

BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE

MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting Date: July 18, 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."

Council President Stemple led those present in the salute to the Flag.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councilman Flynn
Councilwoman Miller
Councilman Rapp
Councilwoman Scarcia
Councilman Stemple

Mayor Desire was excused.

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

VISITORS: No one at this time.

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 June 27, 2013. Councilman Flynn seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, abstain; Scarcia, aye, Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 5 ayes and 1 abstention.

APPROVAL OR CORRECTION OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:

Councilman Flynn motioned to approve the Regular and Executive Session Meeting Minutes of June 27, 2013. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, abstain; Scarcia, aye, Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 5 ayes and 1 abstention.

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.
Dr. Brenden Coughlin stated that he received the Golf Clubhouse lease and asked if the Borough has the title yet. Council President Stemple said that the Borough does not have the title yet and the Borough will own the clubhouse. Dr. Coughlin went on to ask if the Borough will be doing a reval as there were many successful tax appeals, leaving the rest of the tax payers to pick up the difference. Council President stated that the Borough is working with the County to establish protocol for a reval. John Hanson came before Council to express his dissatisfaction with the condition of property on Thomas St. with junk cars, rusting oil tank, and gas canisters and asked Council to do something. Mr. Hanson continued with there are junk cars across the street from 25 Mill St. and a large truck parked between Methodist Church and house. Council President will speak with the police.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT: Monthly reports July 18, 2013

Councilman Flynn: **PLANNING & ENGINEERING**

1. The Annex Roof needs only the gutters to be hung to be complete. The County gave \$10,000 and the Borough paid \$10,000.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL:

PUBLIC HEALTH:

1. Cooling Centers are open in County Libraries.

SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING:

1. Held the first Shredding Event on June 29, for two hours, yielding 1.87 tons. It was well received and will plan an annual event.
2. Toured a recycling operation in Mine Hill, "Re-Community Morris", with Lisa Zambito and Diane Seals. It was very interesting and made a rigid plastics connection, will plan a collection event.
3. The State requires 50% recycling, the Borough has reached that but needs to do more.

Councilwoman Scarcia: **EDUCATION & MUNICIPAL COURT**

No report.

EDUCATION:

**MUNICIPAL COURT:
RECREATION: Liaison**

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

1. The September Newsletter will cover October through December. Deadline for submissions is August 6th.

CULTURAL & HERITAGE:

1. High Bridge Railroad History will be presented by David Goessling on Tuesday, the 23rd at 7:00PM at the High Bridge Reformed Church.
2. Working on getting the Solitude House on the National Registry.
3. Working on an Event for the County's 300th celebration.
4. Planning a weekend for stabilizing Springside.
5. On July 6th the concert with "CB Radio" had 200+ attend.
6. This Saturday's concert will feature "Baroque and Hungry", starting at 5:30, then at 7:00 to 9:00PM, "The Slewfoot Project".
7. August 17th Concert will feature "Sully's Fortune" at 6:00PM then the "New Road Band" from 7:00PM to 9:00PM

Events Committee:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

1. The Banners are ready to be hung along Main St.

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

July 18, 2013

1. The ad for the DPW position is in the Hunterdon County Democrat this week and next week. Accepting applications until August 9th. Need a Council person to join Mike Hann and Councilman Rapp for the selection process.
2. Street sweeping on curbed streets is once a month and no curbed streets every other month.

RECREATION:

SWAC:

Councilman Stemple: **FINANCE & GOLF**

FINANCE:

1. Will be meeting with CFO Fleming on Tuesday regarding bill lists.

GOLF:

1. Met with Casper Golf Ryan Phelps, Regional Manager of the Northeast and Matt Ferbeck, Director of Argonomy in the absence of an administrator and to discuss damage to two properties on Woodglen and Sylvan Rds., has been turned over to insurance company.
2. Financials for May will be at the next meeting.
3. Billy Casper will come to the October meeting for a formal presentation of history and operations.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

1. OT for month of June was 100.4 hours,\$6,000, mostly for shift coverage and sick time; 20 hours for special detailing; 701 calls, 55 motor vehicle stops, 8 adult arrests, 3 thefts, 7 motor vehicle accidents; 6 follow up investigations; 2 domestic violence; 1 criminal mischief.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

EMERGENCY SQUAD:

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

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

Council President reported for the Mayor:

1. Special Primary Election for Senator Lautenberg's replacement on August 13. The polling place will be the Elementary School, 40 Fairview Ave., from 6:00AM to 8:00PM, as the Squad building is booked.
2. The selection committee for administrator has narrowed down the applications from 30 to 10, will set up interviews.
3. DPW working on the playground weeding.
4. OEM, CERT and Police are monitoring senior citizens and the disabled during the heat wave, there are cooling centers opened at County Libraries. Monitoring power outages in the County and some surrounding towns have experienced some issues.
5. Get the DPW position filled.
6. Need to get a caretaker in the Solitude House.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: 2ND Reading.

ORDINANCE #2013-15

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
HIGHLANDS AREA EXEMPTION ORDINANCE, A SUPPLEMENT TO THE BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE LAND USE
ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 145.**

Council President Stemple asked for a motion to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance #2013-15.

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:

Council President Stemple explained that this Ordinance sets forth the procedural and substantive requirements for proposed activities, improvements or development projects affecting lands located within the Borough Highlands area that may be exempt from the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act.

Council President Stemple asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing on Ordinance #2013-15.

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.

Council President Stemple asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance #2013-15 and stated that Ordinance #2013-15 shall be published by title only in the Hunterdon County Democrat according to law.

Councilman Rapp 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. Notice of training course to better understanding federal aid grants from State of NJDOT.
2. Utilities Report for month of June, 2013.
3. Certification of Funds for Hatch Mott MacDonald, Inc.
4. Letter from NJLM seeking nominations for "16th annual elected Officials Hall of Fame".
5. Letter from NJ Society of Municipal Engineers seeking nominations for the "2013 Municipal Engineering Project of the Year Awards Program".
6. Resolution #106-2013 from West Amwell Township "Opposing Jersey Central Power and Light Company's Petition or a Rate Increase".
7. Letter from DEP regarding Summer Season events at NJ Parks and Forests with links.
8. Letter from NJDOT regarding applications now being accepted for various programs.
9. Notice of Tax Appeal from United Telephone Company of NJ v. High Bridge Borough Block 555, Lot 1.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None at this time.

NEW ORDINANCES: Introduction 1st reading.

**ORDINANCE # 2013-16
ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$215,000 FROM CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR
STREETSCAPE PHASE 2, IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE, IN THE
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY.**

Council President Stemple asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance #2013-16.

July 18, 2013

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.

Council President Stemple stated that Ordinance #2013-16 shall be published in its entirety in the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the Public Hearing date of August 15, 2013.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **RESOLUTION #140-2013:** Councilman Rapp motioned to adopt a resolution Approving Capital Budget Amendment, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes. Amending the Budget for Streetscape. Councilwoman Miller seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 6 ayes.
2. **RESOLUTION #141-2013:** Councilman Rapp motioned to adopt a resolution Authorizing Municipal Lien on 28 Ridge Rd., 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.
3. **RESOLUTION #142-2013:** Councilman Rapp motioned to adopt a resolution Amending Professional Service Contract for Hatch Mott MacDonald, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes. Amending for Streetscape, Sewer and Cregar Rd. Councilwoman Miller seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 6 ayes.
4. **RESOLUTION #143-2013:** Councilwoman Miller motioned to adopt a resolution Approving Vendor License for "Power Home Remodeling" for four days if approved by Police Chief, 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.

5. **RESOLUTION #144-2013:** Councilman Rapp motioned to adopt a resolution approving Cub Scout Pack 149 Fund Raising at Borough sponsored Events, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes. Councilwoman Miller seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, ayes, Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 6 ayes.
6. **RESOLUTION #145-2013:** Councilman Rapp motioned to adopt a resolution Authorizing Tax Map Revisions and Request for Proposals, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes. This is the first step towards reevaluation. Councilwoman Miller seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 6 ayes.
7. **RESOLUTION #146-2013:** 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.

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.
None at this time.

LEGAL ISSUES: Attorney Goodman asked for an Executive Session to offer Legal Advice on ADA.

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 **\$1,893,800.99** a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes. Councilman Flynn seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye and abstain on check #1246; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 6 ayes and 1 abstention.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: RESOLUTION #147-2013: Councilman Rapp motioned to amend the agenda to hold an Executive Session for legal advice on ADA and adopt Resolution #147-2013, 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.

Councilman Rapp motioned to return to Open Session. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 56 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: 8:28 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Seals, Municipal Clerk, RMC