

**BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE**

**MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Meeting Date: October 10, 2013

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of High Bridge came to order with Council President Stemple 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."

Council President Stemple led those present in the salute to the Flag. Council President Stemple asked for a moment of silence for Peggy Walton who passed away. She was a long time member of the High Bridge Historical Society and volunteer.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councilman Flynn  
Councilwoman Hughes  
Councilwoman Miller  
Councilman Rapp  
Councilwoman Scarcia  
Councilman Stemple

Mayor Desire was excused.

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

**VISITORS:** Michael Pollock, member of the "NJ Audubon Society" and local affiliate of the "Wildlife Federation", came to present the Borough with "Wildlife Habitat Certification". Councilwoman Hughes shared that the Environmental Commission has been working to achieve certification for six year. The project was originally started by Nicole Hepburn of the Commission. Councilwoman Hughes presented a slide show of various habitats throughout the Borough including Borough owned properties. Years ago, Mr. Pollock helped with the acquisition of the Springside property. Mr. Pollock thanked Mayor and Council for the opportunity to speak. He went on to say that the Borough is the seventieth Municipality to achieve certification in the United States and second in New Jersey with Montclair as the first. In 1973, the Habitat project was created to attract birds and butterflies, inspiring Americans to protect wildlife.

**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 September 26, 2013. Councilwoman Scarcia 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 September 26, 2013. Councilwoman Miller seconded. 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.  
Brent Dugan asked if Resolution #204-2013 ladder truck purchase is to replace the old truck, is it being traded in, and will the new ladder truck have a self -pumper as the old one did. Council President Stemple stated that the truck would replace the 20 year old truck, thought it probably would have the pumper, and it would be either traded in or auctioned.  
Donna Connell, Secretary of the "High Bridge Women's Group" presented the Borough with a check for \$250.00 for the placement of the High Bridge sign. The Women's Group had originally donated two signs.  
Adrienne Shipps asked what prompted the High Bridge Schools to advertise "Attend High Bridge Schools for Free".  
Councilwoman Hughes suggested that it is probably the "School Choice Program" that is now available for children within a twenty mile radius.

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT: Monthly reports October 24, 2013**

*Councilman Flynn:* **PLANNING & ENGINEERING**

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

**ENVIRONMENTAL:**  
1. There will be a bike demo on the Nassau Trail on October 19, 2013 from 9AM to 2PM. Anyone may try out the manufacturer's bikes. It will be posted on the web.

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

*Councilwoman Scarcia:* **EDUCATION & MUNICIPAL COURT**

**EDUCATION:**  
**MUNICIPAL COURT:**  
**RECREATION: Liaison**  
**POLICE:**

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

**NEWSLETTER/INFORMATION:**  
**CULTURAL & HERITAGE:**  
1. Councilwoman Hughes will be leading a "Historical Tour" on Main St at 11AM, if not raining.

**Events Committee:**  
1. "Paint-Out" will be this Saturday rain or shine. The Art Show, Silent Auction and Wine sampling will be held at 11 Main St. at 6PM.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**  
*Councilman Rapp:* **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & RECREATION**

**PUBLIC WORKS:**  
**RECREATION:**  
**SWAC:**

*Councilman Stemple:* **FINANCE & GOLF**

**FINANCE:**  
**POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:  
EMERGENCY SQUAD:  
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:**

Mayor, Mark Desire: **EXECUTIVE SERVICES & EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS: 2<sup>ND</sup> Reading.**

**Council President Stemple asked for a motion to amend the agenda to re-introduce Ordinance #2013-21 as amended. Councilman Rapp motioned to amend the agenda. Councilwoman Miller 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. Notice from Comcast regarding Channel Changes.
2. Utilities Report for month of September, 2013.
3. Resolution from Holland Twp. "Requesting that the County of Hunterdon Undertake the Animal Control Officer Responsibilities for Hunterdon County Municipalities".
4. Notice of Public Hearings from Elizabethtown Gas on October 16 and 22, 2013 regarding proposed rate adjustments.
5. Notice from Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council that the Borough is authorized to issue Highlands Act Exemptions by the individuals who have successfully completed the required Highlands Council training program.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None at this time.

**NEW ORDINANCES: Introduction 1<sup>st</sup> reading.**

**ORDINANCE #2013-21**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 120, ARTICLE III, DOGS OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE**

Council President Stemple asked for a motion to re-introduce Ordinance #2013-21 as amended.

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

Council President Stemple stated that Ordinance #2013-21 shall be published in its entirety in the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the Public Hearing date of October 24, 2013.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **RESOLUTION #202-2013:** Councilman Rapp motioned to adopt a resolution Authorizing Lien Redemption, 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.
2. **RESOLUTION #203-2013:** Councilman Rapp motioned to adopt an Emergency Resolution Approving Repairs to Police Vehicle, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes. Councilwoman Scarcia seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, nay; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, nay; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 4 ayes and 2 nays.
3. **RESOLUTION #204-2013:** Councilman Rapp motioned to adopt a resolution Approving Award of Contract for Fire Fighting Apparatus, 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.

**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.

Sally Ward spoke to say that Bob Beatty, Realtor, wrote up a sales article for the Cregar House on Church St., that put High Bridge in a great light.

**LEGAL ISSUES:** Attorney Goodman stated that there were no legal issues at this time.

At this time, Council President Stemple asked for a motion to amend the agenda to approve the revised Bill List from September 26, 2013 that should be \$183,200.25. Councilman Rapp motioned. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll Call Vote; Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 6 ayes.

Councilman Rapp motioned to approve the revised Bill List. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motioned Carried: 6 ayes.

**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 **\$145,696.81**, 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 and abstain on check # 1280; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, aye and abstain on check #1282; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 6 ayes and 2 abstention.

Council President Stemple asked for a motion to amend the agenda to go into Executive Session to seek legal advice regarding the Administrator's position. Councilman Rapp motioned. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 6 ayes.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: RESOLUTION #205-2013:** Councilman Rapp motioned to adopt a resolution that allows for Executive Session to seek legal advice regarding Administrator's Position, 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.

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

Council President Stemple asked if there was any further business. There was none at this time. Council President Stemple asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Rapp motioned and Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Vote: 6 ayes. Motion Carried.

**ADJOURNMENT: 8:18 PM**  
Respectfully submitted,

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Diane L. Seals, Municipal Clerk, RMC