

STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 7, 2022

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2022 AT 7:30 PM AT BOROUGH HALL.

Attendance

- Council Members present were: Council President Amy Richard, Vice President, Kathleen Zdonowski, Cindy Hower, Joe Gosnell, and Kimberly Holden-Forsyth. Renee Cantwell and Pam Davis were absent.
- 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

- Matt Weidman addressed Council and stated that he is a Business Agent for Teamster Local Union #773. He stated that some of the Public Works employees and Police Department are looking to have a contract for their work. The Local is willing to handle the process. He handed his business cards out to Council and the Solicitor.
- Tom Stauffer introduced himself and stated that he is a resident of Upper Nazareth and that he is an emergency physician that works out of Reading Hospital. He was offering free education to the police officers in terms of their equipment at no cost to the Borough. He stated that he has been involved with the EMS for 25 years before he became a physician and an EMS educator. He stated that he is qualified to offer this service. Amy Richard thanked him for his offer. Attorney Gary Asteak asked Mr. Stauffer to send him his Curriculum Vitae. Mr. Stauffer stated that he would
- Eric Wenzelberger of Center Street wanted to bring to Council's attention that the loud noise from Polymer Products is continuing late into the night. This issue has been going on for some time. Amy Richard stated that someone would give them a call the next day.

Secretary / Treasurer Report

- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to approve Council Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2022, 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 March 7, 2022. Motion carried unopposed.

Mayor Report

- Mayor Zemencsik stated that he contacted the School Bus Company to obtain the scheduled pickup time for the school children along Main Street. He requested the Police to be at the stops for the safety of the Borough children. Chief Schwab who was in attendance as a resident and not as the Police Chief stated that all calls are responded to according to priority. The Chief was informed by the Mayor and residents in attendance that the Borough children are a priority.
- Mayor Zemencsik informed Chief Schwab that there are two unregistered vehicle which seem to be abandoned behind The Goat Pub for weeks which need to be removed. Rich Dailey, a Borough resident questioned why the Chief was being told now about the vehicles if they have been there for weeks. The Mayor informed Mr. Daily that the Chief has not been in to bring this to his attention sooner. The Mayor also stated that The Goat does not have sufficient parking, and that cars are blocking the view of vehicles pulling out of the side street which is a hazard. There have been prior complaints about the parking which the Chief is aware of. Chief Schwab stated that this is a zoning issue and not a police matter. Solicitor Asteak informed the residents that this matter is not a zoning issue. It is a violation of the Borough's Nuisance Ordinance and is a police issue.
- Rosemarie Wenzelberger stated she felt that Chief Schwab was not being fair. She said that the Chief came after her and her husband when they had an unregistered vehicle on their property. She also did not agree with him on the bus safety issue. Mrs. Wenzelberger stated that children are important and should be a priority even if the Chief has to go there himself to watch the children get on the bus safely, then he needs to do it.

Police

- Chief Schwab stated that he was at the meeting as a resident and not as the Police Chief, therefore, Amy Richard read out the calls for service. There were 2 Thefts; 1 Crime Code Violation; 1 Pornography/obscene material; 2 Suspicious persons; 26 Traffic Summonses; 21 Traffic Warnings along with miscellaneous call for a total of 142 for the month of February, 2022.
- Officer Rudd of the Pennsylvania Fish & Boad Commission introduced himself to explain a complaint which was made to the Stockertown Police Department which was then referred to his agency. He stated that he investigated it. It was in regards to an incident in the Creek back by the Rod & Gun Club where there was a log jam in the Creek. Public Works cleared the log jam so the creek could flow. After questioning the individuals involved and inspecting the area, he found no violations and the case was closed. He was thanked by Council and the Solicitor for coming and giving his report.

Public Works

- Ken Zemencsik, Public Works Director stated that there was a sewer line blockage on Main Street by Hillside Avenue. Allstate Septic was called out to pump the manholes and a jetter was needed to unclog the line. The homeowners at 100 Hillside reported that the sewer backed up into their basement. Servpro was called to clean and decontaminate the basement for the homeowners. The residents were very happy with the cleaning job by Servpro and sent a letter of appreciation.

- JOAO completed the clearing of the Bushkill Creek by Soopys as per the permit issued to the Borough by DEP.

Solicitor

- Solicitor Asteak requested an executive session at the end of the meeting regarding a legal matter.

Agenda

- Resolution 2022-3 is on the agenda for the adoption of the 2022 Emergency Operations Plan. Solicitor Asteak has reviewed the Plan and has approved it. Amy Richard asked for a motion to adopt the Resolution.
- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to adopt **Resolution 2022-3 – Resolution Adopting Emergency Operations Plan for Borough of Stockertown**. Motion carried unopposed.
- Rosemarie Wenzelberger asked whether Council members were still required to that the NIMS class. Attorney Asteak stated that he has not heard anything about that requirement. It was a requirement in the past. He stated that the Emergency Management Coordinator is required to take the classes by not Council at this time.

Council Comments

- Kim Holden Forsyth requested that signs be put up at the end of the trail by Christmas Tree Park because cars are driving through that area way to fast. She also made a comment about the agenda which is being looked into.
- Kathleen Zdonowski repeated her suggestion that the Borough use the land which was formerly the sewer plant for residents to dispose of their yard waste. She suggested that a chipper be purchased to mulch the tree limbs. Amy Richard stated that she would like to have the area monitored so non-residents do not dump their waste there and have it opened to the residents on certain days. The hiring of private contractors was discussed. Several residents concurred with the suggestion of purchasing a chipper and a place to dispose of their yard waste. Amy Richard stated that the matter will be looked into.

New, Old or Unfinished Business

- Blair Taliyan, a Borough resident stated that he was appalled by the conduct at the meeting tonight by everyone. He stated that Mr. Asteak should not have to ask residents to calm down. Attorney Asteak stated that there needs to be law and order in the meeting. Mr. Taliyan agreed and said that everyone on Council along with the public works and the police need to get on the same page. He then thanked them for listening.
- Amy Richard stated to avoid any breach of conduct or confidentiality, she would like to have all cell phones turned off and place them in the basket during executive session. She asked for a Motion to that effect and wanted to know if anyone has any issues with it.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to have all cell phones turned off and placed in a basket during executive session. Motion carried unopposed.

- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Cindy Hower to enter into executive session at 8:17 PM. Solicitor Asteak stated that Council would come back with possible action to be taken. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to exit executive session and enter back into regular session at 8:29 PM. Motion carried unopposed.
- Solicitor Asteak stated that he wanted to report that Labor Council has requested to secure the assistance of an investigator involving personnel matters. Attorney Asteak asked for a motion to approve Labor Council's request
- **Motion** by Amy Richard, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to approve Labor Council to secure an investigator to assist in pending personnel matters. Amy Richard asked for a voice vote. Voice vote is as follows: Motion carried unopposed.

	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Amy Richard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pam Davis (Absent)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cindy Hower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joe Gosnell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kathleen Zdonowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Renee Cantwell (Absent)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kim Holden-Forsyth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Adjournment

- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Cindy Hower to adjourn the Council Meeting at 8:30 PM. Motion carried unopposed.

The next regular meeting of Borough Council will be held on March 21, 2022

The foregoing was approved the 22nd day of **March, 2022**.

President of Council

Attest: _____