

**MAYOR & COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON,  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Date: February 11, 2016: 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.*

**Borough Hall will be Closed on February 15 in Observance of Presidents Day**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor calls meeting to order and makes the following statement: "Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of 2016 Meeting Dates was published in the Hunterdon County Democrat and Express Times on December 24, 2015, and posted on the bulletin board at Borough Hall. Action may be taken."

**2. FLAG SALUTE: LED BY MAYOR OR PRESIDING OFFICER.**

**3. ROLL CALL: P=PRESENT; A=ABSENT**

Governing Body Member	P or A	Time Arrived if Late
Councilwoman Scarcia	P	
Councilwoman Shipps	P	
Councilman Stemple	P	
Councilman Strange	A	
Councilman Zappa	P	
Council President Hughes	P	
Mayor Desire	P	

There were twenty-three members of the public present including press. Also present were Administrator John Gregory, Attorney Barry Goodman and Deputy Clerk Adam Young.

**4. READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: - REGULAR AND EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 28, 2016**

No corrections to prior meeting minutes. Motion to dispense with the reading of the prior meeting(s) minutes and to approve minutes:

<b>Motion to Dispense w/Reading of Minutes</b>				Hughes				<b>Second</b>				Scarcia							
<b>Roll Call Vote</b>								Y=Yes; N=No; At=Abstain or A=Absent											
Hughes	Y	Scarcia	Y	Shipps	Y	Stemple	Y	Strange	A	Zappa	Y								
<b>Motion to Approve Minutes</b>								Stemple				<b>Second</b>				Zappa			
<b>Roll Call Vote</b>								Y=Yes; N=No; A=Abstain or Absent											
Hughes	Y	Scarcia	Y	Shipps	Y	Stemple	Y	Strange	A	Zappa	Y								

**5. VISITORS:**

- A.** Eagle Scouts
  - P2-2016 - Dylan Wylie
  - P3-2016 – Matthew Krisanits
  - P4-2016 – Robert Whitney
- B.** Assessor Presentation on Abatements

<b>Motion to amend agenda to move the public hearing of Ordinance 2016-05 to after Visitor B: Assessor Presentation</b>				Zappa				<b>Second</b>				Stemple			
<b>Roll Call Vote</b>								Y=Yes; N=No; At=Abstain or A= Absent							
Hughes	Y	Scarcia	Y	Shipps	Y	Stemple	Y	Strange	A	Zappa	Y				

**6. PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCES – SECOND READING**

**A. Ordinance 2016-05 Abatement Ordinance**

**ORDINANCE 2016-05  
RENEWING BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE CODE CHAPTER 365 WITH AMENDMENTS TO  
CHAPTER 365-6**

<b>Purpose</b>	<i>Renew Abatement Ordinance for rehab and new development.</i>										
<b>Motion to Open Public Hearing</b>	Hughes				Second				Shipps		
<b>Roll Call Vote</b>	Y=Yes; N=No; At=Abstain or A=Absent										
Hughes	Y	Scarcia	Y	Shipps	Y	Stemple	Y	Strange	A	Zappa	Y

Comments: Council asked for an example of class 2 exemptions, if there is a minimum improvement cost, if this deals with land assessment. The tax assessor, Ann Marie answered about the exemption types, that there is no minimum, that this assessment is not based on land assessment.

John Musnuff stated support for the tax abatement process.

Brent Dugan asked how mix use was handled with the Main St. property. The Tax Assessor and Administrator note that this was treated as new construction.

Dr. Coughlin noted that this is a poor time to offer PILOTS. The Tax Assessor and Council note that this is good incentive to draw in business and benefits the Borough directly.

<b>Motion to Close Public Hearing</b>	Stemple				Second				Zappa		
<b>Roll Call Vote</b>	Y=Yes; N=No; At=Abstain or A= Absent										
Hughes	Y	Scarcia	Y	Shipps	Y	Stemple	Y	Strange	A	Zappa	Y

<b>Motion to Adopt 2016-1</b>	Hughes				Second				Zappa		
<b>Roll Call Vote</b>	Y=Yes; N=No; At=Abstain or A= Absent										
Hughes	Y	Scarcia	Y	Shipps	Y	Stemple	Y	Strange	A	Zappa	Y

Ordinance # 2016-05 is adopted shall be published by title only in the Hunterdon County Democrat and/or Express Times according to law

**7. PROCLAMATIONS:**

**A. P5-2016 Support for Arbor Day**

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS; NEW BUSINESS; DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**A. Sale of Water System – Resolution 65-2016, Authorization to Issue RFP R01-2016**

<b>Purpose</b>	<i>To seek out proposal for takeover of the Borough Water System</i>										
<b>Motion to Approve Resolution 65-2016</b>	Zappa				Second				Shipps		
<b>Roll Call Vote</b>	Y=Yes; N=No; At=Abstain or A= Absent										
Hughes	Y	Scarcia	Y	Shipps	Y	Stemple	Y	Strange	A	Zappa	Y

Questions and Comments: Council discussed the current value of the system, the reasoning behind selling the system, and the benefits to the Borough if done.

**B. Professional to explore Sewer Location and Design – Resolution 66-2016, Authorization to Issue RFP R02-2016**

<b>Purpose</b>	<i>To seek out a Professional for Waste Water Plant Location and Design</i>										
<b>Motion to Approve Resolution 66-2016</b>	Stemple				Second				Zappa		
<b>Roll Call Vote</b>	Y=Yes; N=No; At=Abstain or A= Absent										
Hughes	Y	Scarcia	Y	Shipps	Y	Stemple	Y	Strange	A	Zappa	Y

Questions and Comments: Councilwoman Scarcia suggested also exploring new terms with Clinton on the issue as well as supported researching other options.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON**

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

Michele Schwartz asked what research has been done to value the water system and if partnership options are available. Council responded that it is difficult to get a value on the system and that the value is what the market is willing to pay for it, that they are looking into different options.

Brent Dugan voiced concern that a private company will put the burden of making a profit into the billing of the water system and wondered if Councilman Strange had as many issues getting financial documents from the emergency squad as he did. Council noted this and said they would look into it.

Dr. Brenden Coughlin asked if the Borough is looking to fix roads with the money from the water system. Council responded not at this time but it will be researched. Dr. Coughlin asked if how the water is used by the Borough has been researched. Council responded that it has not at this time.

Mike Gronsky has asked about the RFP for a wastewater management plan, about the size of the wastewater management plant, if the plant is just for High Bridge, and the concern that the lower end of West Main Street is thought of as being a commercial area, but that there are residents there. Council responded that that size and scope of operation will be determined by professionals and noted the location concerns.

Nicholas Caggiano noted concerns about abandoned and vacant homes and their upkeep. Administrator Gregory took his contact information for follow-up.

**10 . 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									
67-2016	Lien Redemption	Payment to Outside Lien Holder for Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate									
68-2016	Approval for Application for County Open Space Funds	Annual application to Hunterdon County for Open Space Funding to be used for paying debt- Lake Solitude									
69-2016	Refund Food Handlers Permit	Refund to School for payment of food handlers permit-School is exempt from payment									
70-2016	Emergency Temp Appropriation	State of Emergency-Blizzard Expenses									
71-2016	Approval of Charity Event	Comedy Club Charity event for new backstop									
72-2016	Permanent Status	Employee to permanent full-time employment									
73-2016	Authorization to issue RFP	Water Main Repair Service									
74-2016	Approval of Social Affairs Permit	Fire Department									
75-2016	Approval of Raffle Licenses	Fire Department									
Motion to Approve Resolutions 67 – 75:		Scarcia	Second:	Zappa							
Roll Call Vote		Y=Yes; N=No; At=Abstain or A= Absent									
Hughes	Y	Scarcia	Y	Shippo	Y	Stemple	Y	Strange	A	Zappa	Y

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT: MONTHLY REPORT DUE FEBRUARY 25, 2016 - MAYOR DESIRE DISTRIBUTED COUNCIL GOAL SHEETS.**

**11. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. Grant Received for Trails

**12. PUBLIC COMMENTS: 1 MINUTE PER PERSON – NONE AT THIS TIME**

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.

**13. LEGAL ISSUES:** None at this time.

**14. BILL LIST:**

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

**Total Amount: \$ 331,346.90**

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

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

**15. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Legal advice with regard to the Clinton sewer contract and arbitration**

**Motion to amend the agenda to include legal advice with regard to the Clinton sewer contract and arbitration.** Motion: Zappa, Second: Shipps

Roll Call Vote: Hughes, aye; Scarcia, aye; Shipps, aye; Stemple, aye; Strange, absent; Zappa, aye  
Five ayes, motion passes

**A. RESOLUTION # : 2E-2016**

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

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

**16. ADJOURNMENT: MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:08**

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

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

**17. LOOK AHEAD MEETING FEBRUARY 25, 2016**

- A.** Council Monthly Reports
- B.** Council Goals

Respectfully submitted,

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John Gregory, Clerk

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**Next Council Meeting, February 25, 2016, 7:30 pm, Fire House, 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge, NJ.**

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