

BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE – COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 22, 2017 – 7:30 p.m. – Location: 97 West Main St., High Bridge, NJ 08829

CALL TO ORDER: CALLED TO ORDER BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT ZAPPA

FLAG SALUTE: LED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT ZAPPA

ROLL CALL:

Councilman LoIacono, present; Councilwoman Shipps, absent; Councilman Strange, present; Councilwoman Hughes, present; Councilman Stemple, present; Council President Zappa, present; Mayor Desire, absent. Also present were Attorney Barry Goodman, and Acting Clerk Adam Young, and twenty-six public and press.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MINUTES – JUNE 8, 2017

Motion to dispense with the reading of the June 8, 2017 minutes: Hughes; Second: Strange;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, abstain; Shipps, absent; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
Motion passes: 4 yes, 1 absent, 1 abstain

Motion to approve the June 8, 2017 minutes: Hughes; Second: Strange;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, abstain; Shipps, absent; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
Motion passes: 4 yes, 1 absent, 1 abstain

OATHS/APPOINTMENTS:

A. Matthew Furka – Assistant Director of the Recreation Program

Motion to adopt **Resolution 152-2017** – Appointment of Matthew Furka - Motion: LoIacono; Second: Strange;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, absent; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON: NONE

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A.** Easement connecting the Commons Park to 71 Main Street – Still in process with the Administrator
- B.** Main Street parking & Parking restrictions for motorhomes, trailers, and recreational vehicles - Council discussed the sub-committee formed to look at parking on Main Street, the intent to have a July 10 sub-committee meeting at which it may be discussed if there will be any impact to Main St. businesses with parking studies. Further discussion ensued with Mike Darmstadt and Pablo Delgado giving a presentation on parking signage proposed for Main Street. Council noted that the old Borough Hall location will not be available for parking once sold; the signs are for guiding traffic, the possibility of investigating an alleyway between Main Street and the railroad tracks. Council noted their intent to take this information to the parking sub-committee for discussion.
- C.** Request for proposal for Borough wide trash removal - Council discussed the need to put out an RFP for Borough wide trash removal and planning for the November contract.
- D.** Sale of water utility - Council updated the public that the Borough received two bids for the sale of the water utility and the need to decide which bid to accept by the July 20th meeting.
- E.** Fire official - Council updated the public on the idea to have a Borough Fire Official rather than a State Fire Official, mentioned the DPW member who would be available to fill this position, the ability to

utilize this individual in other towns for pay, and the need for an Ordinance to proceed, and the impact to DPW by having the individual being utilized outside of the Borough.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

A. Ordinance 2017-15: Appropriating \$41,600.00 from the capital improvement fund for the purchase of a 12” capacity brush chipper

Motion to take **Ordinance 2017-15** from the table: LoIacono; Second: Strange;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, absent; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2017-15:** Strange; Second: LoIacono;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, absent; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Council President states that the **Ordinance 2017-15** shall be published in whole or summary in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the Public Hearing date of July 20, 2017.

B. Ordinance 2017-16: Rezoning single property, B:19, L: 64

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2017-16:** LoIacono; Second: Hughes;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, absent; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Council President states that the **Ordinance 2017-16** shall be published in whole or summary in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the Public Hearing date of July 20, 2017.

C. Resolution 153-2017 and Ordinance 2017-17: Resolution approving tax abatement application and Ordinance authorizing tax exemption and payment in lieu of taxes – 20 Main St.

Motion to approve **Resolution 153-2017**, to approve tax abatement application : LoIacono; Second: Strange;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, absent; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2017-17:** Stemple; Second: LoIacono;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, absent; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Council President states that the **Ordinance 2017-17** shall be published in whole or summary in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the Public Hearing date of July 20, 2017.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: END OF MONTH

Mayor, member, or official	Department
Councilman Zappa	Planning , Engineering, Department of Public Works No Planning Board meeting due to lack of agenda, road work will be starting up, Cregar 6 was awarded and looking for a start date of July, Mill Street award is on for approval tonight, Main St. streetscape project plans still need corrections, Streetscape meeting next week with the County, approved surveying on Hillcrest Ln. for a new water main, repaving of Cregar Road, paving from Washington to the bridge, DPW is cutting grass, potholes, storm drains, covered grafitti, maintaining fields, and other various duties.

Councilwoman Hughes	Public Health, Environmental, Solid Waste / Recycling, & Open Space Mural dedication was successful, movie series a success, shredding event this Saturday 9am to 11am, sub-committee put together for solid waste disposal ideas, and need for weed pickers, asked business owners to water the planters if they can.
Councilman LoIacono	Golf, Recreation Recreation registration is closed, two fields need turf rehabilitation and bids are being received, the possibility of using Billy Casper golf for field maintenance, commended the trail workers for their hard work, sub-committee to find dog park and pump track.
Councilman Strange	Emergency Services, Municipal Court, Cultural and Heritage Fire department statistics read out loud, possible pilot program to staff a county responder station, annual golf outing was June 19th, picnic is the 22nd at Union Forge park, Police buildings and grounds air conditioning remediation has been completed, outfitting three remaining rifles, computer upgrades are completed, Chief Bartman has been completing traffic studies on Main St., fleet repair updates, 14-11 Crown Victoria being reused as a municipal vehicle, Cultural and Heritage 275 th Anniversary planning continues, Ice Cream event went well, the Speaker Series will be the Holcolmb-Jimison Farmstead Museum Monday June 26th at the Emergency Squad, porch repairs continue.
Councilwoman Shippo	Special Events, Economic Development, Newsletter, Website Read by Council President Zappa - the Pooch Parade had many participants, the movies in the park went well, BBQ competition logistics are being done, Halloween Trunk-or-Treat being planned, Fun Run 5k being planned, newsletter was released, EDC organizing the parade for the 275th, small business seminar planned.
Councilman Stemple	Finance, Utilities, & Education Two bids for the water system being reviewed with a planned meeting
Michael Pappas	Administrator - Absent
Mayor Mark Desire	Executive Services - Absent

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

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 154-2017	Clean communities – Ch 159
Resolution 155-2017	Rejection of bids – Solitude House caretaker position
Resolution 156-2017	Accept Mill Street bid
Resolution 157-2017	Award of Contract - PowerCo
Resolution 158-2017	Approve Highlands redevelopment plan of 100 West Main St.
Resolution 159-2017	Reappointment of Tax Assessor
Resolution 160-2017	Cancel capital appropriation balances

Motion to approve the consent agenda items (add “as amended” if needed): Hughes; Second: LoIacono;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shippo, absent; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

- A.** End of month Tax and Finance reports
- B.** 5 year P.I.L.O.T agreement
- C.** Certificate of determination

- D.** Highlands redevelopment proposal – 100 West Main St.
E. Letter of support - expanding train service

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 3 MINUTES PER PERSON

Nicole Poco - Expressed her concern for the removal of parking in front of her business and is concerned for the impact it will make to her business and voiced a willingness to discuss the issue. Council discussed the intent to simply explore the parking issue.

Kim Sandford - States her support for the other businesses on Main Street and her need for parking spots.

Rob Fernandes - Spoke to the garbage issue on Main Street of having to use the garbage stickers as well as paying to have the garbage company to haul the garbage and the want to come up with a solution in the coming contract, stated that parking is a tough issue and support for keeping parking on Main Street.

Rachel McKee - Using Union Forge park for her business with fitness, Favored Life.

Ken Haloran - Asked if any consideration has been given to decreasing the speed limit on Main Street. Chief Bartman explained that it is a County roadway and the request would need to be completed by a study at the County level, expansion of the Commons lot, and no available spots behind his building. Council discussed the use of old Borough Hall lot.

LEGAL ISSUES:

BILL LIST:

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: \$416,797.73**

Motion to approve bill list: LoIacono; Second: Stemple;

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Councilman Stemple abstains from anything Fire Department related.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: LEGAL ADVICE – TOWN OF CLINTON SEWER ISSUE

Resolution 161-2017 - Motion to move into executive session: Stemple; Second: Hughes

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Action may now be taken.

Motion to move into open session: Stemple; Second: Strange;

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

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; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Next Council Meeting: July 20, 2017 - 7:30 pm – 97 West Main Street, High Bridge NJ, 08829