

# **BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE – COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Date: November 10, 2016 – 7:30 p.m. – Location: High Bridge Firehouse, 7 Maryland Ave.

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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**

## **ROLL CALL:**

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

Also present were Attorney Barry Goodman, Administrator Michael Pappas, Chief Brett Bartman, and Acting Clerk Adam Young.

## **READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: REGULAR MINUTES – OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup>, 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 27th, 2016 minutes: Zappa, Second: Strange  
Roll call vote: LoIacono, abstain; Shipps, yes; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Zappa, yes; Hughes, yes;  
Vote results: 1 abstention, 5 ayes. Motion passes.

Motion to approve the October 27th, 2016 minutes: Hughes, Second: LoIacono  
Roll call vote: LoIacono, abstain; Shipps, yes; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Zappa, yes; Hughes, yes;  
Vote results: 1 abstention, 5 ayes. Motion passes.

Councilman LoIacono took Oath of Office.

## **VISITORS: NONE**

## **PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS: NONE**

## **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.

Nancy Hunt, representing the Cultural and Heritage committee, spoke about hearing a plan to utilize the Solitude House Annex as a brewery, the humidity issue in the basement of the house, a possible contact who can fix the humidity issue, issues with the gutters and down-spouts, the possible uses of each room in the building.

Mayor congratulated the reelected members of Council.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**A. Ordinance 2016-26:** Amend Chapter 284 - Rental Unit Registration

Motion to open the public hearing for **Ordinance 2016-26:** Strange, Second, Zappa,  
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, yes; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Zappa, yes; Hughes, yes;  
Vote results: 6 ayes. Motion passes.

Motion to close the public hearing for **Ordinance 2016-26:** Zappa, Second, Strange  
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, yes; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Zappa, yes; Hughes, yes;  
Vote results: 6 ayes. Motion passes.

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

Mayor Desire states that **Ordinance 2016-26** 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.** Hill Street vacation - Administrator Pappas met with Bill Burr, the Borough Engineer, to look at the physical conditions of the easement. Council discussed the logistics of the easement, possible transfer of property, the use of signage to dissuade driveway blockages, and the approach to let the property owners decide the course of action.

**B.** Playground equipment donation - Councilman LoIacono discussed the Community Day fundraising of \$11,000,000, the donation of half of that amount to a charity, and the other half of the funds for a piece of playground equipment being donated to the Borough.

**C.** Property assessment program - Administrator Pappas spoke about the idea of implementing an annual property assessment program, the logistics of implementing the program, the financial benefit of the program, and how to begin the process.

The agenda was amended to include the information that gas cards will be redistributed next week, the collection of excess candy by the Emergency squad to be shipped out to deployed troops, and the start of Cregar Road gas line construction.

**OLD BUSINESS: NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Ordinance 2016-27:** Amend Chapter 184-10 Ordinance to Include Chapter 184-10.1 – Trailer Parking

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2016-27:** LoIacono, Second, Zappa  
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, yes; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Zappa, yes; Hughes, yes;  
Vote results: 6 ayes. Motion passes.

Mayor Desire states that the **Ordinance 2016-27** shall be published in summary in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the Public Hearing date of December 8th, 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 236-2016	Appoint Brian Labuta – Part time laborer

Resolution 237-2016	32 Silverthorne Road sewer connection
Resolution 238-2016	Resolution Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue Appropriation NJS 40A:4-87 – HC Forfeiture
Resolution 239-2016	Resolution Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue Appropriation NJS 40A:4-87 – Safe Passage
Resolution 240-2016	Lien Redemptions
Resolution 241-2016	Cancellation of Taxes – Veterans Exemption

Motion to approve the consent agenda items (add “as amended” if needed): Stemple, Second: Strange  
 Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, yes; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Zappa, yes; Hughes, yes;  
 Vote results: 6 ayes. Motion passes.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: NONE**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: 1 MINUTE PER PERSON**

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.

Pablo Delgado updated Council on the walk-through that was done for defining the new trail.

**LEGAL ISSUES: NONE**

**BILL LIST:**

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: \$508,043.72**

Motion to approve bill list: LoIacono, Second: Strange

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

Vote results: 6 ayes. Motion passes.

Councilwoman Shipps abstains from anything Police Department related.

Councilman Stemple abstains from anything Fire Department related.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: ADMINISTRATOR’S POSITION**

**Resolution # E12-2016** - Motion to move into executive session: Hughes, Second: Strange

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

Vote results: 6 ayes. Motion passes.

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

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

Vote results: 6 ayes. Motion passes.

**Resolution 242-2016** - Motion to add Resolution 242-2016 – Administrator from part-time to full time: Hughes, Second: Strange

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

Vote results: 6 ayes. Motion passes.

Motion to adopt Resolution 242-2016 – Administrator from part-time to full time: Stemple, Second: Strange

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

Vote results: 6 ayes. Motion passes.

**ADJOURNMENT: PRESIDING OFFICER ASKS IF THERE IS ANY FURTHER BUSINESS.**

Motion to adjourn: LoIacono, Second: Shipps

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

Vote results: 6 ayes. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

*Next Council Meeting: December 8th, 2016, 7:30 pm – Fire House, 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge, NJ*

Respectfully submitted,

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Adam Young  
Acting Municipal Clerk