

**STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 3, 2019**

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2019 AT 7:30 PM AT BOROUGH HALL.

Attendance

- Council Members present were: Council President Amy Richard, Vice President, Kathleen Zdonowski, Cindy Hower, Joe Gosnell, Rosemarie Wenzelberger and Carl Zito. Pamela Davis was absent.
- Borough Secretary/Treasurer Anita Caughy and Mayor Ken Zemencsik were present.
- Solicitor Gary Asteak, Chief John Soloe and Asst. Chief Eric Schwab and Officer Einhorn were present.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

- Eric Wenzelberger of Center Street inquired as to additional sewer hook-ups once Stockertown connects to Easton Sewer Authority. Amy Richard informed him that a study will need to be conducted first before any additional hook-ups are granted.
- Brenda Simpson of 101 Main Street asked for guidance regarding her landlord with the mold problem and other issues at the property she resides. She was advised that the Borough does not have the authority to regulate landlord issues. She was directed to contact Legal Services; the Northampton County Bar Association; the Health Department and/or the Magistrates Office.

Council Comment

- No Council Comments

Secretary / Treasurer Report

- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to approve Council Meeting Minutes of May 6, 2019, 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 June 3, 2019. Motion carried unopposed.
- A letter was distributed to Council from Lamont G. McClure of the Office of the County Executive for Northampton County requesting support for a \$4.5 billion infrastructure investment plan for Pennsylvania.

Mayor Report

- Mayor Zemencsik informed Council that the Northampton County COG is looking into an Emergency Contact Plan through Nixle and is trying to ascertain who would be interested in joining as a group for a lesser rate. He was informed that the Borough is paying \$1,500 per year for Code Red which is considerably cheaper than what Nixle would charge, therefore, Stockertown would not be interested in joining. Amy Richard once again encouraged residents to sign up for Code Red to be informed of emergencies.

Police

- Asst. Chief Eric Schwab read out the calls for service for the month of May, 2019. He stated that there were 29 Arrests, 17 of them were for Narcotics; 10 Driving under the Influence of Drugs and/or Alcohol; 33 Traffic Summonses; 32 Traffic Warnings; 13 Other Traffic related incidents; 28 Building Checks, along with Miscellaneous calls for a total of 175 calls from May 1st to May 31st.
- Asst. Chief Schwab stated that on a good note, the County held its annual Youth Field Day wherein 168 children attended. It turned out to be a very nice day for all.
- Council was informed that the Police Department was awarded a Grant for \$17,500.00 which will go towards replacing firearms; holsters; helmets; shields, 1 Enrad; and a Track system for e-tickets. Council thanked Asst. Chief Schwab for applying for the Grant.
- Chief Schwab presented a copy of an Ordinance used by Wilson Borough and Easton regarding Landlords with unruly tenants. It consists of a 3 Strike Rule. He requested Solicitor Asteak review the Ordinances and prepare a similar Ordinance for the Borough. He informed Council that much of the narcotics in the Borough is coming from renters and that the Borough needs an Ordinance to address this issue.

Zoning

- John Soloe informed Council that the Zoning Hearing Board met with regard to an application by James B. Harrison, Jr. for a change of the Variance for Ralph's Radiator on Main Street. He stated several residents attended and that after comments back and forth, the Variance was granted with the ability to sell used cars from the lot.

Public Works

- Amy Richard informed Council that the demolition of the Public Works Garage would begin on Tuesday, June 4th and invited council members to attend the demolition. Ms. Richard stated that the construction of the new building is scheduled to begin on June 17, 2019.

Solicitor

- Solicitor Asteak stated that Plainfield Township has submitted an official map and draft Ordinance for review and comment. He stated that the Borough's response is "No Comment".

Agenda

- Borough Secretary, Anita Caughy, informed Council that the software for the Zoning and Public Work's computers is not working properly. The Borough IT Specialist stated that the software needs to be updated to the current version. He estimated the total cost to be approximately \$800.00. Council agreed to updating the computer. Amy Richard asked for Motion to approve the updates.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Cindy Hower to update the software for the Zoning and Public Works Computers at a cost not to exceed \$1,000. Motion carried unopposed.

Executive Session

- **Motion** by Carl Zito, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to enter into Executive Session at 8:17 PM for personnel issue. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to exit Executive Session and enter back into regular session at 8:40 PM. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to increase the Assistant Chief's salary by \$3.00 per hour retroactive to June 1, 2019. Motion carried unopposed.

Old, New and Unfinished

- Kathleen Zdonowski asked if there was a decision on the date for the yard sale since she was unable to attend the last meeting due to medical issues. She was advised that Council decided, at the request of Chief Soloe, to discontinue the Borough Wide Yard Sale due to dangerous conditions on Main Street during the event. Residents can hold their own yard sales whenever they want with a limit of 3 per year. No permit fee will be charged.
- John Soloe informed Council that he has been approached by an individual who is interested in purchasing the land from the current Mayor's house to the parking lot. Amy Richard stated that she personally would like to see that property turned into an apartment complex for seniors. That Stipulation would have to be part of the sale of the property. The interested party did not state what he wanted to do with the land but asked what the price would be. Mr. Soloe stated that the individual would be required to get an appraisal. There was a lengthy discussion back and forth among Council members with different views. Most Council members were against selling the property at this time.

Adjournment

- **Motion** by Carl Zito, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to adjourn the Council Meeting at 8:48 PM. Motion carried unopposed.

The next regular meeting of Borough Council will be held on June 17, 2019

The June 17th Council Meeting was cancelled.

The July 1st Council Meeting was cancelled.

The foregoing was approved the **15th** day of **July, 2019**.

President of Council

Attest: _____