

**STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2020**

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A COUNCIL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 AT 7:30 PM AT BOROUGH HALL.

Attendance

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

- Kathy Altmann, President of the Bushkill Stream Conservancy, addressed Council and stated that she would like to emphasize the desire of their Board of Directors to have someone from the Borough, whether it be a Council person or resident, to represent Stockertown at their monthly meetings. She stated that it has been quite a while since Stockertown has been represented. She informed Council that they meet once a month at 7:00 PM. Locations vary at this time due to restrictions.
- Ms. Altmann stated that the 2nd reason she attended the meeting is because she had been contacted by Emil Lukas, a Stockertown resident, regarding the erosion issue along the Bushkill Creek on his property which was caused by the last tropical storm. She stated that the Conservancy would like to partner with the Borough to help resolve the problem. Amy Richard asked if she has seen the creek lately. Ms. Altmann was provided with pictures taken all along the Bushkill Creek. Ms. Richard stated that there are 70 plus trees down across the creek as well as a large amount of stones and concrete blocking the flow of the creek. Ms. Richard informed Ms. Altmann that the Borough has applied to FEMA through PEMA for funding to obtain professional help to remove the trees which have also stopped the flow of water in the creek. Ms. Richard stated that the main problem is access to the creek and the need for heavy duty equipment to remove the trees before the erosion issue can be resolved. The majority of damage to the creek is all along Stockertown.
- Emil Lukas of LeFevre Road informed Council that he has spoken with several contractors to stop further erosion of his property and that they informed him that the Borough needs to fix their issues up stream or the erosion will continue. He also was concerned about the lawn service mowing too close to the stream and causing further erosion.

Council Comment

- Carl Zito asked whether anything has been done regarding the high grass at 108 Winona Street. He stated that fines need to be issued.

Secretary / Treasurer Report

- **Motion** by Carl Zito, Seconded by Cindy Hower to approve Council Meeting Minutes of August 17, 2020, 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 September 9, 2020. Motion carried unopposed.
- Amy Richard asked Council to approve the Borough to register for Amazon Prime to obtain free shipping and faster service for item ordered. Currently employees have been using their own private Prime Service. Council all agreed to apply for the Borough's own Amazon Prime subscription.

Public Works

- The fence along LeFevre Road will begin next week.
- Cleanup of the Borough trail is ongoing from damage caused by the tropical storm.
- Amy Richard informed Council that Alex Hennings, has asked for approval to purchase a new zero turn mower for the Borough with a cap of \$4,000.00. She asked if anyone had any objections and there were none. She then asked for a Motion to approve the purchase.
- **Motion** by Carl Zito, Seconded by Joe Gosnell for the purchase of a new zero turn mower with a cap of Four Thousand (\$4,000.00) Dollars. Motion carried unopposed.

Police

- Chief Eric Schwab read the calls for service report from August 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020. He stated that there was 1 Theft; 1 Fraud; 1 Criminal Mischief; 53 Traffic Summonses; 14 Traffic Warnings; 8 Assist Other Agencies plus additional miscellaneous calls for a total of 122 calls for the month of August.
- Chief Schwab informed Council that due to the resignation of several police chiefs in the area and the rhetoric regarding the police in this country, signs have popped up in other towns to support the police. He advised them has also ordered signs supporting Stockertown Police at a cost of \$6.50 per sign. No profit is being made on the signs. He is informing anyone interested to contact the Borough office.
- Chief Schwab presented his new Police Ride Along Policy to Council for their approval. It has been prepared to allow anyone over 18 who is interest in becoming a police officer to have the opportunity to ride along in a police vehicle in accordance with the guidelines of the policy. He informed them that Solicitor Asteak has reviewed the policy and instructed the Policy be put on the agenda for approval by Council.

- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Carl Zito to approve the Police Ride Along Policy as reviewed and approved by the Borough's Solicitor. Motion carried unopposed.

Agenda

- An Ordinance has been prepared for the application of the Sewer Bond for the Interceptor Project. A Motion is required for the advertising of the Sewer Bond Ordinance which will be adopted at the next Council meeting on September 21, 2020.
- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Cindy Hower to approve the advertising of the Ordinance setting forth the intent to issue a series of General Obligation Bonds for the Sewer Interceptor Project. Motion carried unopposed.

Executive Session

- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to enter into Executive Session at 8:08 for a personnel issue. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to exit Executive Session and enter back into regular session at 8:16 PM. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to approve the Police Chief Employment Agreement of 2020. Motion carried unopposed.

Adjournment

- **Motion** by Carl Zito, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to adjourn the Council Meeting at 8:17 PM. Motion carried unopposed.

The next regular meeting of Borough Council will be held on September 21, 2020.

The foregoing was approved the **21st** day of **September, 2020** .

President of Council

Attest: _____