

East Stroudsburg Borough, March 3, 2009

A regular meeting of the East Stroudsburg Borough Council was held at the Municipal Building on Tuesday March 3, 2009. The following members were in attendance: Victor Brozusky; Ed Henning; William Reese; Donald Repsher and Sonia Wolbert. Roger DeLarco 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.; ESU Student Ambassador Ashley Puderbach; press representatives from the Pocono Record and TV 13; and several residents in the audience.

Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Council Vice President called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. Mark Hoke led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of February 17, 2009 Regular Council Meeting

Mr. Brozusky made a motion, seconded by Mr. Henning to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on February 17, 2009 as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing on Community Development and Housing Needs of Borough

Mr. Reese called the public hearing to order on the community development and housing needs of the Borough that may be addressed by the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. Mr. Phillips reviewed a technical bulletin which was distributed to Council which outlines the eligible uses of CDBG monies. Mr. Phillips noted that in general CDBG funds must be used to benefit low to moderate income families. There are other possible uses such as for controlling blight and addressing emergency conditions, although these uses are much less utilized. Mrs. Wolbert asked whether CDBG funds could be used to assist residents with housing needs, such as for a first time home buyers program? Mr. Phillips said he was not positive but thinks that CDBG monies can be used for that purpose if it benefits low to moderate income persons.

Henry Pyatt introduced himself as the new Downtown Manager for the Eastburg Community Alliance. Mr. Pyatt said prior to starting with ECA he had worked in Pittsburgh and is familiar with CDBG funded projects. Mr. Pyatt said CDBG monies can be used for purposes such as a first time home buyers program if utilized in income eligible census tracts. Council members welcomed Mr. Pyatt to his new job with ECA and wished him well.

Mr. Reese asked if there were any areas in the Borough where sidewalks need to be replaced where CDBG monies could be utilized? Mayor Martinelli noted that the sidewalks along N. Courtland St. across from the East Stroudsburg High School are in poor condition and asked whether income surveys have been conducted in this neighborhood previously? Mr. Phillips said the Borough had done some survey work there previously but not recently. Mrs. Wolbert asked whether Brodhead Avenue between Centre and East Brown St. had been surveyed? Mr. Phillips again indicated that this area probably has not been income surveyed recently. Mr. Henning asked how much CDBG funds were available to the Borough? Mr. Phillips said last year's (2008) allocation had been reduced to approximately \$160,000. The Borough typically has utilized approximately \$40,000 to \$50,000 for the home rehabilitation program, another \$10,000 to \$15,000 is utilized for administration, and that leaves only perhaps \$90,000 to \$100,000 for other project activities.

Mr. Phillips said the Borough has in past years primarily used its CDBG allocation for home rehab work and curb and sidewalk improvements. However, the Borough has utilized these funds for other purposes in the past including the paving of

the walking trail at Zacharias Pond Park, and last year the Borough was able to utilize CDBG monies for the Prospect St. waterline and storm culvert replacement work.

Mr. Reese asked if there were any additional comments from members of the audience regarding the community development and housing needs of the Borough? There were no further comments. Mr. Brozusky made a motion, seconded by Mr. Henning to close the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments – Agenda Items

Holly Marie Stroker introduced herself as a staff person for State Representative Mario Scavello who has opened a new office in Stroudsburg in the offices of the Pocono Mountains Chamber of Commerce on Main St.

Proposed Donald Biffen Parking Lot Expansion – Request for Modifications to Stormwater Provisions of the Subdivision & Land Development Code

Mr. D'Alessandro stated that Dr. Biffen proposes to expand the parking area in back of his dentist office and has requested several modifications from the subdivision code stormwater requirements, since this is an existing stormwater detention area located in a semi wooded lot. Mr. D'Alessandro reviewed the request for modifications as follows: the existing stormwater detention basin has side slopes at a 2.5 to 1 slope while the ordinance requires a maximum of a 3 to 1 slope. Also the applicant is requesting a waiver for the requirement to install a fence around the stormwater basin which is required for 3' depth structures. The existing basin has a depth of approximately 4' and is surrounded by natural vegetation. The stormwater provisions require an emergency spillway for a stormwater basin designed to handle a 100 year storm. The existing basin has a calculated free board of 0.81'. Finally, the stormwater provisions require a top width of 6' which the existing basin does not currently meet. Mr. D'Alessandro indicated that again because this is an existing stormwater basin he feels that the requests for modifications are all reasonable and has no problem recommending approval of same. After discussion, Mr. Henning made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brozusky to grant the modifications from the subdivision code stormwater provisions as requested. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 17-2009 Restating Fair Housing Policy for the Borough

Mr. Phillips noted that the resolution designates John Blick as the Fair Housing Officer for the Borough to handle any complaints regarding fair housing issues that may come to the Borough. The resolution states that the policy of the Borough is to prohibit discrimination in the provision of housing relating services within the Borough. Mrs. Wolbert made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brozusky to approve proposed Resolution No. 17-2009 as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 18-2009 Authorizing Execution of Electronic Access License Agreement with PennDOT

Mr. Phillips said PennDOT is requiring municipalities to file required liquid fuels forms with the state electronically and requires that Council approve an agreement to authorize same. Mr. Brozusky noted that it was interesting that PennDOT was requiring more paper work to enable the paperless filing! Mr. Brozusky made a motion, seconded by Mr. Henning to approve proposed Resolution No. 18-2009 as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Rescheduling March Committee Meeting Date to April 2, 2009

Mr. Reese noted that Mr. Phillips will be away on the regular Committee meeting date of March 26th and it was suggested to reschedule the Committee meeting to Thursday April 2, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Brozusky made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wolbert to authorize rescheduling of the meeting as recommended. The motion carried unanimously.

Report and Action on Bids Received for Removal & Disposal of Sewage Plant Sludge and Water Filtration Plant Sludge

Mr. Phillips reviewed the bid tabulation for removal and disposal of sewage sludge from the Sewer Treatment Plant; bids were opened today at 4 o'clock. The low bidder is Gary Gray Trucking, Inc. of Delaware, NJ in the total estimated amount of \$131,120 for a three (3) year contract. Mr. Repsher made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brozusky to accept the proposal from and award a contract to Gary Gray Trucking, Inc. on the basis of their low bid proposal as recommended. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Phillips reviewed the bid tabulation for removal and disposal of water from the decant basins at the Borough Water Filtration Plant; bids were opened today at 4 o'clock. Mr. Phillips said the low bidder is Rinehart's Sanitation Services, Inc., dba Potty Queen in the total estimated amount of \$76,320 for a three (3) year contract. After discussion, Mr. Henning made a motion, seconded by Mr. Repsher to accept the proposal from and award a contract to Potty Queen on the basis of their low bid proposal as recommended. The motion carried unanimously.

Authorize Advertising for Bids for 2009 Paving Program

Mr. Phillips reviewed the proposed list of streets for resurfacing as followings: Crystal St. from Analomink St. to Washington St., Washington St. from Crystal St. to Courtland St., State St. from E. Broad St. to Grand St. (contingent upon completion of curb reconstruction improvements) and Prospect St. from Analomink St. to Ridgeway St., utilizing PennDOT turn-back monies. After discussion, Mr. Brozusky made a motion, seconded by Mr. Repsher to authorize advertising for bids for the 2009 paving program. The motion carried unanimously.

Authorize Advertising for Bids for Installation of Pedestrian Signals at the Courtland & Washington Streets Signalized Intersection

Mr. Henning made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brozusky to authorize advertising for bids for the project as recommended. The motion carried unanimously.

Ratify Lease Agreement with East Stroudsburg University for Business Accelerator Building

Mr. Henning made a motion, seconded by Mr. Repsher to ratify a proposed one (1) year lease agreement with the ESU Center for Research and Economic Development (CFRED) as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments – New Business

None

Correspondence

Mr. Phillips reported receipt of one (1) item of correspondence: a letter from Robert Gress, Chief Clerk for Monroe County Commissioners advising the Borough that the Commissioners will be calling a meeting later this year for the establishment of a new Earned Income Tax Collection District Committee pursuant to Act 32 of 2008.

Reports

Mr. D'Alessandro reviewed his written engineer's report previously submitted.

Mr. Henning reported that he had contacted representatives of PNC Bank and East Stroudsburg Savings Bank about possible financing of a loan to the Borough for the new fire station project. Mr. Henning said both parties were interested in the Borough's financing needs.

Mayor Martinelli noted that in information recently received from the federal

government concerning the new economic stimulus package there may be funding available for construction of non-federal fire stations.

Mrs. Wolbert announced that the Stroud Region Open Space & Recreation Commission (SROSRC) is planning an open house to be held at the Day St. Community Center on Wednesday April 22, 2009 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Mr. Brozusky asked if a meeting had been set up with Middle Smithfield Township Supervisors regarding possible expansion of SARPD? Mr. Phillips replied "not yet".

Mr. Reese reported that at the Twin Boroughs Recycling Committee meeting held February 19, 2009 the Committee had decided to continue to keep the recycling drop-off closed at this time although, they did authorize notification of local businesses within the Boroughs that they are able to bring cardboard to the Recycling Center by appointment only Monday thru Friday. Mr. Reese said that Recycling Supervisor Bobby Gordon had reported that prices received for recyclables have increased only slightly in the last 30 to 60 day period.

Mr. Phillips reported that the Pocono Mountains Council of Governments (COG) will hold a dinner meeting on Monday March 30, 2009 at Siamsa Pub in Stroudsburg. Also we have received preliminary information on the results of the new health insurance cooperative that the Borough joined effective January 2009. We anticipate that the Borough will be getting back over \$54,000 in health insurance premiums that were paid in 2008 through the new Northeast Pennsylvania Municipal Insurance Cooperative (NEPMIC). Mr. Phillips reviewed his written project report which was previously submitted to Council. Mr. Phillips noted the lengthy letter received from the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System (PMRS) in response to the Boroughs December 2008 letter concerning the increased costs for the Borough Pension Plan that were in excess of what had been estimated by PMRS at the time when the Borough had approved benefit enhancements to the pension plan in 2005. Mr. Phillips said PMRS Secretary James Allen has indicated he would come to a Borough Council meeting to go over the findings in the letter if Council so desires.

Finally, Mr. Phillips noted that the Borough may want to consider hiring a construction manager or a construction management firm for the new fire state renovation project for which the Borough will opening bids shortly.

List of Bills Payable as of March 3, 2009

Mr. Brozusky made a motion, seconded by Mr. Henning to approve the list of bills payable and to ratify expenditures and payroll made through March 3, 2009 as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

With no further business Mr. Brozusky made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wolbert to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

James S. Phillips, Secretary