

MEETING MINUTES OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF HIGH BRIDGE BOROUGH

MEETING DATE **November 12, 2015** **REGULAR COUNCIL** **7:30 PM**
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 | Shipps | P | Stemple | P | Strange | P | Zappa | P | Mayor Desire | P |

Also present were five members of the public including press, Administrator John Gregory and Deputy Clerk AdamYoung.

**4. READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
MOTION TO DISPENSE WITH THE READING OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES FOR:**

Regular meeting minutes of October 22, 2015 and Executive Minutes for Feb26, 2015, April 23, 2015, May 28, 2015 and July 16, 2015

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|---------|---|--------|---|---------|---|-----------------------------------|---|-------|---|---------|--|--|--|
| Motion to Approve: | | | | Hughes | | | | 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 | | | | |

Motion passes with six ayes.

MOTION TO APPROVE OR CORRECT PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:

Regular meeting minutes of October 22, 2015 and Executive Minutes for Feb26, 2015, April 23, 2015, May 28, 2015 and July 16, 2015

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---------|---|---------|---|---------|---|-----------------------------------|---|-------|---|---------|--|--|--|
| Motion to Amend/Approve: | | | | Stemple | | | | Second: | | | | Scarcia | | | |
| Roll Call Vote | | | | | | | | Y=Yes; N=No; A=Abstain; At=Absent | | | | | | | |
| Hughes | Y | Scarcia | Y | Shipps | Y | Stemple | Y | Strange | Y | Zappa | Y | | | | |

Motion passes with six ayes.

5. VISITORS: None at this time.

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.

Sally Ward asked that Council not introduce Ordinance 2015-35 as it is incomplete and believes that a thorough look at this content is required before approval. Mayor Desire noted that taking the policies out of ordinance form and putting them into resolution form will make changes more easily done and cheaper for the Borough.

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.

| RESOLUTION # | TITLE | PURPOSE |
|--|---|--|
| 206-2015 | Refund Utility overpayment | Refund due to meter issue |
| 207-2015 | Chapter 159 Build out study | Authorization to spend funds for the Build out study |
| 208-2015 | Year End Transfers | Transfers between budget accounts to cover unforeseen expenditures |
| 210-2015 | Escrow Refund | Closed out escrow |
| 211-2015 | Landlord Registration refund | Exempt property owner occupied |
| 212-2015 | Professional Services Contract | Amend Planner Contract |
| 213-2015 | Accept Highlands Plan Performance Grant | Accept highlands performance grant |
| 214-2015 | Lien Redemption | Payoff of tax lien – funds to lienholder |
| 215-2015 | Approve grant NJDOT | Authorize filing of grant for Mill Street Reconstruction. |
| Motion to Approve Resolutions 206-208 and 206 to 208 and 210 to 215: | | Hughes 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 |

Motion passes with six ayes.

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Motion to remove Resolution #209-2015 from the consent agenda. | | Scarcia 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 |

Motion passes with six ayes.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Motion to approve Resolution #209-2015 from the consent agenda. | | Stemple Second: Scarcia |
| Roll Call Vote | | Y=Yes; N=No; A=Abstain; At=Absent |
| Hughes | Y | Scarcia N |
| Shipp | Y | Stemple Y |
| Strange | Y | Zappa Y |

Questions and Comments: Councilwoman Scarcia noted that more information needs to be provided to Council on these issues.

Five ayes; One no; Motion passes.

8. COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT: Monthly Report

| <u>Governing Body Member or Appointed Official</u> | <u>DEPARTMENT</u> |
|---|---|
| Councilman Zappa | <u>Planning & Engineering</u> |
| Cregar Road update, New Borough Hall update, siding selected and plan flipped, COAH housing plan extension. | |
| Councilwoman Hughes | <u>Public Health, Environmental, Solid Waste / Recycling, Open Space, & Cultural & Heritage</u> |
| Mural update, sustainable Jersey lunch, Paddle boarding in Lake Solitude, planters and planting on Main and McDonald Streets, trees cut at storage facility, Veteran's Day ceremony, Solitude House theatre, Civil War talk, lecture series delayed, thanked student volunteers, thanked Councilwoman Scarcia | |
| Councilwoman Scarcia | <u>Information, Economic Development, Events</u> |

| | |
|--|---|
| Grand opening for Peking Wok. | |
| Councilman Strange | <u>Emergency Services, Education & Municipal Court-</u> |
| Received quotes for Police Department Repairs, Fine Schedule review, IACP conference | |
| Councilwoman Shipps | <u>Department Of Public Works & Recreation</u> |
| DPW leaf pick-up, Repairing leaf vacs, Water main breaks, Alert where leaf pick-up is, NJAA event. | |
| Councilman Stemple | <u>Finance & Golf</u> |
| 2016 Budget, cost of 17 th tee move, Golf budget update. | |
| John Gregory | <u>Administrator's Report:</u> |
| 144 cubic feet of documents to shred, HB PSA sign ups, re-up Animal control, part time Librarian, League of Municipalities, RFP's opened | |
| Mayor Mark Desire | <u>Executive Services</u> |
| Congratulations to Karen, Michael and Steve, meeting with John Johnson, Document for yearly goals, NJAA attended, reorg meeting January 4 th at 7 P.M., 100 West Main realtor communication, NJ Transit update. | |

9. **WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:** None at this time.

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

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

12. **NEW ORDINANCES – Introduction of Ordinances**

ORDINANCE 2015-34
BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

AMEND CHAPTER 120-10 FEES; EXPIRATION OF LICENSE SECTIONS (A) & (C)

A. Mayor Desire asks for a motion to introduce amendment to Ordinance #2015-34

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|---|--------|---|-----------------------------------|---|---------|---|---------|---|--|--|
| <u>PURPOSE:</u> | | <u>Set the cost for dog licenses reducing the cost for spayed and neutered dogs, increasing the cost for non-spayed or non-neutered dogs to encourage the spaying and neutering of dogs and incorporating the State fee in the license amount</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Motion to Introduce:</u> | | Hughes | | | | <u>Second:</u> | | | | Scarcia | | | |
| Roll Call Vote | | | | | | Y=Yes; N=No; A=Abstain; At=Absent | | | | | | | |
| Hughes | Y | Scarcia | Y | Shipps | Y | Stemple | Y | Strange | Y | Zappa | Y | | |

Motion passes with six ayes.

Mayor Desire states that the amendment to Ordinance #2015-34 shall be published in summary in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the Public Hearing date of December 10, 2015.

ORDINANCE 2015-35
BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

VACATE CHAPTERS 65 AND 73 REGARDING BOROUGH PERSONNEL

B. Mayor Desire asks for a motion to introduce amendment to Ordinance #2015-35

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|---|--------|---|-----------------------------------|---|---------|---|-------|---|--|--|
| <u>PURPOSE:</u> | | <u>Vacate Personnel Ordinances to adopt Personnel Policy by Resolution to facilitate the ease of changes to the policy as required.</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Motion to Introduce:</u> | | Hughes | | | | <u>Second:</u> | | | | Zappa | | | |
| Roll Call Vote | | | | | | Y=Yes; N=No; A=Abstain; At=Absent | | | | | | | |
| Hughes | Y | Scarcia | Y | Shipps | Y | Stemple | Y | Strange | Y | Zappa | Y | | |

Motion passes with six ayes.

Councilwoman Scarcia suggested pagination and a thorough review of policies needs to be done.

Mayor Desire states that the amendment to Ordinance #2015-35 shall be published in summary in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the Public Hearing date of December 10, 2015.

ORDINANCE 2015-36
BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

APPROPRIATING \$40,000 FROM CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND TOWARDS THE PURCHASE
OF A 2015 FORD 2144 BRAVE III AMBULANCE BY THE RESCUE SQUAD

C. Mayor Desire asks for a motion to introduce amendment to Ordinance #2015-36

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|------------------------------------|------------|---------|------------|-------|------------|-----------------------------------|------------|---------|------------|-------|------------|
| <u>PURPOSE:</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Motion to Introduce:</u> | | | Stemple | | | <u>Second:</u> | | | NONE | | |
| Roll Call Vote | | | | | | Y=Yes; N=No; A=Abstain; At=Absent | | | | | |
| Hughes | No Vote | Scarcia | No Vote | Shipp | No Vote | Stemple | No Vote | Strange | No Vote | Zappa | No Vote |

No second. No vote.

PUBLIC HEARING: 2ND READINGS.

A. Mayor Desire asks for a motion to Reopen Public Hearing on Ordinance #2015-30 Reopen, Councilman Zappa to amend and introduce the amendment proposed at the October 8 Council meeting.

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|---|---|---------|--------|-------|---|-----------------------------------|---|---------|-------|-------|---|
| Purpose | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Amend noise ordinance making it less restrictive but easier to enforce regarding engine braking</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Motion to Reopen: | | | Hughes | | | 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 |

Motion passes with six ayes.

Questions and Comments: Pablo Delgado asked about specifics of enforcement. Councilman Zappa described the circumstances when this Ordinance would be used.

Mayor Desire asks for a motion to close the Public Hearing on Ordinance # 2015-30

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|-------------------------|---|---------|---------|-------|---|-----------------------------------|---|---------|---------|-------|---|
| Motion to Close: | | | 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 passes with six ayes.

Mayor Desire asks for a motion to adopt Ordinance# 2015-30.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---------|--------|-------|---|-----------------------------------|---|---------|-------|-------|---|
| Motion to Adopt: | | | Hughes | | | 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 |

Motion passes with six ayes.

Mayor Desire states that Ordinance # 2015-30 is adopted shall be published by title only in the Hunterdon County Democrat and/or Express Times according to law

13. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. RESO 196-2015 Authorization to sign Solitude Village Water Takeover Agreement
John Johnson gave an overview of the issues pertaining to the Solitude Village Water Takeover Agreement. Discussion ensued with Council about maintenance, past events of upkeep, a previous agreement, current issues on the table with the takeover, and documents being sent to the Borough the day after this meeting.

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.

John Johnson believes the tee box move is a bad decision because of the way a typical golfer plays. Councilman Stemple explained future changes that will improve the course pertaining to the tee.

15. LEGAL ISSUES: None at this time.

16. BILL LIST:

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

Total Amount: \$408,086.73

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

Motion passes with six ayes and two abstentions.

Councilwoman Shipp approves the bill list with abstention from police related items.

Councilman Stemple approves the bill list with abstention from Fire Department related items.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION: None at this time.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Desire or presiding officer asks if there is any further business.

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| Motion to Adjourn: | | | 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 | | |

Next regular Council meeting: December 10, 2015, 7:30PM

Address: Fire House, 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge, NJ.

Reorganizational meeting is scheduled for January 4, 2016 at 7:00pm tentative

Respectfully Submitted,

Deputy Clerk Adam Young