

STROUDSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES - MARCH 21, 2023

A regular meeting of the Stroudsburg Borough Council convened at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Stroudsburg Borough Municipal Building with the following members present: Council President Matt Abell, Vice-President Erica McCabe, Council President Pro-Tem Tobias Sabatine, Council Member Joanne Kochanski, Council Member Melody Trunfio, and Council Member Victoria DeVries. Council Member James Smith was absent.

Also present were: Mayor Michael Moreno, Borough Manager Larry Kopp, Borough Solicitor Christopher Brown, Esq., Street Superintendent Brian Ace, Jr., and Debbie Ace.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Hearing and Consideration to Adopt an Ordinance of the Borough Council of the Borough of Stroudsburg in the County of Monroe, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to Amend Chapter 22 of the Borough Code Concerning Subdivision and Land Development to Permit Joinder of Adjoining Parcels of Land Without a Formal Land Development Plan.

The public hearing was open on a motion made by Mr. Sabatine, seconded by Ms. McCabe. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

There were no questions or comments from the public regarding the aforementioned Ordinance.

The public hearing was closed on a motion made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Mr. Sabatine. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

The aforementioned Ordinance was adopted on a motion made by Mr. Sabatine, seconded by Ms. McCabe. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes for the regular meeting on March 7, 2023.

The minutes of the regular meeting on March 7, 2023, were approved as circulated on a motion made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. McCabe. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Monthly Administrative Reports

The following monthly reports were approved on a motion made by Mr. Sabatine, seconded by Ms. McCabe: Public Works Report, Parking Report, and the Right-To-Know Report. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Accept Unaudited February, 2023 Treasurer's Report.

A motion was made by Mr. Sabatine, seconded by Ms. McCabe to accept the Balance Sheets, FY 23 vs FY 22 and the Budget to Actual Report. The motion was carried.

(6- yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

Consideration to advertise for a bid opening on May 3, 2023, for the Seventh Street Improvements Project in the Pocono Record in the issues of March 29 and April 12, 2023.

A motion was made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mr. Sabatine, to advertise in the Pocono Record for a bid opening on May 3, 2023, for the Seventh Street Improvements Project in the issues of March 29 and April 12, 2023. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consideration to approve a pay raise to Robin Wall and Debbie Ace to an hourly rate of \$21.23, effective immediately, based upon the recommendation of the Borough Manager.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. McCabe to approve a pay raise to Robin Wall and Debbie Ace to an hourly rate of \$21.23, effective immediately, based upon the recommendation of the Borough Manager. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consideration to schedule a public hearing to Adopt An Ordinance of the Borough Council of the Borough of Stroudsburg in the County of Monroe, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to Designate Pennsylvania Municipal Services Company as the Collector for Delinquent Garbage Fees and Imposing on Delinquent Ratepayers the Obligation to Pay Reasonable Costs Incurred for the Collection of Delinquent Fees, Penalties and Interest.

A motion was made by Mr. Sabatine, seconded by Ms. McCabe to schedule a public hearing for consideration of the aforementioned Ordinance on April 4, 2023. The motion was carried.
(6- yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consideration to discuss the process of Ordinance adoption.

Borough Manager, Mr. Kopp, discussed procedures for enacting Ordinances in the Pennsylvania Borough Code. Discussion ensued. Council agreed to streamline the process, in particular public hearings for Ordinance approval.

A motion was made by Ms. McCabe, and seconded by Mr. Sabatine to direct the Codes Committee to review the process to make it more efficient. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Motion to discuss a Financial Review/Report on the Borough of Stroudsburg's 2022 Fiscal Year.

Mr. Kopp provided a finance report to Council. He discussed the financial position of the Borough's 2022 Fiscal year. He reported that the Borough is doing great overall and is much stronger financially, with large reserves in place and expenses considerably under budget.

Consideration to amend the purchase of a Carahsoft Technologies security camera system from Verkada, previously approved August 2, 2022 (COSTARS Contract #003-451).

Mr. Kopp reported that an updated camera is needed in Lot 5. It is more expensive because it is a fisheye, wide angled camera. The additional cost is \$7,864.20.

A motion was made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mr. Sabatine to authorize the additional amount of \$7,864.20 to Carahsoft Technologies security camera system from Verkada to purchase the new security camera. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consideration to discuss the addition of a handicapped parking space at the corner of South 9th Street and Mill Alley (Space 501 on South 9th Street).

A motion was made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mr. Sabatine to schedule a public hearing to discuss an Ordinance change at the next meeting on April 4, 2023. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consideration to approve an Application for Event/Assembly Permit from the Sherman Theater to conduct the 2023 Pocono Pride Festival on Sunday, June 4, 2023.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. McCabe to approve an Application for Event/Assembly Permit from the Sherman Theater to conduct the 2023 Pocono Pride Festival on Sunday, June 4, 2023. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consideration to deny a Certificate of Appropriateness, as recommended by the Historical Architectural Review Board, to Ibrahim Salouma for the replacement of the slate roof at the garage (accessory structure) at 100 N. 8th Street with architectural shingles not approved by the HARB Ordinance. In addition, work was done without prior recommendation by the HARB Board or approval by Borough Council.

The homeowner, Ibrahim Saloum and the contractor were present. Solicitor Brown explained to Council that the original roof had slate tiles that were removed and replaced with asphalt shingles. He added that the Ordinance specifically states that whenever feasible, to repair it with historic materials and not to replace it entirely. He also mentioned that HARB agreed that the new roof had no negative effects and that it is compatible with the existing structures in the historic district.

A motion was made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mr. Sabatine to approve the work that was already completed. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consider to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness, as recommended by the Historical Architectural Review Board, to Ibrahim Saloum, for the replacement of two windows at the garage (accessory structure) at 100 N. 8th Street.

Mr. Kopp made a correction to the above recommendation that it was for the replacement of two windows for the house not the garage.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Mr. Sabatine to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness, as recommended by the Historical Architectural Review Board, to Ibrahim Saloum, for the replacement of two windows for the house (not the garage) at 100

N. 8th Street. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Committee Reports

Codes Committee — Mr. Abell reported that the next meeting is tomorrow. He mentioned they will discuss fixing problem properties in the Historic District and reviewing the public hearing process.

Budget Committee — Nothing to report.

Parking Committee — Ms. McCabe advised the next meeting will be at 4:30 p.m. on March 28, 2023.

Recycling Committee — Mr. Kopp reported that the Twin Boroughs Recycling Center is working to establish collecting tires. They recently purchased a card reader to collect payments for them. Also, they are working on grinding mulch this week and looking to sell it to commercial vendors.

Sewer Committee — Mr. Kopp received a package from DEP regarding the 537 Plan. DEP said that Stroud Township needed to pass a Resolution approving the plan. He reported that Stroud Township is doing that tonight. Also, the 537 Plan is being pushed back by 30 days due to an advertising error. Mr. Ace reported that smoke testing is being done and mapping of the cleanouts is continuing.

Street Committee — Mayor Moreno reported the next meeting will be on April 5, 2023 at 4P.M.

Personnel Committee — Mr. Kopp advised that several issues will be discussed in executive session.

Public Relations/Media Committee — Mr. Sabatine reported that the committee met today to get the concert series finalized. He is going to reach out to SROSRC to see if they are interested in doing story walks in the downtown area. He mentioned planning an event for the re-opening of Ann Street Park and, also organizing a fund raiser for a potential dog park in Glen Park. He added that they are working on a schedule of events/holidays for the Facebook page.

Redevelopment Committee — Nothing to report.

1-80 Expansion Task Force Committee — Ms. McCabe reported that the committee met last Friday with the Secretary of Transportation, PennDot District V Executive and State Representative Tarah Probst. As a result, at the meeting, the Secretary of Transportation committed to review the expansion plans.

Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation Commission — Ms. McCabe reported the next meeting will be on March 28, 2023 at 5:30 P.M.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Moreno reported that he wrote a support letter for the YMCA's capital improvement project and sent it to Bob Casey's office. He praised the Pocono Irish American Club for

setting high safety standards for the Saint Patrick's Day Parade. He is volunteering with Meals-on-Wheels tomorrow. He thanked SARP for keeping him updated on the latest happenings in town.

Council Member Reports

Ms. McCabe reported that SARP are getting body cameras. Mrs. Kochanski reported that at Rotary Park, some trees had graffiti (red paint) on them. Mr. Ace said he would investigate this. Mr. Sabatine reported he has been working with the municipalities of East Stroudsburg and Middle Smithfield and State Representative Probst's office seeking to get a local creek and reservoir renamed. Ms. Trunfio is working with the Pocono Arts Gallery to sponsor an art contest and have the winning artwork displayed in the Borough Office. It was suggested to bring this to the Public Relations/Media Committee.

Solicitor's Report — Nothing to report.

Manager's Report — Mr. Kopp addressed this in his report to Council.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report — Nothing to report.

Street Superintendent's Report — Nothing to report.

Approval of Bills on Warrants 230321.

A motion was made by Mr. Sabatine, seconded by Mrs. Kochanski to authorize the payment of the bills on Warrants 230321. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Public Input for Non-Agenda Items

There were no questions or comments from the public.

Executive Session re: Personnel

A motion was made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mr. Sabatine to go in to an executive session at 7:58 P.M. for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

The executive session concluded at 8:09 P.M. on a motion made by Mrs. Kochanski and seconded by Ms. McCabe. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M on a motion made by Mr. Sabatine and seconded by Ms.

McCabe. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)