

East Stroudsburg Borough, August 25, 2011

A regular meeting of the East Stroudsburg Borough Council was held at the Municipal Building on Thursday August 25, 2011. The following members were in attendance: Victor Brozusky; Roger DeLarco; Ed Henning; Donald Repsher and Sonia Wolbert. William Reese was absent. Also attending were: Mayor Armand M. Martinelli; Manager James S. Phillips; Solicitor David J. Williamson of Scanlon Lewis & Williamson; Engineering Representative Samuel D'Alessandro of R.K.R. Hess Associates, Inc.; Lieutenant Brian Kimmins of the Stroud Area Regional Police Department; and one resident in the audience.

Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. DeLarco called the meeting to order at 9:22 p.m., after the Committee meeting. John Wisegarver led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of August 2, 2011 Regular Council Meeting

Mr. Repsher made a motion, seconded by Mr. Henning to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting held Tuesday August 2, 2011 as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments – Agenda Items

None

Proposed Ordinance Amending Vehicle & Traffic Code, Revising Parking Restrictions on Elm Street, Merten Street and State Street

Mr. Henning made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brozusky to authorize advertising the proposed ordinance as submitted; with the contingency that the effective date for parking restrictions on State Street to be extended until after completion of the new parking lot expansion at JM Hill Elementary School. The motion carried unanimously.

Proposed Smithfield Township Sewer Authority Sewerline Extension through Zacharias Pond Park – Request for Waiver from Buffer Requirements under Stormwater Ordinance

Mr. Henning made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brozusky to table this matter. The motion carried unanimously.

Travel Request by Codes Official John Blick to Attend Annual PennBOC Conference at Grantville, PA October 11-14, 2011

Mr. Henning made a motion, seconded by Mr. Repsher to approve the travel request by Codes Official John Blick as submitted, with reimbursement of expenses in accordance with Borough travel policy. The motion carried unanimously.

Proposed Resolution No. 22-2011 Appointing a Liaison with Berkheimer for Sharing of Confidential Tax Information with the Borough for Official Purposes

Mr. Phillips said Berkheimer has requested that the Borough approve a resolution designating the person or position designated to request confidential tax information from Berkheimer for official purposes. Mr. Henning made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brozusky to adopt proposed Resolution No. 22-2011 as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments – New Business

None

Correspondence

Mr. Phillips reported receipt of the following items of correspondence:

1. A Remedial Action Progress Report from MEA, Inc. on the former Smith's Gas Station site on North Courtland Street.
2. A letter from the Brodhead Creek Regional Authority soliciting sponsorship for its Educational Outreach Program.
3. A letter from the Monroe County Conservation District concerning a seminar on Update of Floodplain Management Ordinances.
4. A letter from T-Mobile, Northeast, LLC soliciting public comment on its application for replacement of telecommunication antennas at 434 Normal Street on the East Stroudsburg University campus.

Reports

Mr. DeLarco asked Mr. Phillips to check with Codes Official John Blick concerning the property on Washington Street in back of the Veterans Memorial, which apparently is being converted into apartments.

Mr. Phillips asked Mr. Williamson if the Borough has the ability to place a lien against a property for the cost of cutting down high grass and weeds, if the Borough undertakes this on properties that are vacant and abandoned such as foreclosed properties? Mr. Williamson said he believes that the Borough can impose a lien if it has an ordinance authorizing it to do so. Mr. Phillips also asked Mr. Williamson to take a look at a court case that held a municipality must establish an interest rate for liens by ordinance or resolution in order to recover that interest rate against such liens.

List of Bills

Mr. Brozusky made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wolbert to approve the list of bills payable and to ratify payroll and expenditures made through August 25, 2011 as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

Mr. Brozusky made a motion, seconded by Mr. Henning to adjourn into executive session at 9:39 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

At 9:52 p.m. Council members reassembled in the meeting room and Mr. Henning made a motion, seconded by Mr. Repsher to reconvene the public meeting. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Williamson said the executive session had been held to discuss two real estate matters; involving the old firehall property owned by the Borough and the former IBW property.

Authorize Appeal of Assessment for 56 South Courtland Street Properties

Mr. Henning made a motion, seconded by Mr. Repsher to authorize filing an appeal of the assessed valuations for the old Firehall property at 56 S. Courtland Street, and the four adjoining lots which currently make up the Borough parking lot next to the old Firehall. The motion carried unanimously.

Survey and Title Search of South Courtland Street Properties

Mr. Henning made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brozusky to authorize a survey of the four mentioned properties and to conduct a title search, as necessary. The motion carried unanimously.

Agreement with McKeown Realty for Possible Auction Sale of Former Firehall Property

Mr. Repsher made a motion, seconded by Mr. Henning to contract with McKeown Realty for possible sale of the old Firehall property, and one or more adjoining parcels, via an auction sale; subject to review and approval of the contract document by the Borough solicitor. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

With no further business Mr. Repsher made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wolbert to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

James S. Phillips, Secretary