

MEETING MINUTES OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF HIGH BRIDGE BOROUGH

MEETING DATE **April 9, 2015** **MEETING TIME** **7:30PM**
MEETING PLACE **High Bridge Firehouse** **7 Maryland Ave.**

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

4. VISITORS: Nine members of the public were present including press. Also in attendance were Attorney Barry Goodman Deputy Clerk Young, and Planning Board Secretary Barbara Kinsky.

5. 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.

Mark Fiorentino expressed concerns regarding golf ball damage at his residence. Councilman Stemple and Mayor Desire addressed the concern and then a discussion ensued.

Mike Gronsky asked a question regarding Resolution 97, regarding the design of the new Borough Hall. A general discussion regarding the plans for the new A.D.A. accessible Borough Hall and the current Borough Ball building ensued.. Council indicated that there are no plans to move the Library.

Dennis Ferrere asked a question regarding whether or not council was planning on responding to Dr. Brendan Coughlin’s letter to the editor on March 26, in the Hunterdon Democrat. Mayor Desire responded that there was no response made from Council regarding this letter. Discussion ensued regarding the validity of some of the points made in this editorial. He then asked when pot holes were going to be repaired on High Bridge roads. Mayor Desire and Council stated that the pot hole repairs were planned and there was new equipment available for use.

Brent Dugan as a member of the Planning Board questioned as to whether the new pilates studio is open and whether having its blinds open or closed during business hours is complaint with Ordinance 2015-6. A conversation with Council ensued regarding this ordinance.

Christina Whited suggested that the pilates owner be contacted and spoken to regarding the blind issue. Mayor Desire agreed with this. Councilman Stemple also agreed that talking with the studio owner would be the best option.

Dr. Brendan Coughlin concurred with Mr. Gronsky that Borough Hall should remain on Main Street. Dr. Coughlin questioned Mayor Desire and Councilman Stemple regarding last year’s golf financials. Mr. Stemple replied that he did not have the figures in front of him at this time. A conversation between Dr. Coughlin and Mayor Desire ensued.

Sally Ward stated that she resents the behavior of a member of the public towards Mayor Desire.

6. 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.

<u>RESOLUTION #94-2015</u>	APPROVAL FUND RAISER DATES SOLITUDE HOUSE													
<u>RESOLUTION #95-2015</u>	WAIVE LATE FEE FOR JENNIFER MATES 3 DOGS													
<u>RESOLUTION #96-2015:</u>	LIEN REDEMPTION													
<u>RESOLUTION #97-2015:</u>	AWARD OF CONTRACT TO ED OBRIEN													
Motion to Adopt Resolutions 94-97:				Stemple			Second:			Strange				
Roll Call Vote							Y=Yes; N=No; A=Abstain; At=Absent							
Hughes	Y	Scarcia	Y	Shippo	Y	Stemple	Y	Strange	Y	Zappa	Y			

7. COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT: Reports on April 23, 2015

Councilman Zappa	<u>PLANNING & ENGINEERING – Liaison to Planning Board/Board of Adjustment</u>
Councilwoman Hughes	<u>PUBLIC HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL, SOLID WASTE / RECYCLING, OPEN SPACE, & CULTURAL & HERITAGE – Solid Waste/Recycling Liaison to State & County</u>
Councilwoman Scarcia	<u>INFORMATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, EVENTS – Liaison to OEM, Municipal Court & Recreation</u>
Councilman Strange	<u>EMERGENCY SERVICES, EDUCATION & MUNICIPAL COURT- Liaison to Cultural & Heritage & Events</u>
Councilwoman Shippo	<u>DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & RECREATION</u>
Councilman Stemple	<u>FINANCE & GOLF</u>
John Gregory	<u>ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT</u>
Mayor Mark Desire	<u>EXECUTIVE SERVICES</u>

8 WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

a. Cushing Letter Lake Solitude

9. NEW BUSINESS: None at this time.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None at this time.

11. NEW ORDINANCES – None at this time.

12. PUBLIC HEARING: 2ND READINGS.

A. Mayor Desire asks for a motion to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance #2015-05

**ORDINANCE 2015-05
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE CODE SECTION 223-11 TITLED
LITTERING VACANT LOTS**

Motion to Open:		Hughes				Second:				Strange			
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: Sally Ward asked if there is a fine involved with this ordinance. Administrator John Gregory replied that it would be a disorderly person's offense.

Mayor Desire asks for a motion to close the Public Hearing on Ordinance #2015-5

Motion to Close:		Stemple				Second:				Strange					
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# 2015-05 and shall be published by title only in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat according to law.

Motion to Adopt:		Hughes				Second:				Stemple					
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 #2015-06

ORDINANCE 2015-6
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE LAND USE ORDINANCE SECTION 405.B.11 TO ALLOW FOR RETAIL/STUDIO ON THE FIRST FLOOR IN THE DOWNTOWN BUSINESS ZONE

Motion to Open:		Stemple				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: Council members questioned how ordinances effect where different types of businesses can be located. Administrator John Gregory stated that that would be a Planning Board issue. Council also discussed the new Pilates studio. Planning Board member, Brent Dugan discussed the grant from the Highlands Council. Council discussed how literally these ordinances would be followed and how the Planning Board would address them. Christina Whited also commented on the new pilates studio and how Ordinance 2015-6 will impact it. Councilman Zappa and Christina Whited and Deputy Clerk Young discussed the cost of different Planning Board applications. A conversation ensued between Councilman Zappa and Christina Whited regarding her zoning issues and the fee structure.

Mayor Desire asks for a motion to close the Public Hearing on Ordinance #2015-6

Motion to Close:		Stemple				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# 2015-06 and shall be published by title only in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat according to law.

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

C. Mayor Desire asks for a motion to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance #2015-11

ORDINANCE 2015-11

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 303-12, SECTION (E), SUBSECTION 5 FOR OBTAINING RESERVE SEWER CAPACITY FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT

Motion to Open:	Stemple				Second:				Hughes						
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: John Gregory stated that Murphy went with reserved capacity for development beforehand and Planning Board asked that some wording be changed around regarding this. Councilman Zappa explained that the Planning Board felt that the original version barred the presenting of an informal plan without having to pay the sewage reserve fee.

Sally Ward asked a new bathroom construction would be affected by this Ordinance. Mayor Desire and Administrator John Gregory responded that it would not.

Mayor Desire asks for a motion to close the Public Hearing on Ordinance #2015-11

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# 2015-11 and shall be published by title only in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat according to law.

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

E. Mayor Desire asks for a motion to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance #2015-12

**ORDINANCE 2015-12
CALENDAR YEAR 2015
ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS
AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

Motion to Open:	Stemple				Second:				Hughes						
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: Councilman Zappa asked questions about the C.A.P. bank and Councilman Stemple responded with an explanation of what the C.A.P. bank entails and how to use these funds.

Mayor Desire asks for a motion to close the Public Hearing on Ordinance #2015-12

Motion to Close:	Strange				Second:				Stemple						
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# 2015-12 and shall be published by title only in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat according to law.

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

13. DISCUSSION ITEMS: None at this time.

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 and no person may make more than one (1) comment per subject. 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.

Dennis Ferrere asked a question regarding the lawsuit with Clinton and the potential revenue High Bridge could receive. Attorney Barry Goodman stated that we are not in lawsuit with Clinton at this time. Mayor Desire and Administrator John Gregory stated that it would be two million dollars in erroneous charges to all the entities involved. A discussion ensued regarding the amount of the settlement that High Bridge could receive. Attorney Goodman said we need to wait until we have our own audit done, and is unknown at this time as to when the situation will be resolved with Clinton.

15. LEGAL ISSUES: The legal situation with Clinton was discussed in Public Comments

16. BILL LIST: Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List.

Total Amount: \$148,289.94

Motion to Approve:			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

Councilwoman Hughes approves bill list with abstention from 1204.
Councilwoman Shipps approves bill list with abstention from police related items.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION: None at this time.

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- April 23, 2015 REGULAR MEETING, 7:30 PM, Fire House, 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge, NJ.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:41PM

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Young, Deputy Clerk