

STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 1, 2022

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 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 Renee Cantwell. Pam Davis was absent. Kim Holden Forsyth has resigned.
- Solicitor Gary Asteak, Mayor Rosemarie Wenzelberger 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 asked that the contract renewal received from FP Mailing Systems for the Borough's postage meter be added to the agenda.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Cindy Hower to add the contract renewal from FP Mailing Systems for the Borough's postage meter to the agenda. Motion carried unopposed.
- Gary Asteak asked that the NAZCOG Plan on the agenda be moved up to the first item discussed because Becky Bradley, the Executive Director of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission was present and he wanted to give her a chance to speak and not have to wait to get through other items. Council agreed.
- Gary Asteak stated that the NAZCOG Plan was duly advertised in the Express Times as well as on the Borough website as a public hearing for adoption of the Plan. He explained that the Planning Commission has been working on this plan for several years. Sean Dooley, the Borough's representation attended the steering committee meetings. The matter has been reviewed by Borough Council and they have been given an opportunity to make comments. The Borough's Planning Commission has reviewed the Plan and has provided a letter of recommendation to adopt the Comprehensive Plan. The letter states that with a vote of 4-0 the members of the Planning Commission recommend that Borough Council adopt the Nazareth Area Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan as the Borough's Comprehensive Plan without additional comment. Attorney Asteak then opened the floor for public comment. He stated that the Plan has been available for review at both the Borough office and the Borough website has a link for NAZPLAN.org for public review. Attorney Asteak introduced Becky Bradley who is the Executive Director of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. He stated she has acted as the Borough's consultant in connection with the Plan. Attorney Asteak stated that the Plan is a unified plan with Bath, Bushkill Twp., Chapman, Hanover, Lower Nazareth, Moore Twp., Nazareth, Stockertown, Tatamy and Upper Nazareth. He asked for any questions or comments from the public. There were none.
- Becky Bradley, Executive Director of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission thanked the Borough for their contribution. She stated that the Plan is an umbrella to use and

the details are up to the Borough. She stated that the Plan is a guide and a foundation to help the Borough make decisions as to what is best for the Borough.

- Amy Richard asked if anyone present had any questions or comments regarding the plan. There were none. Solicitor Asteak stated that a Resolution has been prepared for adoption of the Multi Municipal Comprehensive Plan. The Resolution confirms that the Plan consists of maps, charts and textual material covering the requirements as set forth in Section 301, 301.1 and 301.2 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code. Ms. Richard asked for a motion to adopt the plan by Resolution.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Cindy Hower to adopt **Resolution 2022-6** which is a Resolution Adopting Nazareth Area Multimunicipal Comprehensive Plan. Motion carried unopposed.

Secretary / Treasurer Report

- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Renee Cantwell to approve Council Meeting Minutes of July 18, 2022, as written. Motion carried unopposed.
- Amy Richard asked for a Motion to approve accounts payable. She explained that there is a check issued to Joe's Garage in the amount of \$758.38 which is for replacement of a wheel and studs for the Borough's Ford F-550. She explained that a previous employee did not tighten the lug nuts on all four wheels of the truck and when one of the new employees turned a corner the wheel came off and rolled across the street. She stated that she is thankful that no one was hurt.
- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to approve accounts payable for the General Fund and Sewer Fund through August 1, 2022, 2022. Motion carried unopposed.

Mayor Report

- No Comments

Solicitor

- Solicitor Asteak reported the outcome of a meeting which was held on July 19, 2022 at the Borough office with GFL who has purchased County Waste and has taken over the contract. Michael Yelinek, the Regional Vice President and Jonas Kreitzer, the Account Manager attended the meeting. GFL explained that they have been having a problem keeping employees, obtaining supplies and purchasing new trucks which seems to be the problem throughout this country. They stated that they have raised their salaries and hope to be able hire additional staff. They suggested that the Borough go back to weekly bulk pickup which will avoid excessive bulk all at one time. Hopefully the current problems with the bulk pickup will be resolved. Jonas Kreitzer will be checking with the Borough weekly to follow-up on any problems. Residents are asked to contact the Borough office by noon if their garbage and bulk items have not been picked up. This will give the office time to contact GFL before they leave the area so they can circle back and pick up what was missed. Solicitor Asteak stated that the Borough has been extremely frustrated with the level of service they have provided which prompted the meeting. Their explanation is

consistent with everything going on in the country, therefore, we will give them the opportunity to rectify the problems.

- Solicitor Asteak commented that Kim Holden Forsyth is not in attendance and that he had received a letter from her today stating to please accept this letter of resignation, effective immediately. The letter stated that she has moved out of the Borough which has been confirmed through her landlord. Solicitor Asteak disclosed that she did not file the appropriate Moving Permit which is required by Ordinance. He stated, that effective immediately there is a vacancy on Council and in accordance with the provisions of the Code, Section 901, the Borough now has 30 days in which to fill the vacancy by appointment

Agenda

- FP Mailing Solution provides the Borough with their current postage meter. They have, at the request of the postal service, updated the postage meters which requires a new contract be executed. The previous contract was for \$28.95 per month paid quarterly at \$86.85. It has now been increased to \$34.95 per month which is \$104.85 per quarter. This is an increase of \$18.00 per quarter. Amy Richard asked for a Motion to approve execution of the new postage meter contract.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Cindy Hower to approve and sign the new contract with FP Mailing Solutions for the Borough's postage meter at the cost of \$34.95 per month/\$104.85 per quarter. Motion carried unopposed.
- Amy Richard informed everyone that the Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant for the Lincoln Avenue Road Project has been submitted. She stated that the Borough Secretary, with some research, found that Municipalities do not have to provide the 30 percent matching funds. If we are awarded the Grant the entire Grant will be put towards the project.

Public Comment

- Richard Dailey of Patriot Lane wanted to thank Council for hiring his son and giving him an opportunity to work for the Borough. He stated that his son really enjoys the job and works very hard at it. He also wanted to share that Ken Zemencsik the public works supervisor buys the employees lunch every Friday and does not accept anything towards it. He felt that was extremely nice of him and he wants to thank him.
- Morgan Schafer of Old Easton Road questioned whether it was proper to use names in the Borough Newsletter. Attorney Asteak stated that it was full transparency and that truth is always right.
- Becky Goldenberg asked whether the Borough has considered a blessing box with food items for those in need. Amy Richard informed her that there is one located in front of Forks United Church on their front door step. She also asked if the public will be notified of the council vacancy. Amy Richard stated that the Borough will be taking applications and will choose the person most qualified.

- Peter Dewey of Birch Street inquired as to what was going on with the police department. He was disturbed by the lack of police coverage in the Borough.
- Tom Appleman of Crown View stated that he felt it would be good to get in contact with local police departments to cover Stockertown.
- Becky Goldenberg asked whether there was any block watch formed. Several people present stated that they have formed watch parties.
- Richard Daily asked what is the dollar amount being spent on legal fees in connection with the current issues. Amy Richard stated that the rough number is around \$58,000 but requested not to hold her to that number. That number includes issues with Public Works and the Police Department.
- Amy Richard asked if there were any other thoughts or comments. She asked for Council Comments, there were none. She then asked for a Motion to adjourn.

Adjournment

- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Cindy Hower to adjourn the Council Meeting at 8:10 PM. Motion carried unopposed.

The next regular meeting of Borough Council will be held on August 15, 2022.
The August 15, 2022 meeting was cancelled.
A Special Council Meeting was advertised and scheduled for August 30, 2022.

The foregoing was approved the **30th** day of **August, 2022**.

President of Council

Attest: _____