

Borough of New Stanton
Borough Council
Via Teleconference
February 2, 2021
Minutes of Meeting

Attendance

Council members: Todd Bartlow, Joshua Bennett, Alex Brown, Linda Echard, Ray Strosko, and Edwina Zack. Absent: Councilmember Tom Theis and Mayor Scott Sistik.

Also: Borough Solicitor John Campfield and Borough Manager Jeffrey McLaughlin. Absent: Borough Engineer Emil Bove.

Guests: None.

Prayer

Linda recited a prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was recited.

Call to Order

President Ray Strosko called the regular February 16, 2021 council meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Approval of Minutes of February 2, 2021 Meeting

Edwina made a motion seconded by Alex to approve the February 2, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Guests

There were no guests.

Opportunity for Public Comment -- Items Not on the Agenda

There was no public comment.

Council Additions to Agenda

Linda added an executive session to the agenda.

Opportunity for Public Comment -- on Agenda Items Only

Jeff directed council's attention to a letter received earlier in the day from Tom Smith in which he expresses his objections to the idea of a \$25 per month pay raise beginning in 2022 for the 5

council seats and the office of mayor which are up for election in 2021. The letter was hand delivered or e-mailed to council members prior to the meeting.

Executive Session

Todd made a motion seconded by Josh to go into Executive Session at 5:35 PM. There were no objections.

Todd made a motion seconded by Josh to come out of Executive Session at 5:53 PM. There were no objections.

Agenda

1. M/V to Advertise an Ordinance to Increase the Compensation by \$25 per Month Beginning in 2022 for 5 Councilmembers and the Mayor Who are Currently up for Election

Todd made a motion seconded by Josh to advertise an ordinance raising the pay for the 5 council seats and the Mayor who are up for election in 2021 by \$25 per person per month. The proposed salaries would be \$100 per month for 4 of the council members and \$125 per month for the president of council and the mayor. The salary of the two remaining council seats not up for election would remain at \$75 per month. The ordinance would be considered at the March 2, 2021 meeting. Motion passed with all voting in favor with the exception of Alex who voted no.

Ray moved the agenda items: M/V to Advertise the Stormwater Ordinance and the Discussion Regarding a Request from UPS to Create A Construction Entrance Off Broadview Road in Order to Build a Parking Lot to later in the meeting.

2. Discussion Regarding Bank Accounts

Jeff directed council to the memo from Anita regarding the closing of certain bank accounts in order to cut down on the number of accounts as well as to avoid having to pay \$10 monthly account management fee. The funds in the accounts will still be earmarked for their intended purposes but would be tracked internally by the borough.

Alex made a motion seconded by Todd to close the Master Escrow, Master Inspection, Master Review, Recreation Board, Stormwater Management and EMO accounts but to continue to track the funds internally, restricting the funds for their intended purposes. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion Regarding Use of Sale Proceeds from Old Borough Building to Pay Down Debt on Current Borough Building

Alex made a motion seconded by Linda to use the net sales proceeds from the sale of the old borough building to pay down the debt on the existing borough building. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Nominations for Citizen of the Year

Todd made a motion seconded by Edwina to nominate former Mayor Ronald Echard as Citizen of the Year for 2020 and William C. “Bud” Myers as Citizen of the Year for 2021. With no other nominations, the nominations were closed and the motion adopted with all council members voting in favor with the exception of Linda who abstained.

5. M/V to Advertise the Stormwater Ordinance

John reviewed the ordinance. He stated that the Planning Commission took great care in reviewing the ordinance over several months before recommending that council approve it. He also spoke highly of the Westmoreland Conservation District (WCD) and all of their efforts in drafting the ordinance. He stated that the WCD did a final review of the borough’s proposed ordinance.

Alex made a motion seconded by Todd to advertise the model stormwater ordinance which would be up for consideration at the March 2, 2021 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion Regarding a Request from UPS to Create A Construction Entrance Off Broadview Road in Order to Build a Parking Lot

Jeff stated that subsequent to the last council meeting, where the 120-day extension for the UPS Parking Lot was granted, he received an e-mail from UPS in which they asked to have a construction entrance, to construct the parking lot, in the same location as they had proposed the permanent entrance which was denied by the Zoning Hearing Board.

John stated that UPS only submitted one drawing and suggested that they be asked to submit a revised land development packet. Jeff suggested that they be told that more detail is needed. The consensus was that they be asked to submit additional information.

Other Business

Jeff mentioned that he received an e-mail from Kimmel Schaefer inquiring as to council’s interest in a fireworks display in 2021.

Josh asked about the park internet. Jeff stated that the internet has been installed, and the borough’s IT provider is looking into ways to extend the signal throughout the park. Josh said that there is a device called an internet extender that can plug into a wall outlet to help extend internet service.

Announcements

Ray said that the next meeting would be on March 2, 2021.

Adjournment

Todd made a motion seconded by Alex to adjourn the meeting at 7 PM. There were no objections.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey McLaughlin
Secretary

