

BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE

MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting Date: February 14, 2013

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of High Bridge came to order with Mayor Desire presiding, at 7:30 PM on the above date. "Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of 2013 meeting dates was published in the Hunterdon County Democrat on January 10, 2013 and posted on the bulletin board in Borough Hall. The meeting was held in the Fire House, 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge, NJ. Action may be taken."

Mayor Desire led those present in the salute to the Flag.

MEMBERS PRESENT

- Mayor Desire
- Councilman Flynn
- Councilwoman Hughes
- Councilwoman Miller
- Councilman Rapp
- Councilwoman Scarcia
- Councilman Stemple

Attorney Barry Goodman, Administrator Douglas Walker, Municipal Clerk Diane Seals and eight members of the general public and news media were also present.

VISITORS:

MOTION TO DISPENSE WITH THE READING OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS:

Councilman Rapp motioned to dispense with the reading of the Regular and Executive Session Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2013. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 6 ayes.

APPROVAL OR CORRECTION OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:

Councilman Rapp motioned to approve the Regular and Executive Session Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2013. Councilman Flynn would like the minutes to reflect in the "Public Comments" section, that Reassessment was not in the 2013 Budget. Councilwoman Hughes seconded as amended. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 6 ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: It is the policy of the Borough Council that all public comments on an issue shall be limited to five (5) minutes per person and no person may make more than one (1) comment per subject. Comments may be made on any subject pertaining to Borough issues. Comments pertaining to Public Hearings should be saved for that portion of the agenda. No debating between residents. Comments should be addressed to Mayor and Council.
Vicki Peck asked about the Ordinance regarding sewer priority being introduced this meeting.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT- MONTH END REPORTS: Reports will be February 28, 2013

Councilman Flynn: **PLANNING & ENGINEERING**

Councilwoman Hughes: **PUBLIC HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL, SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING, OPEN SPACE**

**PUBLIC HEALTH:
ENVIRONMENTAL:
SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING:**

Councilwoman Scarcia: **EMERGENCY SERVICES & EDUCATION**

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

1. A letter was received from Superintendent Joseph Kennedy of the High Bridge Schools, expressing his appreciation to the Police Department for their strong presence at the schools. They had met with staff and made suggestions to improve safety in the schools.
2. There is still one police vehicle in the shop waiting for a new \$8,000 motor. It had a new transmission installed recently. There are two new vehicles. Between the two vehicles, \$5,000 to \$7,000 worth of equipment is needed.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

EMERGENCY SQUAD:

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

RECREATION: Liaison

Councilwoman Miller: **INFORMATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CULTURE & HERITAGE**

NEWSLETTER/INFORMATION

CULTURAL & HERITAGE:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Councilman Rapp: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & RECREATION

SWAC:

PUBLIC WORKS:

RECREATION:

1. Tour of High Bridge will be held on June 15th.

BIKE RACE:

Councilman Stemple: FINANCE & GOLF

Mr. Douglas Walker: ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mayor, Mark Desire: EXECUTIVE SERVICES

PUBLIC HEARINGS: 2ND Reading.

**ORDINANCE #2013-2
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE- ARTICLE IX COMMITTEES, SPECIAL
EVENTS COMMITTEE § 2 -78**

Mayor Desire asked for a motion to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance #2013-02.

Councilwoman Miller motioned to open. Councilman Stemple seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 6 ayes.

Questions and Comments.

Councilwoman Miller stated that there will be a meeting with some prospective members of this committee next Wednesday.

Mayor Desire asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Councilman Rapp motioned to close. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 6 ayes.

Mayor Desire asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance #2013-02 and stated that Ordinance #2013-02 shall be published by title only according to law.

Councilwoman Miller motioned to adopt. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 6 ayes.

CONSENT AGENDA: All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the Borough Council and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

None at this time.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Utilities Report for the Month of January, 2013.
2. Resolution No. RE2013-031, from Borough of Milford regarding run down properties.
3. Letter from "CenturyLink" regarding property tax and the intent to appeal the assessment.
4. Resolution #13-21 from Township of Raritan Requesting that the NJ Board of Public Utilities Hold Hearings on Jersey Central Power & Light's Response to Super Storm Sandy and Take the Appropriate Actions as May be Authorized.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None at this time.

NEW ORDINANCES: Introduction 1st reading.

**ORDINANCE #2013-3
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF
THE BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE – CHAPTER 200 – PUBLIC SEWER ARTICLE I BOROUGH SEWER
§ 200-6E PRIORITIZATION OF SANITARY SEWER ACCESS.**

Mayor Desire asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance #2013-3.

Councilman Rapp motioned to introduce. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 6 ayes.

Mayor Desire stated that Ordinance #2013-3 shall be published in its entirety in the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the Public Hearing date of February 28, 2013.

**ORDINANCE #2013-4
CALENDAR YEAR 2013
ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

Mayor Desire asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance #2013-4.

Councilman Rapp motioned to introduce. Councilman Stemple seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 6 ayes.

Mayor Desire stated that Ordinance #2013-4 shall be published in its entirety in the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the Public Hearing date of February 28, 2013.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **RESOLUTION #33-2013:** Councilman Stemple motioned to adopt a resolution introducing the **2013 BUDGET with Public Hearing on March 28, 2013**, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes. Councilman Rapp seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 6 ayes.
2. **RESOLUTION #34-2013:** Councilman Rapp motioned to adopt a resolution approving Automatic Amusement Devices for "Mrs. Riley's Publik House" for 2013, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes. Councilwoman Miller seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 6 ayes.
3. **RESOLUTION #35-2013:** Councilman Rapp motioned to adopt a resolution Approving the attendance of Municipal Clerk/Registrar of Vital Statistics Seals to a Re-Certification Seminar/Meeting of the Mid State Registrars' Association on March 21, 2013 at a cost of \$20.00 for 6 CEUs, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes. Councilwoman Miller seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 6 ayes.
4. **RESOLUTION #36-2013:** Councilman Rapp motioned to adopt a resolution approving Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 6 ayes.
5. **RESOLUTION #37-2013:** Councilman Rapp motioned to adopt a resolution Approving Joining Middlesex County Regional Educational Services Commission at no cost, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes. Councilman Stemple seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 6 ayes.
6. **RESOLUTION #38-2013:** Councilman Rapp motioned to adopt a resolution Approving Applying for Grant from the Hunterdon County Open Space Trust Fund, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 6 ayes.
7. **RESOLUTION #39-2013:** Councilman Rapp motioned to adopt a resolution approving Two Re-certification Classes for Certified Professionals at Rutgers, New Brunswick on March 12th and 27th for 12 CEUs at a cost of \$190 for Municipal Clerk/Certified Recycling Professional Seals, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes. Councilwoman Miller seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 6 ayes.

At this time Councilman Rapp motioned to amend the agenda to include RESOLUTION #40-2013. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 6 ayes.

8. **RESOLUTION #40-2013:** Councilman Stemple motioned to adopt a resolution Authorizing the Repair of Police Vehicle, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes. Councilman Rapp seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, nay; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, nay; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 4 ayes and 2 nays.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: It is the policy of the Borough Council that all public comments on an issue shall be limited to one minute (1) per person and no person may make more than one (1) comment per subject at this second Public Comment section. Comments may be made on any subject pertaining to Borough issues. No debating between residents. Comments should be addressed to Mayor and Council.

Damien Leavell, Stephen Conroy, Malte Pendergast-Fischer, Trish Curtin and Vicki Peck came asking for a sewer line down Mine Road. Councilman Flynn stated that there are no plans to expand the system in the foreseeable future. At present, the plan is to repair and prioritization.

LEGAL ISSUES: Attorney Goodman reported that the Borough prevailed in the Appellate Division, the challenge of the Borough's Plan for Conformance of the Highlands Act.

BILL LIST:

Councilman Rapp motioned to approve and direct payment of all vouchers as they appear on the Bill List in the total amount of **\$150,016.00** a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes. Councilman Stemple seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 6 ayes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 9:02PM to 9:18PM RESOLUTION #41-2013: Councilman Rapp motioned to adopt a resolution allowing for Executive Session to seek legal advise on contracts for Borough owned Historic Properties, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes. Councilwoman Miller seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 6 ayes.

Councilman Rapp motioned to return to Open Session. Councilwoman Miller seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 6 ayes.

Mayor Desire asked if there was any further business. There was none at this time. Mayor Desire declared the meeting adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Seals, Municipal Clerk, RMC