

STROUDSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES - MARCH 7, 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.

Jason Fitzgerald, President of Penn Strategies (Borough Grant Writer), discussed the Borough's grants that were awarded in 2022 and pending for 2023. He advised council to focus on funding current projects rather than look for new programs and projects to fund.

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 15 "Motor Vehicles and Traffic", Section §15-316 1.A., "Handicapped Parking Zones Established of the Stroudsburg Borough Code". The proposed Ordinance will remove the handicap parking spaces from 1 Bell Terrace and 2 Bell Terrace.

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 Mr. Sabatine, seconded by Ms. McCabe. 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)

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 15 "Motor Vehicles and Traffic", Section 15-306 1. "Parking Prohibited at all times in Certain Locations" of the Stroudsburg Borough Code of Ordinances. The proposed Ordinance will add the west side of Stone Street between Scott Street and Thomas Street to the table of prohibited parking locations.

The public hearing was open on a motion made by Mrs. Kochanski, 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 Ms. McCabe. 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)

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 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.

This public hearing was tabled.

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes for the regular meeting on February 21, 2023.

The minutes of the regular meeting on February 21, 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)

Old Business

Discuss Emergency Services needs in the Borough with the Ad Hoc Committee.

Mr. Kopp spoke to Jeff Young, of Suburban Ambulance, and will work to schedule a meeting, which will be discussed at the March 21, 2023 meeting.

New Business

Consideration to approve the Lot Consolidation Plan and the Land Development Plan of the Young Men's Christian Association of Stroudsburg (YMCA).

This public hearing was tabled.

Consideration to schedule a public hearing for consideration of An Ordinance of the Borough Council of the Borough of Stroudsburg in the County of Monroe, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to Amend Chapter 2 "Health and Safety", Part 5 "Property Defacement; Graffiti", Section 10-507 "Fines and Penalties" of the Stroudsburg Borough Code.

Mayor Moreno suggested to raise the vandalism penalty from \$300 to \$1000. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kochanski, and seconded by Ms. McCabe to table until the March 21, 2023 meeting.

Kristina Heaney, District Manager of the Monroe County Conservation District, spoke regarding the implementation of Act 167, the Stormwater Management Act.

The District Manager of the Monroe County Conservation District, Kristina Heaney, discussed forming a committee of local municipalities, the conservation district and county commissioners to broaden their view of stormwater management and how it impacts surrounding communities. A bus trip is planned for April 14, 2023, to tour the area to see best management practices.

Consideration to approve the hiring of Rebecca Smith as Administrative Assistant/Office Manager at an annual salary of \$62,250 with a start date of April 3rd, 2023.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Mr. Sabatine to approve the hiring of Rebecca Smith as Administrative Assistant/Office Manager at an annual salary of \$62,250 with a start date of April 3rd, 2023. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consideration to approve the electronic payment in the amount of \$61,615 (20% of the total repair cost) to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Levee Repair Project. The Borough will be reimbursed for this advance by the PA Department of Environmental Protection.

A motion was made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mr. Sabatine to approve the electronic payment in the amount of \$61,615 (20% of the total repair cost) to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Levee Repair Project. The Borough will be reimbursed for this advance by the PA Department of Environmental Protection. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consideration to Adopt a Resolution of the Stroudsburg Borough Council, Monroe County, Pennsylvania, Authorizing, Empowering and Directing the Proper Officers of the Governing Board to Appoint a Liaison Between It and Berkheimer, the Duly Appointed Collector of Local Taxes for the District, for the Express Purpose of Sharing Confidential Tax Information with the District for Official Purposes. The Resolution will designate Lawrence E. Kopp, Borough Manager, as the authorized representative.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. McCabe to adopt the aforementioned Resolution. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consideration to Adopt a Resolution of the Stroudsburg Borough Council to Authorize the Signers of Banking Instruments of the Twin Boroughs Recycling Account at ESSA Bank and Trust and to Set Forth the Limits of Said Authority.

A motion was made by Mr. Sabatine, seconded by Ms. McCabe to adopt the aforementioned Resolution. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consideration to approve a request from Women's Resources of Monroe County for permission to tie teal ribbons on the light posts on Main Street from Monday, April 3, 2023 to Friday, April 28, 2023 for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. McCabe to approve a request from Women's Resources of Monroe County for permission to tie teal ribbons on the light posts on Main Street from Monday, April 3, 2023 to Friday, April 28, 2023 for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consideration to discuss an update on the Ad-Hoc Committee on Events.

Mr. Kopp spoke with the owner of the Penn Stroud Hotel regarding the closures of 7th Street for town events. Discussion ensued. Council proposed to give advance notices to the local businesses when an event is planned, but not to approve a set number of days annually for events.

Consideration to discuss the Borough's 2022 Governmental Accounting Standards (GASB 68) Information on the Stroudsburg Borough Non-Uniformed Pension Plan.

Mr. Kopp reported the pension plan is currently 68% funded. He proposed closely monitoring the fund and waiting to see how the financial markets stabilize before doing anything to further fund the pension. He also mentioned that the pension could possibly be discussed during negotiations for the new Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Consideration to approve a \$20,000 grant application to the PMVB for removal security bollards for Courthouse Square.

A motion was made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mr. Sabatine to approve a \$20,000 grant application to the PMVB for removable security bollards for Courthouse Square. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consideration to discuss a change to the scope of the Borough's DCED Multimodal Grant.

Mr. Ace talked about the updated plans for the Stroudsburg Sidewalk Replacement Project. Scope changes include Ann Street Park, South 6th Street, Williams Street, Borough Hall, South 7th Street, and potentially South 9th Street. Time extension through June 30, 2023. The Vanic Company will continue to perform work; net increase to contract of \$172,686.

Committee Reports

Codes Committee – Mr. Abell reported that the Committee is working on raising the penalties for vandalism, a rental Inspection program, and codifying changes to sidewalks and signage. Also, he mentioned creating an Intermunicipal appeals Board for zoning.

Budget Committee – Nothing to report.

Parking Committee – Ms. McCabe discussed updating the Ordinances with the street signs so they reflect the correct verbiage for our code book. She also asked Solicitor Christopher Brown to amend an Ordinance to define the word ‘meter’ to add clarity for the Magistrates Office.

Recycling Committee – Nothing to report.

Sewer Committee – Mr. Kopp addressed this in his report to Council.

Street Committee – Mayor Moreno reported that the March meeting was postponed until April 5, 2023.

Personnel Committee – Mr. Kopp advised that there was one item to be discussed in executive session. Also, the Collective Bargaining Agreement negotiations will begin in April 2023.

Public Relations/Media Committee – Mr. Sabatine reported that the next meeting will be on March 21, 2023.

Redevelopment Committee – Mr. Abell advised the next meeting will be on March 15, 2023 at 4 P.M.

I-80 Expansion Task Force Committee – Ms. McCabe reported that the next meeting will be on March 17, 2023.

Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation Commission – Nothing to report.

Mayor’s Report

Mayor Moreno reported that the Latin Business Forum honored him at their luncheon. FLETCHA Is seeking funding for multicultural center in Stroudsburg. He attended the following meetings, an AD-Hoc meeting for Boa, a Meet and Greet with State Representative Probst and Ms. McCabe, and the Keystone Equality Board. He accepted a nonvoting seat on the YMCA Board. He will attend the Pocono Chamber Legislative luncheon on March 9, 2023.

Council Member Reports

Mrs. Kochanski advised that the Monroe County Control Center is having an Open House on April 29, 2023.

Solicitor’s Report

Solicitor Brown, who has been attending HARB meetings, advised that the residents should first come to the Borough office and speak with a zoning officer before contacting any contractors for their projects.

Manager's Report

Mr. Kopp addressed this in his report to Council.

Code Enforcement

Nothing to report.

Street Superintendent's Report

Nothing to report.

Approval of Bills on Warrants 230307.

A motion was made by Mr. Sabatine, seconded by Ms. McCabe to authorize the payment of the bills on Warrants 230307. 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 8:34 P.M. for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. The motion was carried. (6-yes, 0-no; 0-abstain)

The executive session concluded at 8:43 P.M. on a motion made by Ms. McCabe and seconded by Ms. DeVries. The motion was carried. (6-yes, 0-no; 0-abstain)

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 P.M. on a motion made by Mr. Sabatine and seconded by Ms. McCabe. The motion was carried. (6-yes, 0-no; 0-abstain)

