

BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE – COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: October 27, 2016 – 7:30 p.m. – Location: High Bridge Firehouse, 7 Maryland Ave.

Please note: This meeting may contain discussion of items not mentioned on the agenda and, alternatively, any items specifically listed may be omitted.

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 now be taken.

FLAG SALUTE: LED BY MAYOR OR PRESIDING OFFICER

ROLL CALL:

Councilman LoIacono	present	Councilman Strange	present
Councilwoman Shipp	present	Councilman Zappa	present
Councilman Stemple	present	Council Pres. Hughes	present
		Mayor Desire	present

Also present were two members of the public and press along with Attorney Barry Goodman, Administrator Michael Pappas, and Acting Municipal Clerk Adam Young.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: REGULAR MINUTES – OCTOBER 13TH, 2016

Mayor asks if any corrections necessary or for a motion to dispense with the reading of the prior meeting(s) minutes.

Motion to dispense with the reading of the October 13th, 2016 minutes: Hughes, Second: Zappa
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipp, Abstain; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Zappa, yes; Hughes, yes;
Vote results: 5 ayes, 1 abstention. Motion passes.

Motion to approve the October 13th, 2016 minutes: Hughes, Second: Strange
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipp, Abstain; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Zappa, yes; Hughes, yes;
Vote results: 5 ayes, 1 abstention. Motion passes.

VISITORS: NONE

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON: NONE

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. Ordinance 2016-24: Private sale of undersized lots

Motion to open the public hearing for **Ordinance 2016-24:** Private sale of undersized lots: Stemple, Second: Strange,
Roll call vote: LoIacono, aye; Shipp, aye; Stemple, aye; Strange, aye; Zappa, aye; Hughes, aye;
Vote results: 6 ayes. Motion passes.

Council gave an overview of the benefits of utilizing the currently unused lots via this Ordinance.
Chris Nectarline had questions about getting on the list for adjacent Borough properties for sale.

Motion to close the public hearing for **Ordinance 2016-24:** Private sale of undersized lots: LoIacono, Second:,
Strange,
Roll call vote: LoIacono, aye; Shipp, aye; Stemple, aye; Strange, aye; Zappa, aye; Hughes, aye;
Vote results: 6 ayes. Motion passes.

Motion to adopt **Ordinance 2016-24**: Private sale of undersized lots: Stemple, Second: Zappa
Roll call vote: LoIacono, aye; Shipps, aye; Stemple, aye; Strange, aye; Zappa, aye; Hughes, aye;
Vote results: 6 ayes. Motion passes.

Mayor Desire states that **Ordinance 2016-24** is adopted shall be published by Title in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat in accordance with the law.

B. **Ordinance 2016-25**: Sale of Borough Hall – 71 Main St.

Motion to open the public hearing for **Ordinance 2016-25**: Sale of Borough Hall: Hughes, Second: Zappa,
Roll call vote: LoIacono, aye; Shipps, aye; Stemple, aye; Strange, aye; Zappa, aye; Hughes, aye;
Vote results: 6 ayes. Motion passes.

Council gave an overview of the goal of making Borough Hall A.D.A. accessible for all residents and decreasing operating costs.

Nancy Hunt commented about the writing structure of the ordinance as it pertains to a "tear down" option, as well as the criteria of the new design, and the possibility of touring the Borough Hall by bidders. Discussion with Council ensued about the Ordinance and logistics.

Motion to close the public hearing for **Ordinance 2016-25**: Sale of Borough Hall: Hughes, Second: LoIacono,
Roll call vote: LoIacono, aye; Shipps, aye; Stemple, aye; Strange, aye; Zappa, aye; Hughes, aye;
Vote results: 6 ayes. Motion passes.

Motion to adopt **Ordinance 2016-25**: Sale of Borough Hall: Stemple, Second: LoIacono,
Roll call vote: LoIacono, aye; Shipps, aye; Stemple, aye; Strange, aye; Zappa, aye; Hughes, aye;
Vote results: 6 ayes. Motion passes.

Mayor Desire states that **Ordinance 2016-25** is adopted shall be published by Title in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat in accordance with the law.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Amend Ordinance 390-2 to include trailers and inoperable motor vehicles
Councilwoman Shipps updated Council with the suggestion of editing Section 184 instead of 390-2. Suggested wording, parking pass costs, and additional uses of parking areas were discussed.

B. Hill Street vacation
Council discussed the vacating of Hill Street, the use of easements, contacting the individuals involved, and getting the Borough Engineer's review on this issue.

C. Juvenile curfew
Juvenile curfew was discussed as it pertains to the coming holiday events, how enforcement of laws is currently done, and certain circumstances of curfew enforcement in other municipalities.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

A. **Ordinance 2016-26**: Amend Chapter 284, Rental Unit Registration, of the Borough Ordinances

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2016-26**: Strange, Second: LoIacono
Roll call vote: LoIacono, aye; Shipps, aye; Stemple, aye; Strange, aye; Zappa, aye; Hughes, aye;
Vote results: 6 ayes. Motion passes.

Mayor Desire states that the **Ordinance 2016-26** shall be published in summary in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the Public Hearing date of November 10th, 2016.

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
Resolution 229-2016	Utility Refund
Resolution 230-2016	Tax Refund – 81 West Main St.
Resolution 231-2016	On-line auction of traffic sign
Resolution 232-2016	Comcast \$15,000 grant acceptance
Resolution 233-2016	Award of Contract-Emergency Generator Switches
Resolution 234-2016	Juvenile curfew

Motion to remove **Resolution 234-2016** from the agenda for discussion: Shipps, Second: Strange
 Roll call vote: LoIacono, aye; Shipps, aye; Stemple, aye; Strange, aye; Zappa, aye; Hughes, aye;
 Vote results: 6 ayes. Motion passes.

Motion to approve the consent agenda items: Strange, Second: Zappa
 Roll call vote: LoIacono, aye; Shipps, aye; Stemple, aye; Strange, aye; Zappa, aye; Hughes, aye;
 Vote results: 6 ayes. Motion passes.

Resolution 234-2016 – Juvenile curfew. Motion to adopt: Zappa, Second: Strange
 Roll call vote: LoIacono, no; Shipps, aye; Stemple, no; Strange, no; Zappa, no; Hughes, no;
 Vote results: 1 aye, 5 nays. Motion fails.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT:

Mayor, member, or official	Department
Councilman Zappa	Planning , Engineering, & Public Works
New Borough Hall is being utilized and has been switched to natural gas, Phase 5 construction estimate is \$150,000.00 under budget, meeting about new constructing beginning on Cregar Road, estimate for Mill Street, leaf pickup in progress	
Councilwoman Hughes	Public Health, Environmental, Solid Waste / Recycling, & Open Space, Cultural and Heritage
Waste collection at the County is happening, Commons trail planned to be walked and reviewed, Veteran's Day ceremony was held and a great success, Solitude House open house dates announced,	
Councilman LoIacono	Golf
Meeting with Jay for property overview and Club House for modification discussion, High Bridge Elementary donating \$5500.00 for playground equipment	
Councilman Strange	Emergency Services, Municipal Court, & Recreation
Update on background checks for volunteers, P.D. vehicle updates, pest inspection for spiders at Police Department, body camera update, Fire Department statistics reviewed, HAART commuter glowing wrist bands available	
Councilwoman Shipps	Special Events, Economic Development, Newsletter
Contact with vendor for scoring businesses, Event items have been moved to container at Shop E, pumpkin carving and Halloween Parade announcement, newsletter has been released,	
Councilman Stemple	Finance, Utilities, & Education
No report at this time.	
Michael Pappas	Administrator
Digital document storage discussed, pool barrier laws, fuel distribution issue and camera proposal, moisture issue at Police Department	
Mayor Mark Desire	Executive Services
Meeting with Diane Dugan about historical photographs, meeting with potential new business owner on Main Street, 100 West Main Street announced as listed for sale, the Mayor with new County Economic Development member about the idea of generating jobs in High Bridge	

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

- A.** Monthly Tax and Finance reports

B. Resignation letter – Robert Ballard

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 1 MINUTE PER PERSON

Nancy Hunt updated Council about a volunteer photographer for historic sites.

LEGAL ISSUES: NONE

BILL LIST:

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: \$2,325,406.13**

Motion to approve bill list: Hughes, Second: Strange

Roll call vote: LoIacono, aye; Shipps, aye; Stemple, aye; Strange, aye; Zappa, aye; Hughes, aye;

Vote results: 6 ayes. Motion passes.

Councilwoman Shipps abstains from any Police related items.

Councilman Stemple abstains from any Fire Department related items.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: LEGAL ADVICE FOR BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE V. TOWN OF CLINTON

Resolution # E11-2016 - Motion to move into executive session: Hughes, Second: Shipps

Roll call vote: LoIacono, aye; Shipps, aye; Stemple, aye; Strange, aye; Zappa, aye; Hughes, aye;

Vote results: 6 ayes. Motion passes.

Motion to move into open session: LoIacono, Second: Strange

Roll call vote: LoIacono, aye; Shipps, aye; Stemple, aye; Strange, aye; Zappa, aye; Hughes, aye;

Vote results: 6 ayes. Motion passes.

Motion to add Resolution 235-2016, Limitation on damages that may be recovered in pending arbitration:

Hughes, Second: Strange

Roll call vote: LoIacono, aye; Shipps, aye; Stemple, aye; Strange, aye; Zappa, aye; Hughes, aye;

Vote results: 6 ayes. Motion passes.

Motion to adopt Resolution 235-2016: Hughes, Second: Strange

Roll call vote: LoIacono, aye; Shipps, aye; Stemple, aye; Strange, aye; Zappa, aye; Hughes, aye;

Vote results: 6 ayes. Motion passes.

ADJOURNMENT: MAYOR DESIRE OR PRESIDING OFFICER ASKS IF THERE IS ANY FURTHER BUSINESS.

Motion to adjourn: LoIacono, Second: Strange

Roll call vote: LoIacono, aye; Shipps, aye; Stemple, aye; Strange, aye; Zappa, aye; Hughes, aye;

Vote results: 6 ayes. Motion passes. Adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Next Council Meeting: November 10th, 2016, 7:30 pm – Fire House, 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge, NJ

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Young, Acting Municipal Clerk