

BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE

MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting Date: October 23, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of High Bridge came to order with Mayor Desire, at 7:30 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, Councilman Stemple, Councilman Rapp

Councilwoman Scarcia was excused. Attorney Barry Goodman, Deputy Clerk Adam Young, Administrator Gregory and nine 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 for October 9, 2014. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, abstain; Miller, aye; Hughes, aye; Rapp, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 4 ayes, 1 abstention

APPROVAL OR CORRECTION OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:

Councilman Rapp motioned to approve the corrected Regular and Executive Session Meeting Minutes of October 9, 2014. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, abstain; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 4 ayes, 1 abstention

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

John Johnson, newly elected President of the Solitude Village Condominium Association, encouraged the Council to wrap up taking over the water tower and water system.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT: Monthly report for October 23rd, 2014

Councilman Flynn: **PLANNING & ENGINEERING**

1. Discussed the Planning Board actions of submitting changes to Ordinance 2014-16 to Council and the Borough professionals.
2. Confirmed that the new Borough Hall project will not cost \$700,000.00 to build. We have a \$250,000 grant and the last bid was under \$500,000.00 dollars as well as the sale of the current Borough Hall will offset the cost.

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

1. Reminder of Hunterdon County document shredding event on Nov. 1st and a hazardous waste event on Nov. 8th. 9am to 1pm.
2. Veteran's Day event reminder on Veteran's Day.

Councilwoman Scarcia: **INFORMATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CULTURAL & HERITAGE & EVENTS**

1. Via Councilman Flynn: EDC discussed the two-sided parking issue, the Planning Board sign Ordinance issue, some grants from the Raritan Valley Coalition meeting, NJ Transit Village requirements, and the comprehensive economic development strategy.

Councilwoman Miller: **EMERGENCY SERVICES, EDUCATION & MUNICIPAL COURT**

1. Reported that the Fire Department had a successful housing for the new ladder truck. Council was presented with a plaque.
2. Police statistics: Assaults 0, Criminal mischief 1, Domestic violence 1, Investigation follow-ups 18, motor vehicle crashes 2, motor vehicle stops 58, thefts 3, total calls 538, adult arrests 3, and juvenile arrests 4. Two officers trained in the use of force and pursuit driving. One officer trained in arrest, search, and seizure. Overtime hours: 72.95. Largest component of overtime hours is shift coverage and sick time.
3. Rescue squad building still has an unresolved moisture issue with HVAC system. The problem is being worked on.
4. Emergency Services groups were gathered for a meeting to talk about the September 11th memorial project.
5. The Solitude House was opened by intent as part of an event of interest for the Paint Out event. Sixty visitors attended.
6. A new member, Kaitlyn Overton, is being appointed to Cultural and Heritage.
7. The Solitude House retraining wall is deteriorating. Two previous repairs done did not hold and a third section of the wall has fallen down which is believed to have exposed the original wall. The wall has since been made safe.
8. The Paint Out was a success and everyone had a great time. Special thanks to Michele for all of her hard work considering the weather.
9. Details of the Halloween Parade and Commons park happenings were discussed.
10. Jamie Taylor will be acting chair until January.

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

1. Public Works have been repairing two major water main breaks in Solitude Village and picking up leaves and brush.

Councilman Stemple: **FINANCE & GOLF**

1. Golf report: Revenue of \$137,000. Short of budget by \$18,000.00 for the month of Sept. Year to date: we are at \$953,000.00, \$99,000.00 below budget on the Revenue. Earnings: Month of Sept., \$57,000.00, \$4000.00 below budget. Year to date: received \$253,000.00, \$34,000.00 below budget. Councilman Stemple noted a significant decrease in revenue.
2. Continued good activity with Foot Golf. Would like to promote this out more in the Spring as it provides residents the ability to participate on the golf course without having to play golf.

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

1. Had a meeting with HARTT and received three pedestrian crosswalk signs for Main Street. HARTT also provided information about grant funds and provided reflective vests and bracelets.
2. Increased reporting and auditing for storm water management reports.
3. There is a Transit Village meeting on Oct. 28th at 11:00am.
4. Administrator Gregory has completed a Registrar's course as Diane Seals has retired. Administrator Gregory will be acting Registrar.
5. Trick-or-treat is set from 5pm to 8pm.
6. Newsletter was slowed down at the County print offices by election materials, but was received, on the website, and is expected to be out next week.
7. Bears are around. Bring in your cat food and bird feeders.

Mayor's Report:

1. The Mayor spoke about the details of the September 11th memorial project and wanting to create an area for the Memorial object.
2. Mentioned that shared services with the County print shop saves the Borough some money. Combining the Administrator and Clerk positions in order to save money.
3. Commons parking is continuing and gaining positive feedback, even in process.

4. Would like to further discuss changing the crosswalk for the Columbia Trail.
5. Wanted Council to know that the County may have other options for Main St. which would need to be discussed.
6. A Council member needs to be appointed so interviews will be happening.
7. The electronic sign is being taken care of.
8. The Mayor generally discussed the Borough taking over portions of Solitude Village.
9. Thanked Victoria Miller for her time and effort as a Councilwoman.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: 2ND Reading.

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 #213-2014:** Appoint John Gregory Registrar of Vital Statistics.
2. **RESOLUTION #214-2014:** Appoint Adam Young Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics.
3. **RESOLUTION #215-2014:** Authorize execution of agreement with Solitude Village Community Owners Association for ownership of water tower, water and sewer lines.
4. **RESOLUTION #216-2014:** Award of Bid for Solid Waste/Recycling to LMR Disposal for \$719,234.00 per year, reviewed by the Purchasing Agent.
5. **RESOLUTION #217-2014:** Authorize Connection to the High Bridge Public Sewer at Elm Street, Block 37 Lot 16.
6. **RESOLUTION #218-2014:** Authorize Refund of Overpayment on Tree Removal Permit.
7. **RESOLUTION #219-2014:** Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue Appropriation NJS 40A:4-87
8. **RESOLUTION #220-2014:** Authorize Refund of Paint-Out Registration.
9. **RESOLUTION #221-2014:** Authorize Final Payment for Improvements to Cregar Road-Phase III & IV.
10. **RESOLUTION #222-2014:** Authorize Submittal of Grant Application to the NJ Dept of Transportation for Cregar Road-Section VI.
11. **RESOLUTION #223-2014:** Approve support for Double Sided Parking on Main St.
12. **RESOLUTION #224-2014:** Appointment of new Cultural and Heritage member Kaitlyn Overton.

Councilman Rapp made a motion to amend the agenda. Councilwoman Hughes seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Flynn aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 5 ayes.

Councilwoman Miller requested **Resolution #224-2014**, appointment of new Cultural and Heritage member Kaitlyn Overton, to be added. Administrator Gregory requested **Resolution #215-2014** and **Resolution #223-2014** be removed from the consent agenda for discussion in during New Business, and to add PBA Contract Negotiations to Executive Session.

Councilwoman Lynn Hughes asked that **RESOLUTION #216-2014** be amended to reflect that the Purchasing Agent reviewed the document Councilman Rapp motioned to amend the minutes. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 5 ayes.

Councilman Rapp motioned to adopt **Resolutions #213, #214, #216** thru **#222** and **#224**, copies of which are attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes. Councilman Rapp motioned. Councilwoman Miller seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 5 ayes.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Comcast notice of Channel Changes.
2. Month End Tax/Finance Reports.
3. Notice from NJ State League of Municipalities of proposed Membership Dues increase for 2015.
4. Utilities Report for month of September, 2014.
5. Comcast notice of billing system changes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Administrator Gregory explained and shared information about the Best Practices document which sets the goal for each Municipality as to the best practices of doing their operations. High Bridge scored a passing 45 out of 50. Council discussed what we did and need to do in order to do even better on the next Best Practices review. Conversation ensued.

NEW ORDINANCES: None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Administrator Gregory discussed the details of the continuation of the Comcast Franchise renewal. Administrator Gregory states that he is still comparing costs between CenturyLink and Comcast. The Public Hearing will be December 18th, 2014.

Discussion of **RESOLUTION #215-2014:** Authorize execution of agreement with Solitude Village Community Owners Association for ownership of water tower, water, and sewer lines. Administrator Gregory noted that part of the agreement of taking over the aforementioned agreement was for Solitude Village to fix the water tower ladder. Councilman Flynn noted that the Borough would need to receive FEMA funds in order to get the necessary generator to then be able to take over ownership of the water tower, water, and sewer lines. The representative from Solitude Village and Council had a discussion about the timeline, cost, and proper processes which would need to be done in order to pass this Resolution. Discussion ensued.

Councilman Flynn asked that **RESOLUTION #215-2014** be amended to be contingent upon the repair of the ladder on the water tower to the satisfaction of the Borough of High Bridge and the acquisition of the generator for the pumping station for the Solitude Village Water Supply. Councilman Rapp made the motion. Councilwoman Miller seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 5 ayes.

Councilman Flynn asked that **RESOLUTION #215-2014** be adopted as amended. Councilman Rapp made the motion. Councilwoman Miller seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 5 ayes.

Council discussed **RESOLUTION #223-2014:** Approve support for Double Sided Parking on Main St. The Mayor discussed a few other possible driving/parking options available for future discussion pertaining to traffic flow and parking on Main St. Discussion ensued with Council.

Brent Dugan suggested that if the County proposes to have Mill St. as a solution to parking/driving, that the Borough can not have the responsibility for repairs of Mill St.

Councilman Rapp motioned to table **Resolution #223-2014**. Councilman Flynn seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Miller, aye; Rapp, aye; Stemple, aye; Motion carried, 5 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 at the public microphone.

Adrienne Shipps asked what the price difference is between LMR Disposal and Premiere Disposal. Administrator Gregory commented that it is substantial and Council noted that it is listed in the Resolution. Councilman Stemple noted that price difference to be nearly \$40,000.00.

LEGAL ISSUES:

Attorney Goodman noted that there has been no response from the Attorney representing Union Force Heritage Association as it pertains to the agreement to abandon the Solitude House trademark. Mr. Goodman's partner recommended that the Borough file a federal lawsuit.

BILL LIST:

Administrator Gregory added: bill for Billy Casper's services, 41032.71 and a bill for petty cash at 172.96.

Councilman Rapp motioned to approve and direct payment of all vouchers as they appear on the Bill List in the total amount of \$2,445,700.86, 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; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 5 ayes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: RESOLUTION #225-2014: Legal advice on possible litigation with the Town of Clinton sewer issue and PBA Contract Negotiations.

Councilman Stemple motioned to enter Executive Session as amended to include discussion of the PBA Contract, 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; Stemple, aye. Motion Carried: 5 ayes.

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

ADJOURNMENT: 9:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Young, Deputy Clerk