

**UNAPPROVED**

**BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE**

**MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Meeting Date: September 25, 2014

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of High Bridge came to order with Mayor Desire, at 7:31 PM on the above date. "Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of 2014 meeting dates were published in the Hunterdon County Democrat on January 9, 2014 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  
Councilwoman Hughes  
Councilwoman Miller  
Councilman Flynn  
Councilwoman Scarcia  
Councilman Stemple

Councilman Rapp was excused.

Attorney Barry Goodman, Administrator John Gregory, Municipal Clerk Diane Seals, Deputy Clerk Adam Young, and forty members of the general public and news media were also present.

**VISITORS:** Chief Brett Bartman presented statistics for past incidents pertaining to Main Street High Bridge and double-sided parking. Rob O'Brien was present to answer any questions. The County Engineer, Tom Mathews, was present to give information pertaining to changes that would occur if single-sided parking were enacted and took questions from the audience.

Christina Whited, James Rispoli, Shelly Matiss, Egles Matiss, Ken Halloran, Kim Sanford via letter, Steven Bailey representing Carl Hair Care, John Conant, James Lucash, Gina Rispoli, Karen Rheinhart, Cindy Sharkey, Michele Schwartz, Chris Zappa, James Conroy, Christina Whited, and Mr. Clemmer via letter support double-sided parking on Main Street.

Sally Ward commented, with a preface that all of her opinions are her own, that she believes some change needs to be made because Main Street is scary due to the oncoming traffic, close proximity of vehicles, and people present at particular times.

Mark Loozen asked to push one spot off of Main Street due to visibility issues.

Proposed ideas for changes to Main Street from the public were: reducing the speed limit to 20 or 15 miles per hour, more enforcement of signs/laws, making Main Street a one way road, speed bumps, partial one and two-sided parking, adding parking on Van Syckel St., expanding The Commons parking, adding Stop signs and cross walks, adding signage, and pushing the curbs back.

Mayor Desire explained that we will be opening up The Commons for much more parking in the future. Mr. Mathews confirmed that speed bumps are not an option. Mr. Flynn noted that pushing back the curbs would be costly and interfere with utilities.

The Mayor also spoke about plans to turn High Bridge into a Transit Village to increase people coming into High Bridge.

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

Councilman Flynn motioned to dispense with the reading of the Regular and Executive Session Meeting Minutes for September 11, 2014. Councilwoman Scarcia seconded. Roll Call Vote: Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Flynn, abstain; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 4 ayes, 1 abstention.

**APPROVAL OR CORRECTION OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:**

Councilwoman Miller motioned to approve the Regular and Executive Session Meeting Minutes of September 11, 2014. Councilman Flynn seconded. Roll Call Vote: Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Flynn, abstain; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 4 ayes, 1 abstention.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Brent Dugan asked about concerns with the taxes going up pertaining to the high school budget report and if the Borough is looking to increase its income through the current reevaluation being conducted. Mr. Stemple and Administrator Gregory explained that the Borough income will not change but that the percentage each person pays may shift with the reevaluation. Mr. Stemple also recommended Mr. Dugan go to the source of the report to confirm that information.

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT: Monthly report for September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

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

*Councilwoman Hughes:* **PUBLIC HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL, SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING, OPEN SPACE**  
1. County is having electronics recycling on October 11<sup>th</sup>, paper shredding on November 1<sup>st</sup>, and hazardous waste recycling on November 8<sup>th</sup>. More info on their website.  
2. She and Diane Seals will be attending the awards ceremony on Monday night by the Hunterdon County Planning Board Awards for Dam Rehabilitation, Multipurpose Trail, and the Tisco building.

*Councilwoman Scarcia:* **INFORMATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CULTURAL & HERITAGE & EVENTS**  
No report.

*Councilwoman Miller:* **EMERGENCY SERVICES, EDUCATION & MUNICIPAL COURT**  
1. Wants to thank the Emergency Services for supporting the High Bridge Community for Community Day.  
2. Reminder to support the upcoming events.

*Councilman Rapp:* **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & RECREATION**  
No report.

*Councilman Stemple:* **FINANCE & GOLF**  
1. Standard and Poor has reaffirmed the Borough's credit rating at AA- which is consistent with previous years.  
2. Results for Golf Course:  
Month of July: Total Revenue \$163,000.00 vs. budget of \$188,000.00 = +\$8,000.00. Net income of \$70,000.00, vs budget of \$58,000.00 = +\$12,000.00.  
Month of August: Total Revenue: \$186,000.00 vs. budget of \$179,000.00 = +\$7,000.00. Ytd revenue \$817,000.00 vs. budget of \$898,000.00 = -\$81,000.00.

Income: \$96,000.00 vs. budget of \$82,000.00 = +\$14,000.00 for Month of August. On a year to date basis, net income of \$196,000.00 vs \$227,000.00. = -\$31,000 .00 short fall.

3. Looking to have a meeting to extend the net on the 17<sup>th</sup> fairway.
4. First Hook Off birthday party is being held at the course.

*Administrator Gregory:*      **Administrator's Report for the month**

1. Sue Hammel has been released from the hospital but will most likely not be coming back. Administrator Gregory has been in contact with Raritan Valley Community College to see about an intern.

*Mayor's Report:*

1. Thanked Nick Raefski for his student non-profit group for picking up trash on Main Street.
2. Two business owners would like to form a Lake Solitude Restoration group/project.
3. Thanked everyone for Community Day help.
4. Asked everyone to support the Firemen's Truck Dedication on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS: 2<sup>ND</sup> Reading. None at this time.**

**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.

1. **RESOLUTION #199-2014:** Refund Utilities double payment.
2. **RESOLUTION #200-2014:** Escrow refund.
3. **RESOLUTION #201-2014:** Authorize Joint Prosecution Agreement.
4. **RESOLUTION #202-2014:** Approve Lien Redemption.

Councilwoman Miller motioned to adopt Resolutions #199 thru #202, copies of which are attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes. Councilwoman Scarcia seconded. Roll Call Vote: Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Flynn, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 5 ayes.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Notice of Public Hearing from NJTransit regarding Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Assistance Act.
2. Notice from NJTransit regarding Fiscal Year 2014 Request for Federal Financial Assistance.
3. Thank you from Assemblyman Peterson for the Borough's Resolution Opposing Senate Bill #374.

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

**NEW ORDINANCES:** None at this time.

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

**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 at the public microphone.

Sally Ward thanked everyone for a great Community Day.

**LEGAL ISSUES:** Mr. Goodman asked that the Executive Session Resolution and agenda be amended to include possible litigation of the Solitude House trademark.

Mayor Desire asked for a motion to amend the agenda to now include legal advice on possible litigation with the Town of Clinton sewer issue and possible litigation of the The Solitude House trademark. Councilwoman Miller made the motion. Councilman Flynn seconded. Roll Call Vote: Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Flynn, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 5 ayes.

**BILL LIST:**

Councilman Stemple motioned to approve and direct payment of all vouchers as they appear on the Bill List in the total amount of **\$788,780.42** a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes. Councilwoman Miller seconded. Roll Call Vote: Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Flynn, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 5 ayes.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: RESOLUTION #203-2014:** Legal advice on legal advice on possible litigation with the Town of Clinton sewer issue and possible litigation of the Solitude House trademark.

Councilman Stemple motioned to adopt a resolution allowing for Executive Session as amended, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes. Councilwoman Miller seconded. Roll Call Vote: Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Flynn, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 5 ayes.

Councilman Stemple motioned to return to Open Session. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll Call Vote: Hughes, aye; Flynn, aye; Miller, aye; Scarcia, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 5 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 Stemple motioned and Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Vote: 5 ayes. Motion Carried.

**ADJOURNMENT: 10:32 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

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Adam Young, Deputy Clerk