

BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE

MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting Date: October 24, 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."

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Mayor Desire
Councilman Flynn
Councilwoman Hughes
Councilwoman Miller
Councilman Rapp (arrived at 7:42PM)
Councilwoman Scarcia
Councilman Stemple

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

VISITORS: Jeff Oliver came before Council to explain and field questions about the Expansion of Multipurpose Nassau Trail. Mr. Oliver had given the Council a map of the trail that was approved by the Environmental Commission. The trail will connect with Clinton Twp. Trails to "Foran Park". The trail will be in the woods, nowhere near the farmhouse or barns. Councilwoman Miller asked if the trail will be developed as the existing trail with minimal disturbance and preventing erosion. Mr. Oliver answered that it will be the same. Councilwoman Hughes said that the Environmental Commission will follow the progress. Sally Ward asked about trail etiquette. Mr. Oliver stated that riders yield to walkers and pass on left.

At this time, Councilwoman Hughes motioned to bring Resolution #206-2013 forward. Councilwoman Scarcia seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 5 ayes.

RESOLUTION #206-2013: Councilwoman Hughes motioned to adopt a resolution Authorizing the Construction of an Extension of the Multipurpose Trail on the Borough owned Nassau Road and Springside Properties by Jeff Oliver and Thatcher Simpson, with Support from the High Bridge Hill Toppers Bicycle Club and the Jersey Off-Road Bicyclists' Association, 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.

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

Councilwoman Miller motioned to dispense with the reading of the Regular and Executive Session Meeting Minutes of October 10, 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 October 10, 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. Michele Schwartz came to commend High Bridge Police as a professional and compassionate group of officers.

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

Councilman Flynn: **PLANNING & ENGINEERING**
No updates.

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

1. The Police Headquarters' garden has been planted and bulbs will soon be planted. As a follow up for the grant from the Somerset Hills Garden Club, we need to send a report and pictures.
2. The "Wildlife Habitat Certification" presentation picture was on NJ.com.

PUBLIC HEALTH:

SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING:

1. The First Annual Rigid Plastic Event will be held at Union Forge Park on November 23, 2013 from 8:30 AM to Noon. The market will determine if we have to pay or be paid. Clean Communities money will be used if need be. The web site has list the acceptable items.
2. Hunterdon County Hazardous Waste Day will be November 9, 2013 from 9:00AM to 1:00PM at the County Complex on Route 12 in Flemington.

Councilwoman Scarcia: **EDUCATION & MUNICIPAL COURT**

No updates.

EDUCATION:

MUNICIPAL COURT:

RECREATION: Liaison

POLICE:

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

NEWSLETTER/INFORMATION:

1. Web site is done.
2. Next issue will be February.

CULTURAL & HERITAGE:

1. A series of seven Lectures has concluded, funded in part by a grant from the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission. Topics were Heritage Tourism, Hunterdon County Architecture, High Bridge Railroad History, Historic Preservation, and History House Detectives. Sincere thanks go to the High Bridge Reformed Church and Rev Yon for hosting the lectures.
2. EDC Chairperson Adrienne Shipps, Brent Dugan, EDC member, and Claire Knapp of the Historical Society, attended the last C&H meeting and pulled together an official event for the 300th Hunterdon County celebration in 2014. Also discussed the Heritage tourism aspect of the Sustainable Economic Development Plan and the first draft of the C&H brochure on historic sites of the Borough. There will be an Ad Hoc Committee working on the 300th event. Anyone interested can contact Councilwoman Miller.

Events Committee:

1. There were twenty-four artists for the 2nd Annual Paint-Out Event producing over thirty works, juried and auctioned. Over fifty percent of the works were sold. There was wine tasting, live music, children’s art event, and a Historic Tour of Main Street given by Councilwoman Hughes, all combined with a picture perfect day made the event a great success. Thank you Events Committee for making all the Events wonderful all with donations, from fund raising.
2. Pumpkin Display will be on October 31st at the Main Street Mini Park.
3. Gingerbread display will be on December 7th.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

1. Working on their goals and fostering a welcoming business environment in the Borough, reaching out to businesses and press releases.

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

PUBLIC WORKS:

1. Picking up leaves, 3 to 4 days, 2 to 3 months with 3 men.
2. The retaining wall will be built, concrete poured, and above-ground tanks will be installed
3. Removed gaffitted sign at the Dam.
4. Mowing.
5. Picking up brush, three days and takes three men.
6. Using one leaf vacuum, two vacuums when there are more leafs
7. A Ford Mason Dump is at Smith Motors requiring \$7,000 worth of repairs.
8. Department has seventeen diesel powered vehicles and pieces of equipment. Smith Motors will make a list of what needs to be maintained.

RECREATION:

SWAC:

Councilman Stemple: **FINANCE & GOLF**

FINANCE:

1. Met last week for the 2014 Budget and Golf representatives participated. Golf is working on proposals for more memberships. As of September, revenue was above budget with \$16,000, net income exceeded budget by \$26,000, YTD the revenue is \$11,000 below budget, net income \$49,000 below budget. With great weather, we project hitting income number for year.
Needed to purchase 200 batteries, hope to get 30,000 rounds for the year, 26,000 rounds already.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

EMERGENCY SQUAD:

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

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

1. Attended preparation meetings with County in September and October.

2. The Rehabilitation of Lake Solitude Dam Project has been selected as first place recipient in the Municipal Construction Management Projects of the New Jersey Society of Municipal Engineers. Presentation of award will be made on November 20th at the Atlantic City Convention Center at the NJ League of Municipalities' Conference. Councilman Flynn and Municipal Engineer Rob O'Brien will go to AC for the presentation of award. Councilman Flynn stated that former Administrator Walker had done a tremendous amount of work on the project along with Engineer Rob O'Brien.
3. Emergency Services update will be at next meeting.
4. Borough Administrator position will be discussed at Resolution #208-2013.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: 2ND Reading.

ORDINANCE #2013-21

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

Mayor Desire asked for a motion to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance #2013-21.

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

Questions and Comments:

Barbara Dezendorf asked how a complaint gets initiated. Attorney Goodman said to call the police. The police would investigate. Either file a complaint or if the police witness the occurrence then they can file a complaint.

Sgt. Skobo stated that you can come in to police and make out a report.

Sally Ward said to take pictures or video.

Pat Rierderly said a vicious dog law was not in the Borough Code. The State has a law that would supersede any Borough law.

Brent Dugan asked if a sworn Borough official witnessed an event, does that add any credence to a complaint. No, just police.

The Columbia Trail is ruled by County regulations, but Borough police can enforce Borough regulations.

Sharon Apperson asked where to file a complaint. A complaint may be made at Court.

Mayor Desire asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing on Ordinance #2013-21.

Councilman Rapp motioned to close. 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 for a motion to adopt Ordinance #2013-21 and stated that Ordinance #2013-21 shall be published by title only in the Hunterdon County Democrat according to law.

Councilwoman Hughes motioned to adopt. Councilman Rapp 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. Resolution #R-2013-94 from Township of Readington "Requesting that the County of Hunterdon Undertake the Animal Control Responsibilities for Hunterdon County Municipalities."
2. Notice from Comcast that they will be taping "Comcast Newsmakers" interviews at the NJ State League of Municipalities at the Convention Center on November 19-21.
3. Resolution 72-13 from Borough of Hampton "Requesting that the County of Hunterdon Undertake the Animal Control Officer Responsibilities for Hunterdon County Municipalities."
4. Monthly Tax/Finance Reports.
5. Sewer Audit for 2012 from Town of Clinton and estimated cost per million gallons for sewerage treatment for 2014 Budget purposes.
6. Resolution #2013-103 from Township of Kingwood "Requesting the County of Hunterdon Undertake Animal Control Officer Responsibilities".
7. Notice from the NJDEP regarding January as "Radon Action Month".
8. Notice from Comcast regarding Price Changes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None at this time.

NEW ORDINANCES: Introduction 1st reading. **None at this time.**

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **RESOLUTION #207-2013:** Councilwoman Hughes motioned to adopt a resolution Accepting the Bike Trail Waivers, 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 #208-2013:** Councilman Rapp motioned to adopt an resolution Approving the Appointment of John Gregory as Borough Administrator, commencing December 2, 2013 at an annual salary of \$95,000, a copy of which is attached hereto

and made a part hereof these minutes. Councilman Flynn seconded. Mayor Desire explained that there were 30 applicants, 6 or 7 interviews. Shared Services with Clinton Twp. was considered as well as part time and combining positions. Mr. Gregory has experience with expenses, State, DCA, grants, County and DPW. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 6 ayes.

3. **RESOLUTION #209-2013:** Councilman Rapp motioned to adopt a resolution Authorizing Redemption of Tax Lien, 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 #210-2013:** Councilman Rapp motioned to adopt a resolution Approving Items of Revenue Appropriations, Chapter 159, DDEF Grant Fund, 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.
5. **RESOLUTION #211-2013:** Councilwoman Hughes motioned to adopt a resolution Approving Items of Revenue, Chapter 159, New Borough of High Bridge Signage, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes. Councilwoman Hughes stated that "The High Bridge Women's Group" had bought the first signs, now they want to help with the new sign. Councilman Rapp seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 6 ayes.
6. **RESOLUTION #212-2013:** Councilman Rapp motioned to adopt a resolution Approving Conference for CFO Fleming on November 19-20, 2013 at a cost of \$275.00, 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 #213-2013:** Councilwoman Miller motioned to adopt a resolution Amending Award of Contact for Professional Property Revaluation, 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.

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 stated that she really enjoyed the Lectures and hopes there will be more next year.

Brent Dugan from the EDC said that the Raritan Valley Coalition is putting pressure on NJTransit for the 1 seat ride and weekend service.

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

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 **\$2,344,214.06**, 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 amend Executive Session to include legal advise on Caretaker Lease. Councilwoman Miller seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 6 ayes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: RESOLUTION #214-2013: Councilman Rapp motioned to adopt a resolution that allows for Executive Session to seek legal advice regarding Contract Negotiations for Revaluation and Caretaker Lease, 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 asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Rapp motioned and Councilwoman Miller seconded. Vote: 6 ayes. Motion Carried.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:14 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Seals, Municipal Clerk, RMC