

MEETING MINUTES OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF HIGH BRIDGE BOROUGH

MEETING DATE July 16, 2015 **MEETING TIME** 7:30PM
MEETING PLACE High Bridge Firehouse 7 Maryland Ave.

Actual meeting may contain discussion of items not mentioned on the agenda and alternatively any items specifically listed may be omitted.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor calls meeting to order and makes the following statement: “Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of 2015 Meeting Dates was published in the Hunterdon County Democrat on January 1, 2015, Noticed in the Express Times on January 15, 2015, and posted on the bulletin board at Borough Hall. Action may be taken.”

2. FLAG SALUTE: Led by Mayor Desire

3. ROLL CALL:

Roll Call Vote										P=Present A=Absent			
Hughes	P	Scarcia	P	Shipp	P	Stemple	P	Strange	P	Zappa	P	Mayor Desire	P

Also present were Administrator John Gregory, Chief Bartman, Attorney Barry Goodman and Deputy Clerk Adam Young.

4. READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: - None at this time.

5. VISITORS:

Seven members of the public including press were present at this meeting.

6. 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.

Mr. Al Schweikert expressed his opinions regarding High bridge Borough selling the water system. He asked that the Borough reconsider selling the system. He also asked Council members to look at why people are asking for more OPRAS. He suggested that if any there are any specific individuals who are repeatedly submitting OPRAS, a conversation with said individuals would possibly be beneficial. Councilman Stemple said that he agrees with Mr. Schweikert regarding OPRA. He also appreciated the comments on the water system. He explained that they are investigating options, and that there would be a referendum for vote if selling became an option. Councilwoman Shipp also reiterated what Councilman Stemple stated about the future of the water system.

Ron Hutteman commented on the golf financials for the month of April and stated that the revenue numbers do not appear to add up. Councilman Stemple stated that this information is not the P and L that have been issued in the past. He stated that the statements are not on the website and he is looking into getting financials available. Discussion with Council regarding this issue ensued.

Dr. Brendan Coughlin thanked Mr. Hutteman for all his help and service to the country and on the Fire department in this town. Dr. Coughlin told Council about a power outage that occurred in Solitude Village on July 3, 2015. He said he reported the outage to the Police Department and expressed concerns about a lack of process or plan to get the portable generator up to Solitude Village. He said his power was off for four hours. Mr. Coughlin asked if JCP&L reports outages to Council. Mr. Coughlin inquired if the EDC was

involved with the P.I.L.O.T. (payment in lieu of taxes), on and asked how the P.I.L.O.T. came about. Council replied that the P.I.L.O.T. had been applied for. Mr. Goodman stated that there was a statute and an ordinance on the books that allowed for this. Administrator Gregory stated that Highlands has declared this an area of rehabilitation but specific properties were not mentioned. Mr. Coughlin inquired about how this would affect the money to the schools and to the county. Mr. Gregory explained that there is no effect of money and any unpaid taxes are made up by High Bridge residents. Mr. Coughlin explained his understanding of how a P.I.L.O.T works. He feels there should be constraints on the number of P.I.L.O.T.'s should be allowed.

Mike Gronsky had an inquiry regarding Resolution 151 and if Cregar Road had a limit of 6 ton trucks as well. Council responded there is no limit on Cregar road. Mr. Gronsky recommended Cregar Road for the truck route. Discussion with Council ensued.

Christina Whited gave a handout on Gnome Home Planting. Ms. Whited wants to create a gnome village on the Columbia Trail. She would like to set up a tent on the edge of the trail on Sundays to offer her trail bumper stickers and rocks for children to paint. She would like permission to do this. Discussion with Council ensued. It was determined that Ms. Whited would need a recreation permit and was told to contact Councilwoman Shipps.

7. 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.

Motion to Pull Resolution 141 from the Consent Agenda:		Strange		Second:		Shipps					
Roll Call Vote						Y=Yes; N=No; A=Abstain; At=Absent					
Hughes	Y	Scarcia	Y	Shipps	Y	Stemple	Y	Strange	Y	Zappa	Y

Questions and Comments: Administrator John Gregory explained that the OPRA law states that in municipalities of 5,000 residents or less, due to staffing issues involved, time spent fulfilling OPRA requests can be limited. The requirements are a minimum of six hours per week over a minimum of three days per week.

RESOLUTION #140-2015	Reject Bid Town Hall										
RESOLUTION #141-2015	Setting Specified Times for Records										
RESOLUTION #142-2015:	QPA Bid Threshold set to \$40,000										
RESOLUTION #143-2015:	Refund Summer Recreation Fee										
RESOLUTION #144-2015	Final Payment-Revaluation Program										
RESOLUTION #145-2015	Approve Riverside Liquor License										
RESOLUTION #146-2015	Authorization to Issue RFP to seek Independent Water Utility Valuation Appraiser										
RESOLUTION #147-2015	Standing Committees Update										
RESOLUTION #148-2015	Salary and Wages										
Motion to Approve Resolutions 140, 142-148:	Shipps	Second:	Strange								
Roll Call Vote			Y=Yes; N=No; A=Abstain; At=Absent								
Hughes	Y	Scarcia	Y	Shipps	Y	Stemple	Y	Strange	Y	Zappa	Y

8. COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT:

Councilman Zappa	<u>PLANNING & ENGINEERING</u>
Councilwoman Hughes	<u>PUBLIC HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL, SOLID WASTE / RECYCLING, OPEN SPACE, & CULTURAL & HERITAGE</u>
Councilwoman Scarcia	<u>INFORMATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, EVENTS</u>
Councilman Strange	<u>EMERGENCY SERVICES, EDUCATION & MUNICIPAL COURT-DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & RECREATION</u>
Councilwoman Shipp	
Councilman Stemple	<u>FINANCE & GOLF</u>
John Gregory	<u>ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:</u>
Mayor Mark Desire	<u>EXECUTIVE SERVICES</u>

9. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Certificate of Determination and Award

10. NEW BUSINESS: None at this time.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None at this time.

12. NEW ORDINANCES: None at this time

13. PUBLIC HEARING: 2ND READINGS.

A. Mayor Desire asks for a motion to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance #2015-25

**Ordinance 2015-25
Borough of High Bridge
County of Hunterdon
State Of New Jersey**

Vacate Borough Code Chapter 303 Sewers Article II subsection 303-39 Fees and Charges

Motion to Open:		Shipp			Second:			Strange			
Roll Call Vote							Y=Yes; N=No; A=Abstain; At=Absent				
Hughes	Y	Scarcia	Y	Shipp	Y	Stemple	Y	Strange	Y	Zappa	Y

Questions and Comments:

Mayor Desire asks for a motion to close the Public Hearing on Ordinance #2015-25

Motion to Close:		Strange			Second:			Shipp			
Roll Call Vote							Y=Yes; N=No; A=Abstain; At=Absent				
Hughes	Y	Scarcia	Y	Shipp	Y	Stemple	Y	Strange	Y	Zappa	Y

Mayor Desire asks for a motion to adopt Ordinance# 2015-25.

Motion to Adopt:		Stemple			Second:			Shipp			
Roll Call Vote							Y=Yes; N=No; A=Abstain; At=Absent				
Hughes	Y	Scarcia	Y	Shipp	Y	Stemple	Y	Strange	Y	Zappa	Y

Mayor Desire asks for a motion to adopt Ordinance #2015-25 and states that Ordinance #2015-25 shall be published by title only in the Express Times and/or Hunterdon County Democrat according to law.

Resolution #149-2015 Sewer Charges - Soil Witness Fee

Motion to Approve Resolutions 149-2015:	Strange	Second:	Shippo
Roll Call Vote		Y=Yes; N=No; A=Abstain; At=Absent	
Hughes	Y	Scarcia	Y
Shippo	Y	Stemple	Y
Strange	Y	Zappa	Y

B. Mayor Desire asks for a motion to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance #2015-27

**Ordinance 2015-27
Borough of High Bridge
County Of Hunterdon
State Of New Jersey**

Amend Ordinance Chapter 276-2.c & d “Nuisances, Public Health” “Registration Requirements”

Motion to Open:	Strange	Second:	Shippo
Roll Call Vote		Y=Yes; N=No; A=Abstain; At=Absent	
Hughes	Y	Scarcia	Y
Shippo	Y	Stemple	Y
Strange	Y	Zappa	Y

Questions and Comments:

Mayor Desire asks for a motion to close the Public Hearing on Ordinance #2015-27

Motion to Close:	Strange	Second:	Shippo
Roll Call Vote		Y=Yes; N=No; A=Abstain; At=Absent	
Hughes	Y	Scarcia	Y
Shippo	Y	Stemple	Y
Strange	Y	Zappa	Y

Mayor Desire asks for a motion to adopt Ordinance# 2015-27.

Motion to Adopt:	Hughes	Second:	Shippo
Roll Call Vote		Y=Yes; N=No; A=Abstain; At=Absent	
Hughes	Y	Scarcia	Y
Shippo	Y	Stemple	Y
Strange	Y	Zappa	Y

Mayor Desire asks for a motion to adopt Ordinance# 2015-27 and states that Ordinance # 2015-27 shall be published by title only in the Express Times and/or Hunterdon County Democrat according to law.

C. Mayor Desire asks for a motion to Open Public Hearing Ordinance #2015-28

**Ordinance 2015-28
Borough of High Bridge
County Of Hunterdon
State Of New Jersey**

**ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING TAX ABATEMENT AND PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES
PURSUANT TO NJSA 40A:21-1 ET SEQ. IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF
IMPROVEMENTS AT PROPERTY LOCATED AT 38 MAIN STREET, BLOCK 8, LOT 7**

Motion to Open:	Stemple	Second:	Shippo
------------------------	---------	----------------	--------

Roll Call Vote								Y=Yes; N=No; A=Abstain; At=Absent			
Hughes	Y	Scarcia	Y	Shipp	Y	Stemple	Y	Strange	Y	Zappa	Y

Questions and Comments:

Councilman Stemple made a comment that explained that this a way the Borough can encourage redevelopment. Mayor Desire also commented that High Bridge is not the only town doing this. Councilwoman Shipp agreed with Mr. Stemple regarding the benefits of this abatement. Mr. Stemple explained in detail how the fee structure would work.

Christina Whited asked over how long a period of time would be allotted to spend this money. Attorney Barry Goodman said that this would need to be checked into.

Mayor Desire asks for a motion to close the Public Hearing on Ordinance #2015-28

Motion to Close:		Stemple				Second:		Hughes			
Roll Call Vote								Y=Yes; N=No; A=Abstain; At=Absent			
Hughes	Y	Scarcia	Y	Shipp	Y	Stemple	Y	Strange	Y	Zappa	Y

Mayor Desire asks for a motion to adopt Ordinance# 2015-28.

Motion to Adopt:		Stemple				Second:		Hughes			
Roll Call Vote								Y=Yes; N=No; A=Abstain; At=Absent			
Hughes	Y	Scarcia	Y	Shipp	Y	Stemple	Y	Strange	Y	Zappa	Y

Mayor Desire asks for a motion to adopt Ordinance# 2015-28 and states that Ordinance # 2015-28 shall be published by title only in the Express Times and/or Hunterdon County Democrat according to law.

13. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Referendum for Roads Improvements

Councilman Zappa explained that the money would be used for capital improvement and fixing roads. Council questions if roads have been prioritized. Mr. Zappa said there is a report with this information. Councilman Stemple wanted the report to specify that this list of priority is subject to change based on need. Councilman Scarcia asked if there could be a public pre-meeting regarding this Referendum. Council agreed that this would be a good idea. Conversation with Council ensued regarding how to implement this idea.

Non-binding Referendum Vote for Road Improvements

Motion to Approve Resolution 150-2015:				Strange		Second:		Shipp			
Roll Call Vote								Y=Yes; N=No; A=Abstain; At=Absent			
Hughes	Y	Scarcia	Y	Shipp	Y	Stemple	Y	Strange	Y	Zappa	Y

A. Weight Limit Main Street.

Chief Bartman commented that he thinks this weight limit will be another deterrent. He does feel it will help but not completely solve the problem.

Council discussed the impact this would have on Main Street. Discussion ensued regarding recreational vehicles driving on Main Street, as well. Councilman Stemple asked if signs designating truck route should be posted. Administrator John Gregory stated that he believes signs are already in place. Council questioned chief Bartman regarding fines for trucks. He responded there is a range for fees and fines.

Routes for Trucks over Six (6) Tons County Route 513 Main Street

Motion to Approve Resolution 151-2015:				Strange		Second:			Stemple		
Roll Call Vote						Y=Yes; N=No; A=Abstain; At=Absent					
Hughes	Y	Scarcia	Y	Shipp	Y	Stemple	Y	Strange	Y	Zappa	Y

B. Sewer Connection fee

Rob Fernandes, builder of “High Bridge Views”, formally known as “The Arbors” Mayor Desire read a note from Mr. Fernandes. Mr. Fernandes asked for consideration for relief from the water and sewer hookup fees. Council responded that a discount is not possible.

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

Christina Whited responded to the OPRA issue and estimated that the Borough receives ten OPRAS per week. Administrator Gregory responded that this is not accurate because it only takes into account the OPRA he receives, not the Police Department or Deputy Clerk Young. She did complement Borough Hall on the quick response she got from her last OPRA request.

Ms. Whited also asked how much money is used now for the tax rate for CAP improvements. Discussion with Council ensued on this matter. Ms. Whited also informed Councilman Hughes regarding a two hundred dollar donation for trees that she can use. She then inquired whether the buildings on 81 West Main Street will be torn down. Mayor Desire and Administrator Gregory explained that they will need more information regarding this issue. She then asked that Council members go to the Farmer’s Market to support it.

Sally Ward asked if rain barrels could be place at the school to collect rain water for the garden. Councilman Hughes explained that this would be difficult because pathways cannot be blocked. Ms. Ward also suggested that the town make an ice skating rink in town.

15. LEGAL ISSUES: Complaint filed for affordable housing plan.

Attorney Barry Goodman gave a detailed update on this issue.

16. BILL LIST:

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List.

Total Amount: \$1,759.457.72

Motion to Approve:				Hughes			Second:			Strange		
Roll Call Vote						Y=Yes; N=No; A=Abstain; At=Absent						
Hughes	Y	Scarcia	Y	Shipp	Y	Stemple	Y	Strange	Y	Zappa	Y	

Councilwoman Shipp approves bill list with abstention from police related items. Councilman Stemple approves bill list with abstention from Fire Department related items.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

RESOLUTION # -2015: Attorney Client: Olsen & Town of Clinton

Motion to Move into Executive Session:				Stemple			Second:			Strange		
Roll Call Vote						Y=Yes; N=No; A=Abstain; At=Absent						
Hughes	Y	Scarcia	Y	Shipp	Y	Stemple	Y	Strange	Y	Zappa	Y	

Motion to Return to Open Session:			Stemple			Second:			Shipps		
Roll Call Vote						Y=Yes; N=No; A=Abstain; At=Absent					
Hughes	Y	Scarcia	Y	Shipps	Y	Stemple	Y	Strange	Y	Zappa	Y

18. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Desire or presiding officer asks if there is any further business. If none,

Motion to Adjourn:			Stemple			Second:			Strange		
Roll Call Vote						Y=Yes; N=No; A=Abstain; At=Absent					
Hughes	Y	Scarcia	Y	Shipps	Y	Stemple	Y	Strange	Y	Zappa	Y

Next Council Meeting, August 13, 2015 REGULAR MEETING, 7:30PM, Fire House, 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge, NJ.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS: (space for members of council and clerk to take notes on each item)

Adjournment: 9:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deputy Clerk Adam Young
