

BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE – COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: July 20, 2017 – 7:30 p.m. – Location: 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge, NJ 08829

CALL TO ORDER: LED BY MAYOR

FLAG SALUTE: LED BY MAYOR

ROLL CALL:

Councilman LoIacono, absent; Councilwoman Shippis, present; Councilman Strange, present; Councilwoman Hughes, present; Councilman Stemple, present; Council President Zappa, present; Mayor Desire, absent. Also present were Attorney Barry Goodman, Chief Brett Bartman, Administrator Michael Pappas, Acting Clerk Adam Young, and seventeen public and press.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MINUTES – JUNE 22, 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 June 22, 2017 minutes: Zappa; Second: Strange;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, absent; Shippis, yes; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Motion to approve the June 22, 2017 minutes: Zappa, Second: Hughes;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, absent; Shippis, abstain; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
Motion passes: 4 yes, 1 absent, 1 abstention

VISITORS:

A. Pablo Delgado – Bike track / pump track - Presentation by Pablo Delgado - Updated Council on the High Bridge bike skill park being moved to a new location near the Commons park, slight changes to the shape and build, and benefits of the current area facilitating ingress to the newly proposed recreational resources. Council discussed the use of the space, and safety within the area.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON

Mary Olsen and Ray Olsen - Commented about the Tax Assessor's assessing the home with a basement and asked for financial relief. The Council and Attorney Goodman recommended meeting with the Tax Assessor about the issue. Mr. Olsen commented about the safety of the Commons.

Brent Dugan - 13 Sylvan Road - Commented on the meeting with NJ American Water, economics of revenue generation from the town, commented that he believes they will be redoing infrastructure, his concern for what residents will be charged, what was googled and presented from previous NJ American water employees, commented on customer complaints with preexisting conditions, what the 4.1 million will be used for (Council commented that it will be used for debt service), asked what bonds will be retired.

Michele Schwartz: Page 41, TS-4, Description of assets - Commented that she believes wells were not owned. Letter C was referenced to equipment and believes more description should be put in for clarification, Pg 55 - Termination - Pointed out type of date 2016. Pg. 59 - Misc. schedules - References the sale of sewer system and another date, Pg. 45 - Customer rate information sheet and the fire hydrant charge - asked if the Borough will need to pay this and how will it be charged? Will the bid be won solely on the price? Has the Borough done any due diligence to know what the system would cost? What is the annual water revenue?

Dr. Brenden Coughlin - Commented about the transfer of the Solitude Village water tower, commented on the future sale of the water tower, read articles from publications, commented that there are other ways to go about this issue.

Mara Farmer - 34 Taylor - Stated that there are other solutions, grants available, that Clinton has a system for line replacement funded by the State that voting on the sale is not the only way. Council discussed the debt limit, what it will take to repair the water system, and stated there will be more information coming soon.

Alan Marks - Asked how to get information on the sale of the system and that he would be interested but needs to know more about the process. Council informed Mr. Marks about the PSA system, how the company will proceed if the referendum passes, and the discussion of prior sale ideas.

Pablo Delgado – Asked what number of residents are not on the water system? Believes that it is important that people realize that water bills will go up due to infrastructure costs and that, should the Borough fix the infrastructure, the bills will go up more quickly. Council stated about 150 homes not on the system, and that there are way to have people not on the water system not be taxed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

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

Motion to open the public hearing for **Ordinance 2017-15:** Zappa; Second: Stemple;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, absent; Shipp, yes; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Council stated the extensive age, the use of the equipment in the seasons, the cost of \$350 per day to rent a chipper with upkeep needed every five days, 60 day average use per year, that there may be trade in value, issues can happen with buying a used chipper. Alan Marks agreed that buying used comes with it's own issues further down the line and asked about the diameter of the current machine in comparison. Council stated that it is comparable in the size it will take. Michele Schwartz sked for due diligence for checking into used items for this, and other, items. Council stated that people need this service.

Motion to close the public hearing for **Ordinance 2017-15:** Stemple; Second: Zappa;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, absent; Shipp, yes; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

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

Motion to open the public hearing for **Ordinance 2017-16:** Stemple; Second, Hughes;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, absent; Shipp, yes; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Motion to close the public hearing for **Ordinance 2017-16:** Stemple; Second: Zappa;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, absent; Shipp, yes; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

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

C. Ordinance 2017-17: Approving Financial Agreement - 20 Main

Motion to open the public hearing for **Ordinance 2017-17:** Strange; Second: Stemple;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, absent; Shipp, yes; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Motion to close the public hearing for **Ordinance 2017-17:** Stemple; Second: Hughes;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, absent; Shipp, yes; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A.** Easement connecting the Commons Park to 71 Main Street - Administrator Pappas stated that more discussion will be needed with residents. Mayor Desire stated the intent to clean up the walkway and make it lighted to link the Commons and Main St.
- B.** Borough parking, Main Street parking, and parking restrictions for motorhomes, trailers, and recreational vehicles - Council discussed parking at the Commons as it pertains to large vehicles and the intent of the lot, a parking sub-committee that has met and discussed the issue, the tie-in with streetscape in the future.
- C.** Request for proposal for Borough wide trash removal - Mr. Pappas updated Council and the public with some proposed changes to respond to some requests by residents, use of dumpsters in particular Borough areas, timing of traffic on Main St, increased liability was suggested by the Borough Risk Manager, and a sixty day window to receive bids.
- D.** Sale of water utility - Council discussed that they are forming a sub-committee to get information out to the residents via the newsletter, f.a.q.s on sites, meetings, a list running on the website.
- E.** Fire official - Mr. Pappas discussed that there are a series of steps to making the position of a Borough Fire Official, getting the financial impact together for the next meeting, and the uses of a Fire Official in town as well as a shared service opportunity.
- F.** Bike track / pump track – presentation given
- G.** Solitude House caretaker bid specifications - Solitude House caretaker bid specs - Councilman Strange noted that the current bid specifications may need adjustment to be more clear in what is to be accomplished.
- H.** Sale of old Borough Hall – 71 Main St.- Spoke about possible bids and interest in the Old Borough Hall property, the need to publish an RFP.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

- A.** **Ordinance 2017-18:** Appropriating \$10,000 from the capital improvement fund for general improvements to the Police building

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2017-18:** Zappa; Second: Hughes;

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

The presiding officer states that the **Ordinance 2017-18** shall be published in whole or summary in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the Public Hearing date of August 17, 2017.

- B.** **Ordinance 2017-19:** Appropriating \$38,000 from the capital improvement fund for the purchase of a Ford sedan police interceptor and related equipment

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2017-19:** Strange; Second, Zappa;

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

The presiding officer states that the **Ordinance 2017-19** shall be published in whole or summary in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the Public Hearing date of August 17, 2017.

- C.** **Ordinance 2017-20:** Accepting bid and providing for sale of water system

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2017-20:** Stemple; Second, Zappa;

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

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

D. Ordinance 2017-21: Appropriating \$40,000 from the capital improvement fund for general improvements for the purchase of a 4-ton asphalt hot patcher

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2017-21:** Stemple; Second, Zappa;
 Roll call vote: LoIacono, absent; Shipp, yes; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
 Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

The presiding officer states that the **Ordinance 2017-21** shall be published in whole or summary in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the Public Hearing date of August 17, 2017.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: END OF MONTH

Mayor, member, or official	Department
Councilman Zappa	Planning , Engineering, Department of Public Works - Gas company nearly done on Cregar Rd. with work being planned to be done by the week before school starts, Vine and Cregar Ave. will have stub-ups for service, paving of Cregar will be done, water main breaks.
Councilwoman Hughes	Public Health, Environmental, Solid Waste / Recycling, & Open Space - Shredding went well, rigid plastic dumpster fully filled, tree city and wildlife community recertifications were completed, reminder that no pizza boxes should be recycled.
Councilman LoIacono	Golf, Recreation - Given by Michael Stemple - Stats of the golf course were read.
Councilman Strange	Emergency Services, Municipal Court, Cultural and Heritage – Police Department, Cars have maintenance, warranties, and the old vehicle being used as a fleet vehicle, and staying on the fleet schedule, assessing the parking issues on Main St. for improvement. FD - Announcement to attend the Fire Department Clam Bake this Saturday, read the Fire Department statistics. Cultural and Heritage - 275th Taylor Wharton anniversary parade moving ahead, finalized getting some old movies digitized pertaining to Taylor Wharton / Custom Alloy to be made viewable, presentation will be given by Historic Preservation to help understand a future report coming out, speaker series is continuing, discussion of the caretaker position and Springside Farm in the future, commented that recreation and trails are a big draw and that they are being used more.
Councilwoman Shipp	Special Events, Economic Development, Newsletter, Website - Events committee meets next week, possibility of a 5k run, EDC is updating a brochure to include more history, proposal for a dog park, newsletter articles are being called for with a focus on the water utility.
Councilman Stemple	Finance, Utilities, & Education - Discussed the new tax rate statistics, mentioned putting together a Police negotiating committee for the coming contract, noted that no recommendations were given for the annual audit,
Michael Pappas	Administrator - Mr. Pappas gave an update that 46 boxes were removed and held for digitization from the Old Borough Hall, the summer recreation program with about 150 children are participating, fire hydrant design has been completed,
Mayor Mark Desire	Executive Services – Reported on the Clinton Town issue is being discussed tonight, a wedding was officiated in the Union Forge park, Old Borough Hall discussion with possible bidders, Coffee With the Mayor was available in the new Borough Hall with the Tax Assessor and will continue, 100 West Main discussion and committee will be put together to have ideas for the property, resident appreciation day mentioned.

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 163-2017	Authorization to seek bids – Solid waste
Resolution 164-2017	Extend Grace Period for 4th Quarter Property Tax Payments
Resolution 165-2017	Certification of the 2016 annual audit
Resolution 166-2017	Construction refund
Resolution 167-2017	Lien redemption
Resolution 168-2017	Special Events fee update – BBQ from \$25 to \$30 per team
Resolution 169-2017	Summer Recreation refund
Resolution 170-2017	Bike Track / Pump Track construction – Commons Woods

Motion to Amend Resolution 163-2017 to remove the requirement of having a dumpster in the Union Forge park:

Motion: Hughes; Second: Strange

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Motion to approve the consent agenda items as amended: Strange; Second: Hughes;

Roll call vote: LoIacono, absent; Shipps, yes; 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. 2016 Audit Report

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 3 MINUTES PER PERSON

Nancy Hunt - Commented on the speaker series being about the Taylor Wharton talk.

Nicole Poko - Started an interview series about characters in High Bridge, invited everyone to participate.

LEGAL ISSUES: NONE

BILL LIST:

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: \$2,616,467.55**

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

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Councilwoman Shipps abstains from anything Police related. Councilman Stemple abstains from anything Fire Department related.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: LEGAL ADVICE – TOWN OF CLINTON SEWER ISSUE

Resolution 171-2017 - Motion to move into executive session: Zappa; Second: Shipps;

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

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

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Adjourned at 10:24 p.m.

Next Council Meeting: August 17, 2017 - 7:30 pm – 97 West Main Street, High Bridge NJ, 08829

Adam Young
Acting Municipal Clerk

Mark Desire
Mayor