

**MEETING MINUTES OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL
HIGH BRIDGE BOROUGH**

Meeting Date: December 18, 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."

Councilman Stemple led those present in the salute to the Flag.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilman Flynn, Councilman Stemple, Councilwoman Hughes, Councilman Rapp, Mayor Desire, Councilwoman Scarcia, Councilman Strange

Mayor Desire, Councilwoman Scarcia, and Councilman Strange entered at 7:54pm.

Attorney Barry Goodman, Deputy Clerk Adam Young, Administrator Gregory and ten members of the general public and news media were also present.

VISITORS:

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 section of the agenda. No debating between residents. Comments should be addressed to Mayor and Council at the public microphone.

John Johnson asked for an update on the Solitude Village water tower and pumping station. Administrator said that the Borough is still waiting to hear back from FEMA. Administrator Gregory said that the appropriate information on this would be provided by Bonnie Fleming in Finance and that a resolution would be added as requested by John Johnson.

Brent Dugan speaking as the Recording Secretary of the EDC, apologized to Council and others for not preparing the minutes of the December EDC meeting. Councilwoman Scarcia said all is well and that the data was summarized.

Brian Scanlon wants continued service of salting and plowing which he has been accustomed to, which was stopped because the Borough vacated the alleys.

Dr. Brenden Coughlin had a question about a transfer from Golf O/E and how this could be done. Councilman Stemple explained that this is a budgetary line item transfer. Discussion ensued. Mr. Coughlin asked the Clerk's salary will be. Administrator Gregory answered that it has not yet been defined. Mr. Coughlin believes that an action was taken in violation of the Open Public Meetings Act. Council responded that no vote was taken and that the issue in question was done privately. Mr. Coughlin encouraged Council to consider why Councilman Flynn has his name signed to a letter to the editor at the Hunterdon Democrat, speaking as a Councilman. Attorney Goodman noted that the email was not subject to OPRA because it was sent privately and that Councilman Flynn did not add the title of Councilman to his correspondence. That title was added by the Hunterdon Democrat without Councilman Flynn's knowledge. Councilman Flynn offered to show his personal document to Mr. Coughlin.

Sally Ward read an end of the year poem for everyone.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS:

Council provided an updated list of their goals.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: 2ND Reading.

- a. **ORDINANCE #2014-16:** Amended introduction, Amending Chapter 145 of the Code Of Borough of High Bridge, County Of Hunterdon And State Of New Jersey, The Land Use And Development Ordinance

Councilman Stemple asked for a motion to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance #2014-16.

Councilman Rapp made the motion. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll call vote: Flynn, aye; Stemple, aye; Rapp, aye; Hughes, aye; 4 ayes. Motion carries.

Councilman Stemple asks for a motion to close the Public Hearing on Ordinance #2014-16.

Councilman Rapp made the motion. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll call vote: Flynn, aye; Stemple, aye; Rapp, aye; Hughes, aye; 4 ayes. Motion carries.

Councilman Stemple asks for a motion to adopt Ordinance#2014-16 and states that Ordinance #2014-16 shall be published by title only in the Hunterdon County Democrat according to law. Councilman Rapp made the motion. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll call vote: Flynn, aye; Stemple, aye; Rapp, aye; Hughes, aye; 4 ayes. Motion carries.

- b. **ORDINANCE #2014-21:** Amend Ordinance 75-1 Statutory Authorization

Councilman Stemple asks for a motion to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance #2014-21.

Councilman Rapp made the motion. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll call vote: Flynn, aye; Stemple, aye; Rapp, aye; Hughes, aye; 4 ayes. Motion carries.

Councilman Stemple asks for a motion to close the Public Hearing on Ordinance #2014-21.

Councilman Rapp made the motion. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll call vote: Flynn, aye; Stemple, aye; Rapp, aye; Hughes, aye; 4 ayes. Motion carries.

Councilman Stemple asks for a motion to adopt Ordinance#2014-21 and states that Ordinance #2014-21 shall be published by title only in the Hunterdon County Democrat according to law. Councilman Rapp made the motion. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll call vote: Flynn, aye; Stemple, aye; Rapp, aye; Hughes, aye; 4 ayes. Motion carries.

- c. **ORDINANCE #2014-22:** Amend Ordinance 261-5 (25) Disorderly Conduct (To Include all Borough Property)

Councilman Stemple asks for a motion to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance #2014-22.

Councilman Rapp made the motion. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll call vote: Flynn, aye; Stemple, aye; Rapp, aye; Hughes, aye; 4 ayes. Motion carries.

Councilman Stemple asks for a motion to close the Public Hearing on Ordinance #2014-22.

Councilman Rapp made the motion. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll call vote: Flynn, aye; Stemple, aye; Rapp, aye; Hughes, aye; 4 ayes. Motion carries.

Councilman Stemple asks for a motion to adopt Ordinance#2014-22 and states that Ordinance #2014-22 shall be published by title only in the Hunterdon County Democrat according to law.

Councilman Rapp made the motion. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll call vote: Flynn, aye; Stemple, aye; Rapp, aye; Hughes, aye; 4 ayes. Motion carries.

- d. **ORDINANCE #2014-23:** Amend Ordinance 2-21 Duties (f) Finance, Golf and Citizens Advisory Board. (to set surplus goal)

Councilman Stemple asks for a motion to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance #2014-23.

Councilman Rapp made the motion. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll call vote: Flynn, aye; Stemple, aye; Rapp, aye; Hughes, aye; 4 ayes. Motion carries.

Councilman Stemple asks for a motion to close the Public Hearing on Ordinance #2014-23.

Councilman Rapp made the motion. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll call vote: Flynn, aye; Stemple, aye; Rapp, aye; Hughes, aye; 4 ayes. Motion carries.

Councilman Stemple asks for a motion to adopt Ordinance#2014-23 and states that Ordinance #2014-23 shall be published by title only in the Hunterdon County Democrat according to law.

Councilman Rapp made the motion. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll call vote: Flynn, aye; Stemple, aye; Rapp, aye; Hughes, aye; 4 ayes. Motion carries.

- e. **ORDINANCE #2014-24:** Amend Ordinance 2-3 Mayor: election, term and 2-6 Council: Composition, Term (to include mandatory training of new elected officials).

Councilman Stemple asks for a motion to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance #2014-24.

Councilman Rapp made the motion. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll call vote: Flynn, aye; Stemple, aye; Rapp, aye; Hughes, aye; 4 ayes. Motion carries.

Adrienne Shipps asked if there was a cost for incoming Council people. Administrator Gregory answered that it is minimal and the cost will be covered by the Borough. Adrienne asked if it will be local. Administrator Gregory said that they will try to get the training as close as possible. Adrienne asked if they can go as a group. Administrator Gregory said yes.

Councilman Stemple asks for a motion to close the Public Hearing on Ordinance #2014-24.

Councilman Rapp made the motion. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll call vote: Flynn, aye; Stemple, aye; Rapp, aye; Hughes, aye; 4 ayes. Motion carries.

Councilman Stemple asks for a motion to adopt Ordinance#2014-24 and states that Ordinance #2014-24 shall be published by title only in the Hunterdon County Democrat according to law.

Councilman Rapp made the motion. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll call vote: Flynn, aye; Stemple, aye; Rapp, aye; Hughes, aye; 4 ayes. Motion carries.

- f. **ORDINANCE #2014-25:** Amend Ordinance 2014-8 “Revised General Ordinances Borough of High Bridge”, Chapter 276-“Maintenance of Vacant/Abandoned Properties”

Councilman Stemple asks for a motion to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance #2014-25.

Councilman Rapp made the motion. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll call vote: Flynn, aye; Stemple, aye; Rapp, aye; Hughes, aye; 4 ayes. Motion carries.

Councilman Stemple asks for a motion to close the Public Hearing on Ordinance #2014-25.

Councilman Rapp made the motion. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll call vote: Flynn, aye; Stemple, aye; Rapp, aye; Hughes, aye; 4 ayes. Motion carries.

Councilman Stemple asks for a motion to adopt Ordinance#2014-25 and states that Ordinance #2014-25 shall be published by title only in the Hunterdon County Democrat according to law.

Councilman Rapp made the motion. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll call vote: Flynn, aye; Stemple, aye; Rapp, aye; Hughes, aye; 4 ayes Motion carries.

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.

a.	<u>RESOLUTION #244-2014</u>	Appoint Adam Young as Deputy Registrar
b.	<u>RESOLUTION #245-2014</u>	Credit of utility overcharges 63 Highland Ave
c.	<u>RESOLUTION #246-2014:</u>	Approve hiring of Michael Steinwand
d.	<u>RESOLUTION #247-2014:</u>	Authorize Refund of Tax Overpayments
e.	<u>RESOLUTION #248-2014</u>	Authorize Redemption of Tax Lien
f.	<u>RESOLUTION #249-2014:</u>	Authorize Cancellation of Special Emergency Appropriation
g.	<u>RESOLUTION #250-2014</u>	Authorize Year End Appropriation Transfers
h.	<u>RESOLUTION #251-2014</u>	Approve Membership Connor J. Beaton to NJ Fireman’s Association

Councilman Rapp made the motion to adopt Resolutions #244 thru #251. Councilwoman Hughes seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Flynn, aye; Stemple, aye; Rapp, aye; Hughes, aye; 4 ayes. Motion carries.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Monthly tax/finance report

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. PBA Contract – Councilman Stemple gave a general overview of how the PBA negotiations proceeded and how well the negotiations went.

RESOLUTIONS:

j. **RESOLUTION #252-2014** – Execute PBA Contract

Councilman Stemple made the motion to adopt **RESOLUTION #252-2014**. Councilman Rapp seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Rapp, aye; Stemple, aye; Scarcia, aye; Strange, aye; 6 ayes. Motion carries.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilman Flynn announced that he will vacate his Council seat effective December 31st, 2014. Council thanked his for his time and efforts.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Sally Ward told everyone she will miss Tom Flynn. She asked if an outside utility vendor takes over the water system, will they be taking over the Solitude Village portion as well? The Mayor said yes. She asked if those same people going to supply the generators that will be needed as backup. Administrator Gregory said the town will supply the generators. She asked if the Borough would take over the tower before that. The Mayor said yes.

Adrienne Shipps said she will miss all of the changing Council members as well as Karen Scarcia.

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 \$829,872.24, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll Call Vote: Stemple, aye; Hughes, aye; Flynn, aye; Rapp, aye; Scarcia, aye; Strange, aye; Motion Carried: 6 ayes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: RESOLUTION #253-2014:

Councilman Rapp motioned to enter Executive Session including Town of Clinton legal advice/litigation and the appointment of John Gregory as Acting Clerk, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes. Councilwoman Hughes seconded. Roll Call Vote: Flynn, aye; Hughes, aye; Scarcia, aye; Rapp, aye; Stemple, aye; Strange, aye; Motion Carried: 6 ayes.

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

ADJOURNMENT: 10:51 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Young, Deputy Clerk