

**STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2024**

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 16, 2024 AT 7:30 PM AT BOROUGH HALL.

Attendance

- Council Members present were: Council President Amy Richard, Vice President Kathleen Zdonowski, Renee Cantwell, Joe Gosnell, Cindy Hower and Katie Santiago. Pamela Davis was absent.
- Attorney Gary Asteak, Mayor Rosemarie Wenzelberger and Secretary/Treasurer Candace Keller were present.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda

- There were no additions to the agenda.

Secretary / Treasurer Report

- **Motion** by Katie Santiago, Seconded by Cindy Hower to approve Council Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2024 with one correction. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to approve accounts payable for the General and Sewer Funds through September 16, 2024. Motion carried unopposed.

Mayor's Report:

- Mayor Rosemarie Wenzelberger reported on correspondence with PennDot regarding a crosswalk on Main Street. Approval is required by PennDot. Gary Asteak pointed out concern in reference to liability and a false sense of security at this crosswalk that vehicles will actually be stopping for pedestrians to cross. This may actually cause more safety issues. Council decided to not act on obtaining crosswalks at this time, unless PennDot has more information regarding liability and safety.

Police

- Amy Richard reported the oldest police car will be offered for sale after Halloween.
- Pennsylvania State Police Officer Sergeant Thomas Geerlof attended the meeting to show their continued support and continued coverage of the borough in the absence of a borough police department.
- Amy Richard reported that there will be police qualification training sessions at the Stockertown Rod & Gun Club beginning at 8:00am on October 1 & 2. This will be posted on the Borough's Website and sign.

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- Council was in favor of having the constables out on Halloween evening. The Borough residents posted on Facebook having a trunk and treat Halloween evening. Council approved using the Borough parking lot for the trunk and treat.

Solicitor

Zoning

- Amy Richard read the letter sent in Opposition to House Bill 1976 and House Bill 2045 regarding Affordable Housing being proposed in a manner not presently allowed under the Borough's zoning.
Motion by Joseph Gosnell, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski for the Borough of Stockertown to adopt Resolution 2024-2 in opposition to House Bill 1976 and House Bill 2045 therefore permitting the Borough to manage zoning and land use in the manner that aligns with the Borough's needs and values. Motion carried unopposed
- Bids for Lincoln Avenue Project were read. Graver Industries (dba Barker & Barker) \$132,790; Grace Industries \$182,717.80; H & K Group \$193,360.04. Amy Richard reported we have enough grant funds to pay for any of the proposed bids. After extensive discussion, council decided not to accept any of the bids, because of the large disparity between bid amounts. The project will be rebid in the spring of 2025.
Motion by Katie Santiago, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to reject all three bids for Lincoln Avenue Project and revisit in early Spring 2025. Motion carried unopposed.

Public Works:

- Ken Zemencsik, Public Works Director reported no date has been set for Leaf Pick up. More information to follow.
- Ken Zemencsik also reported on the price to have accumulated trees and wood from the trail project by Public Works to Tri-State Soil & Mulch company. The cost would be \$8/yard. The borough would also receive recycling funds back from this.
- Ken Zemencsik asked council to approve the purchase of a thumb attachment for the backhoe to load the logs and wood at a cost of \$2,000 - \$2500 to make loading into the truck easier and safer.
Motion by Katie Santiago, Seconded by Renee Cantwell to permit Public Works to purchase attachment to backhoe not to exceed \$3000. Motion carried unopposed.
Motion by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to approve the delivery of the Borough's yard waste to Tri State Top Soil & Mulch Company at the cost of \$8/yard. Motion carried opposed.
- Ken Zemencsik reported the bridge work at the park is nearly finished. The repairs include new non slip decking and painting. The Merry-Go-Round at Newhart Park is also repaired.

Agenda Items:

- Amy Richard reported the yearly insurance renewal was received from Brown & Brown. Last year's premium was \$ 13,066. The new 2024-2025 the premium is \$15,851. Police professional package was dropped until the Borough resumes a police department. There were some items missing from the package, which included the marquis sign and the Main Street Blinker light, that will be added.
- Garbage contracts are on the agenda and will be opened on October 7. The initial budget will be reviewed after executive session.

Public Comment:

- Eric Wenzelberger commented on the sale of one of our police cars. Amy Richard stated age of car, as well as lack of use is the reason.

Council Comments:

- **Executive Session:**
- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Katie Santiago for Council to go into Executive Session for police and legal issues at 8:13pm. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Cindy Hower to adjourn Executive Session at 8:35pm and return into regular session. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Renee Cantwell, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to change previous Resolution # 2023-3 – COG to 2023-6 due to duplicate numbers were used in error.
- Reviewed preliminary budget figures. Draft went home with council members and will be reviewed at next meeting.
- **Motion** by Renee Cantwell, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to adjourn the Council Meeting at 8:42pm. Motion carried unopposed.

The next regular meeting of Borough Council is scheduled for Monday October 7, 2024.

The foregoing was approved the **7th** day of **October, 2024**.

President of Council

Attest: _____

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