

**STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 4, 2022**

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, APRIL 4, 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, Renee Cantwell, Pam Davis and Kimberly Holden-Forsyth.
- 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

Amy Richard stated that there needs to be an executive session added to the Agenda for personnel matters. She asked for a motion to approve the executive session.

Motion by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Cindy Hower to add an executive session at the end of the council meeting for personnel matters. Motion carried unopposed.

Guest Speaker – Mr. Nathan Pritchard, the Watershed Specialist of the Northampton County Conservation District addressed Council regarding their plans for streambank restoration which has been in consideration for a couple of years. He has been working with the Bushkill Stream Conservancy and the PA Fish & Boat Commission. He presented design concepts to Council where they propose restoration of the streambanks at three different sites. The areas proposed are behind the municipal building, Newhart Park Site and along the Sportsman Club. Mr. Pritchard explained that there is excess bank erosion in these areas which impacts the aquatic wildlife. He explained the plans which were distributed and how the designs work. Mr. Pritchard stated that as far as the Borough, what they are looking for is the Borough's approval and whether they would be interested in being a partner. He stated that being a partner could be as simple as the Borough stating that they think this is a good idea and are willing to work with whatever organization takes on the project. Grants will be applied for and they would be looking at the Borough for a letter of support for the Grant application and possibly some staff and equipment time. He stated that there are still a lot of details to iron out.

Secretary / Treasurer Report

- **Motion** by Pam Davis, Seconded by Cindy Hower to approve Council Meeting Minutes of March 21, 2022, as written. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to approve accounts payable for the General Fund and Sewer Fund through April 4, 2022. Motion carried unopposed.

Police

- Chief Schwab did not attend the meeting and there were no Calls for Service provided.

Public Works

- Council was provided with two quotes for a new chipper to be used for residents to drop off branches and tree limbs at the former sewer plant. These quotes were obtained from a Costars member. A quote for a gas engine chipper was \$46,437.20. A quote for a diesel engine chipper was \$52,012.00. Amy Richard stated that we needed to obtain additional quotes, possibly for a used chipper since these prices are extremely high. Kathleen Zdonowski did not feel that purchasing a used chipper would be advantageous because of the extreme pounding the equipment has to endure. She suggested that they wait until they have the funds to purchase new equipment.

Solicitor

- Solicitor Asteak stated that he would be addressing a litigation and personnel matter in executive session.

Agenda

- Amy Richard addressed a sewage inspection report from the DEP concerning excavation events at the Stockertown WWTP during active decommissioning. The report stated that there were no violations found.
- It was discovered that the rental of the porta john for the soccer fields has gone up from \$135 a month to \$210 a month. Amy Richard stated that she loves the idea of organizations renting the fields but asked council opinion on raising the field rental cost to offset the porta john rental. It was suggested to raise the rental by \$5.00 a month but they are willing to work with organizations.

Public Comment

- Mr. Wagner of Winona Street asked if anyone was aware that trees were being cut down at the WWTP. Amy Richard responded that yes, she was aware of that. Mr. Wagner was upset with Council and how they are handling matters and stated that they are all fired.
- Eric Wenzelberger of Center Street questioned whether the stream work along Newhart Park would help with the flooding problem. Amy Richard asked Mr. Pritchard to address that question. He stated that the park would not be raised but the stream bed would be opened up and hopefully it will help against any future flooding.
- Blair Talijan of Jubilee Drive asked for the status of the police department. Amy Richard advised him that the Chief was still out on medical leave. He inquired whether the Borough had contacted the State Police as he suggested. Amy Richard advised him that they have contacted them in person and by mail. The State Police advised that they would patrol the Borough around each shift. Mr. Talijan stated he has not seen any troopers patrolling. Amy Richard stated she will

contact them again. Mr. Tailjan volunteered to speak with them himself since he is a retired State Trooper.

- Mr. Tailjan also suggested that the Borough contact businesses in the Borough to obtain donations towards a chipper. Amy Richard thought that was a very good idea.
- Sean Dooley wanted to follow up on the presentation from the last meeting by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission wherein they asked for comments from Council with regard to the Comprehensive Plan. A member of the public asked if they are able to comment, or is this just something that Council comments on. Sean Dooly advised him that the Plan is just a draft and its not for public comment at this time. He stated that there is a committee on which he represents Stockertown and that they are just looking for Council comments. Once all the communities' elected officials have commented, a draft will be published for the public and a link will be provided on LVPC website and will be announced on the Stockertown Borough's website. At that time the public will have 45 days to review and comment on the Plan.

Amy Richard commented that she wanted Stockertown to be able to share in the coordinated zoning the way Sean Dooley explained.

Gary Asteak suggest that Sean Dooley reach out to Lower Nazareth and have a discussion with them with regard to the coordinated zoning and implementation.

Attorney Asteak stated that the Comprehensive Plan is just a Plan for guidance and to proceed to take a look at zoning. The Comprehensive Plan is just the first step.

Solicitor Asteak explained that the Comprehensive Plan would address and set forth data about traffic, housing, environmental issues and recreation. It will include all the items that impact our lives and set forth goals that we view important.

Sean Dooley asked Council if anyone has a question about the concept of the coordinated zoning which was addressed. Gary Asteak explained that what Sean Dooley basically needs is if there is anything council wants him to go back and tell the LVPC to amend.

Pam Davis stated that she found it hard to comprehend but that each time there is a conversation explaining the concept it becomes clearer.

Amy Richard stated that there is a lot of data to absorb.

Sean Dooley agreed there is a substantial amount to read, but stated that given how much the Borough is already built up and what is left to be developed or redeveloped, he sees nothing that would raise an alarm for the Borough.

Council was not going to make an opinion until they have a better comprehension of the Plan. Sean Dooley questioned whether to remove 202 Old Easton Road from the specified sites as a priority on the plan. He is not sure why that is listed. No other sites are listed. Council all agreed to remove 202 Old Easton from the specified sites on the plan.

Amy Richard asked if there were any council comments. There were none.

Ms. Richard then asked for a Motion to go into executive session.

Motion by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Cindy Hower to enter into executive session at 8:52 PM for a personnel issue. Motion carried unopposed.

Motion by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to exit executive session and enter back into regular session at 9:13 PM. Motion carried unopposed.

Adjournment

- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Cindy Hower to adjourn the Council Meeting at 9:14 PM. Motion carried unopposed.

The next regular meeting of Borough Council will be held on April 18, 2022

The foregoing was approved the **2nd** day of **May, 2022**.

President of Council

Attest: _____