

BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE – COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 26, 2017 – 7:30 p.m. – Location: 97 West Main Street, High Bridge, NJ 08829

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 states: “Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of 2017 Meeting Dates was published in the Hunterdon County Democrat and Express Times on December 16, 2016, and posted on the bulletin board at Borough Hall. Action may now be taken.”

FLAG SALUTE: LED BY THE MAYOR

ROLL CALL:

Councilman LoIacono, present; Councilman Strange, present; Councilwoman Shipps, absent; Councilwoman Hughes, present; Councilman Stemple, present; Council President Zappa, present; Mayor Desire, present. Also present were Attorney Barry Goodman, Administrator Michael Pappas, Acting Clerk Adam Young, Police Chief Bartman, and nine members of the public and press.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MINUTES – JANUARY 12TH , 2017

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

Motion to dispense with the reading of the January 12th, 2017 minutes: Zappa, Second: Hughes
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, absent; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Zappa, yes; Hughes, yes;
Vote results: 5 ayes. Motion passes.

Motion to approve the January 12th, 2017 minutes: Zappa, Second: Hughes
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, absent; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Zappa, yes; Hughes, yes;
Vote results: 5 ayes. Motion passes.

Motion to amend the visitor order: Hughes, Second: Zappa
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, absent; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Zappa, yes; Hughes, yes;
Vote results: 5 ayes. Motion passes.

VISITORS:

- A. High Bridge Business Association presentation - Christina Whited, with the High Bridge Business Association, presented ideas for future projects to increase the draw of High Bridge.
- B. I'm For High Bridge Committee – Donation of funds for new Borough Hall sign - Jim Conroy spoke about the history of the I'm For High Bridge group and made a final donation to the Borough.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS:

- A. Green Award – Laura Tullo - Mayor and Council presented the Green Award to Laura Tullo.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON

Denise Hickson asked about a street light being hit. Council updated the public that it will be put back up.
Christina Whited asked about street sweeping being done. Council discussed the issue.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- A. **Ordinance 2017-01**: Salary and Wage Ranges

Motion to open the public hearing for **Ordinance 2017-01**: LoIacono, Second: Zappa
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, absent; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Zappa, yes; Hughes, yes;
Vote results: 5 ayes. Motion passes.

Motion to close the public hearing for **Ordinance 2017-01**: Strange, Second: LoIacono
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, absent; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Zappa, yes; Hughes, yes;
Vote results: 5 ayes. Motion passes.

Motion to adopt **Ordinance 2017-01**: Strange, Second: Zappa
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, absent; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Zappa, yes; Hughes, yes;
Vote results: 5 ayes. Motion passes.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A. TORT claim - Council discussed the Borough's responsibilities as it pertains to TORT claims. Christina Whited noted the photos submitted to the Borough and the condition of the tree involved in the claim.

- B.** Verizon Wireless – Permission for right-of-way access - Administrator Pappas updated Council about the request from Verizon to add some devices around town to increase wireless internet access. Council discussed the look of the devices, the Borough's liability, and possible compensation.
- C.** MUC zoning - Multi-use corridor zoning - Councilman Zappa updated Council on the possibility of changing some conditions of the MUC zone to increase usability. Discussion of two main properties available in the MUC zone, and their possible uses, ensued.
- D.** Hill Street vacation - Discussion ensued about the possible transfer of a piece of Hill Street property.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS / ORDINANCES:

A. Ordinance 2017-02: Wildlife management

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2017-02:** Hughes, Second: LoIacono
 Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, absent; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Zappa, yes; Hughes, yes;
 Vote results: 5 ayes. Motion passes.

Mayor Desire states that the **Ordinance 2017-02** shall be published in summary in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the Public Hearing date of February 9, 2017.

B. Ordinance 2017-03: Emergency Squad background checks

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2017-03:** Strange, Second: Hughes
 Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, absent; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Zappa, yes; Hughes, yes;
 Vote results: 5 ayes. Motion passes.

Mayor Desire states that the **Ordinance 2017-03** shall be published in summary in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the Public Hearing date of February 9, 2017.

C. Ordinance 2017-04: Recreation background checks

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2017-04:** Strange, Second: Hughes
 Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, absent; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Zappa, yes; Hughes, yes;
 Vote results: 5 ayes. Motion passes.

Mayor Desire states that the **Ordinance 2017-04** shall be published in summary in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the Public Hearing date of February 9, 2017.

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 059-2017	Appoint part time laborer – David Banks
Resolution 060-2017	NJDOT Grant - Washington Ave Improvement - Section 1

Motion to approve the consent agenda items (add “as amended” if needed): Strange, Second: Zappa
 Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, absent; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Zappa, yes; Hughes, yes;
 Vote results: 5 ayes. Motion passes.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT:

Mayor, member, or official	Department
Councilman Zappa	Planning , Engineering, Department of Public Works
Gas main work on Cregar Road, Grant for Mill Street repairs, Cregar Road Phase 6, Applying for funding on Washington Ave., Streetscape is in approval process, DPW is finishing with leaf pickup, Water main break updates, DPW pothole repairs	
Councilwoman Hughes	Public Health, Environmental, Solid Waste / Recycling, & Open Space
Applied for a garden grant, plans for the Commons Connection to Main Street, electronics recycling update, natural recycling will be starting	
Councilman LoIacono	Golf, Recreation
Golf report for December, strategies for bringing up average per round, discussed possible ideas for helping pay off the remaining debt of the golf course as well as its future use, playground equipment is being voted on for future installation	
Councilman Strange	Emergency Services, Municipal Court, Cultural and Heritage
End of the year 2016 report, overview of Fire Department events attended and put on, mutual aid drill, fire hydrant tests, police vehicle fixes and upgrades, P.D. lights being inspected for repair, A/C unit inspections, grant opportunities, equipment upgrades being received and installed, Cultural and Heritage updates and events	
Councilwoman Shipps	Special Events, Economic Development, Newsletter, Website
Absent	
Councilman Stemple	Finance, Utilities, & Education
Reviewing budgets soon, revisiting water utility budgeting, Board of Education open meeting and formation of a mission statement	
Michael Pappas	Administrator
Press release of the 71 Main Street Borough Hall, updates about the annual assessment program	

Mayor Mark Desire	Executive Services
Caretaker lease updated and advertised, County economic development program updates, meeting for developing the golf course	

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Finance Department End of Month Reports

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 1 MINUTE PER PERSON

Christina Whited expressed the need for residential, rather than commercial, on the West Main corridor. Denise Hickson offered contact for some individuals involved with properties in the MUC zone.

LEGAL ISSUES:

A. Arbitration with Clinton Town proceeds and depositions will follow.

BILL LIST:

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: \$1,911,706.77**
 Motion to approve bill list: LoIacono, Second: Strange
 Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, absent; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Zappa, yes; Hughes, yes;
 Vote results: 5 ayes. Motion passes.
 Councilman Stemple abstained from any Fire Department related items.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: LEGAL ADVICE FOR TORT CLAIMS

Resolution 061-2017 - Motion to move into executive session: LoIacono, Second: Zappa,
 Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, absent; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Zappa, yes; Hughes, yes;
 Vote results: 5 ayes. Motion passes.

Motion to move into open session: Zappa, Second: LoIacono,
 Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, absent; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Zappa, yes; Hughes, yes;
 Vote results: 5 ayes. Motion passes.

ADJOURNMENT: PRESIDING OFFICER ASKS IF THERE IS ANY FURTHER BUSINESS

Motion to adjourn: LoIacono, Second: Strange
 Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, absent; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Zappa, yes; Hughes, yes;
 Vote results: 5 ayes. Motion passes.

Next Council Meeting: February 9, 2017 - 7:30 pm – Borough Hall, 97 West Main St., High Bridge, NJ

Respectfully submitted,

 Adam Young
 Acting Municipal Clerk

 Mark Desire
 Mayor