.
- Rosemarie Wenzelberger questioned whether the Borough has any Ordinances regarding medical marijuana. Chief John Soloe stated that a medical marijuana dispensary is no different than allowing a CVS in the Borough. He stated that it would be regulated by the State and FDA. Solicitor Gary Asteak does not see any need to provide an Ordinance for Stockertown.
- Rosemarie Wenzelberger informed Council that she has two individuals who are willing to donate a bench and tree to be planted somewhere in Metzgar Park. Amy Richard requested that they purchase a bench similar to the benches currently around the Borough. The placement of the tree and bench will be discussed further at a future meeting.

Secretary / Treasurer Report

- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Carl Zito to approve the Council Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2017 as written. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Carl Zito to approve Accounts Payable for the General Fund and Sewer Fund through February 20, 2017. Motion carried unopposed.

- A flyer was distributed to each Council member regarding the multiple municipalities involved in the Electronics Recycling Day which is scheduled for Saturday, May 6, 2017 from 9:00 am to 12 Noon at the Nazareth Intermediate School. The Notice is posted on the Board outside of the Borough Office and flyers will be available there as well.

Mayor Report

- Mayor Davis informed Council that he replaced the small flags on the Veterans Memorial. He also suggested that all of the old shrubs be removed around the Memorial and replaced with new bushes. It was decided that Public Works would remove the old bushes and Mayor Davis and Carl Zito volunteered to help plant the new bushes.

Police

- Chief Soloe read out the call for service report for the month of January, 2017. He stated that there were 6 drug arrests, 2 local arrests, 98 traffic citations, 34 traffic warnings along with miscellaneous calls for a total of 178 for the month.
- Chief Soloe also expressed his complete satisfaction with the work being carried out by the public works crew in expanding the back room in the Police Office.
- OIC Eric Schwab found a bag of stuffed animals in the back room of the police department which was part of a state program in which they were given to children involved in car accidents. Accidents in Stockertown have reduced significantly and these animals were not being used. Chief Soloe advised Officer Schwab to have the stuffed animals cleaned up and they were donated to the children at Fork's United Church of Christ on Sullivan Trail.

Zoning

- Amy Richard asked John Soloe for the status with Widow's Tavern & Grill grease issue. Mr. Soloe stated that he has not been able to speak with Ms. Jody Stanley yet and would try calling again tomorrow. Amy Richard asked Solicitor Asteak to handle the matter for the Borough if Mr. Soloe does not receive the requested documentation and payment for the problem. Solicitor Asteak was provided with a copy of the letter sent to Widow's Tavern along with the invoices.

Public Works

- The pump at the sewer plant is still an issue. A new pump has been ordered. The cost for the new pump is \$11,775.00. The estimated ship date is 3-17-17. The sewer plant is working at this time with only one grinder pump which puts extreme stress on the pump. If this pump fails it will be disastrous for the sewer plant.
- Robin Davis and Kathleen Zdonowski expressed their disagreement with the message on the Borough sign regarding the disposal of non-degradable objects into the sewer system. Amy Richard explained that it was an attention getter so residents would understand the gravity of the problem. After an extensive discussion, it was decided to remove the message from the sign at this time.

Solicitor

- Solicitor Asteak had nothing new to report.

Agenda

- Amy Richard stated that the new heat pump was installed at the Post Office by Fogel's. The cost of the new heat pump was \$5,890.00. Insulation is being installed by our public works crew at the Post Office.
- Amy Richard informed Council of her meeting with PennVest regarding the ongoing dilemma with DEP who is insisting that we commit to something for the Sewer Plant by January 31, 2017. Ms. Richard discussed the prospect of hooking into Nazareth rather than pursuing the SAGR System which would be a more permanent fix. The DEP would like to see the Borough hook up to Nazareth's sewer plant rather than pursue the reconstruction of the current facility. Ms. Richard asked DEP through PennVest for an additional extension of time to find a solution. Ms. Richard met with PennVest in order to discuss a Grant for assistance with the sewer plant's overhaul. If we could qualify for this Grant we could possibly get 100% financing for this project. She was advised by PennVest that in order to qualify for a full Grant for this project the medium household income in the Borough needs to be approximately \$41,000. Ms. Richard was informed that according to the 2010 census, the medium household income in the Borough is approximately \$76,000 and that we are not eligible for a Grant based on that amount. It was suggested that the Borough hire an outside independent company to go door to door and perform a current census. We would need 85% participation with the census to be eligible. Ms. Richard stated that she would speak with PennVest about obtaining partial funding.
- Ms. Richard met with Senator Boscola's and Representative Dent's offices to discuss the DEP matter with them and possibly receive assistance with the sewer problem. To date there has been no assistance received from either office. She expressed her desperation for some solution which will not bankrupt the Borough and cause sewer fees to go up significantly.

Adjournment

- **Motion** by Carl Zito, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to adjourn the Council Meeting at 8:30 PM. Motion carried unopposed.

The next regular meeting of Borough Council will be held on March 6, 2017.

The foregoing was approved the 6th day of **March, 2016**.

President of Council

Attest: _____