

BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE – COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: October 12, 2017 – 7:35 p.m. – Location: 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge, NJ 08829

CALL TO ORDER: MEETING CALLED TO ORDER MY MAYOR DESIRE

FLAG SALUTE: LED BY MAYOR

ROLL CALL:

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 28, 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 September 28, 2017 minutes: Hughes ; Second: Strange ;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes ; Shipps, yes ; Stemple, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

Motion to approve the September 28, 2017 minutes: Hughes ; Second: LoIacono ;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes ; Shipps, yes ; Stemple, abstain ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 abstention

VISITORS / PROCLAMATIONS:

Motion to amend the agenda to include Lena Smith from Food and Water Watch as a visitor:
Motion: LoIacono ; Second: Hughes ;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes ; Shipps, yes ; Stemple, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

A. Lena Smith from Food and Water Watch - Ms. Lena Smith spoke about the mission of Food and Water Watch, asked questions of Council about traveling to meetings involving rate hikes in Trenton, about having local control, about other systems such as Camden which had issues under privatization, if shared services are used by High Bridge, if an outside Engineer did an analysis of the system, about the posted rate chart, about the valuation of the system, thanked the residents for inviting her, and claimed that Council did not do their due diligence with analysis of the water system.
Council spoke about their travels to Trenton for other issues being usual, about the system needing repairs, about shared services being used by the Borough, about the information that is available on the website about the water system, the administrative burden for running the water system, spoke about the reasons for supporting the sale of the water system, the need that may arise to borrow funds should the referendum fail, the facts of the Food and Water Watch flyer being misrepresented and untrue, and how to proceed with funding in the case of sale or no sale.

B. Proclamation - Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day – read by the Mayor

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON

Pablo Delgado of 9 Hickory Circle commented about the possible need to modify the presented rate chart to present further info about the possible sale of the water system, commented about the Food and Water Watch presentation not having enough information for how to move forward, and advocated for people to come to meetings and get educated about the issue. Jane Karp of 83 Church St thanked Lena Smith for coming to the meeting, stated that a request has been made to Council to have Food and Water Watch present in a public forum. Council asked to have an open forum and encouraged others to have their own town hall meetings, and spoke

about the previous opportunities to speak about the subject last year. Dr. Brenden Coughlin thanked the Food and Water Watch for presenting, commented about the water system funds and rate chart, claimed Council is not looking at the numbers or economics of what has been proposed. Council spoke about the diligence they have done and where the information for the rate chart has been taken from, and the availability of information on the website. Nancy Hunt asked about Mayor Desire not wearing 1740s garb and spoke about the Foundry Festival. The Mayor stated that the clothing was unavailable in his size and that he would be dressed for the Foundry Festival parade.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Motion to amend the agenda to include discussion item F, Pump Track: LoIacono ; Second: Hughes ;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes ; Shipps, yes ; Stemple, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

- A.** Sale of old Borough Hall – 71 Main St. – Administrator Pappas and Councilman Strange stated that the sale of the Old Borough Hall has been going slowly but that an RFP is being completed soon.
- B.** Events Committee volunteers - Council spoke about getting a subcommittee together for this item
- C.** Trick or Treat hours – set from 5pm to 8pm on Halloween
- D.** Construction fees - Administrator Pappas spoke about the Resolution which is proposed and about the possibility of adopting an Ordinance for this in the future.
- E.** Water utility – discussion continues.
- F.** Commons Pump track - Council spoke about the inhibiting factors that have slowed the creation of the pump track, piles of dirt in the way, licenses for operators willing to do the work, and the issue of moving the fence currently in the Commons. Administrator Pappas spoke to the Borough Risk Manager about the liability of having operating machinery where people will be walking, the need to find pricing on the fence for the project, and that the dirt being moved can be prioritized.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

- A.** **Ordinance 2017-24:** - Appropriating \$8,000 from the capital improvement fund for a 36” steel snow plow

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2017-24:** LoIacono ; Second: Strange ;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes ; Shipps, yes ; Stemple, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

The presiding officer states that the **Ordinance 2017-24** shall be published in whole or summary in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of October 26, 2017.

- B.** **Ordinance 2017-25:** - Appropriating \$10,000 from the capital improvement fund for drainage system improvements to the golf course parking lot

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2017-25:** LoIacono ; Second: Strange ;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes ; Shipps, yes ; Stemple, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

The presiding officer states that the **Ordinance 2017-25** shall be published in whole or summary in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of October 26, 2017.

CONSENT AGENDA:

RESOLUTION #	TITLE
Resolution 214 – 2017	Advertise surplus – Police Department and Borough Hall
Resolution 215 – 2017	Appoint part-time DPW – Harrington, Hinson, Knospe, Stemple
Resolution 216 – 2017	Authorize incentive for tiered network
Resolution 217 – 2017	Authorize participation in Section 1033 program
Resolution 218 – 2017	Award of contract – Police sidewalk
Resolution 219 – 2017	Capital budget amendment
Resolution 220 – 2017	Chapter 159 – body armor
Resolution 221 – 2017	Chapter 159 – historic preservation – Solitude House roof
Resolution 222 – 2017	Amend construction permit fees
Resolution 223 – 2017	Foreclosure list – authorizing IN REM action
Resolution 224 – 2017	Rejecting all bids for solid waste
Resolution 225 – 2017	Authorization for Trunk or Treat event

Motion to approve the consent agenda items (add “as amended” if needed): LoIacono ; Second: Hughes ;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes ; Shipps, yes with the exception of Resolution 218-2017 and Resolution 220-2017 ;
Stemple, yes with the exception of Resolution 215-2017; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

- A.** Letter of acceptance of applications to Department of Transportation
- B.** Ordinance 2017-04 reference copy
- C.** Letter concerning the NJ Assembly adoption of a Resolution
- D.** Tax Map indicating properties to be foreclosed
- E.** Town of Clinton audit and estimated rate

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 3 MINUTES PER PERSON

Tom Wescoe commented that the individual wanting to do work can possibly add the Borough to their insurance. Discussion ensued. Genie Baker asked about what will happen to the library. Council commented about the proposal that is being put together, and that the marketing that has been done for the property, and the objective to keep the library, however that the library may move in the future if the need is there, and that the majority of people express interest in keeping the library.

LEGAL ISSUES: NONE

BILL LIST:

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: \$134,636.99**
Motion to approve bill list: Stemple ; Second: LoIacono ;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes ; Shipps, yes ; Stemple, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes
Councilwoman Shipps abstains from anything Police related.
Councilman Stemple abstains from anything Fire Department or Dept. of Works related.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: LEGAL ADVICE FOR TOWN OF CLINTON ARBITRATION, PBA CONTRACT, AND JOAN SLIKER PERSONNEL ISSUE

Resolution 226-2017 - Motion to move into executive session: LoIacono; Second, Shipps ;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, yes ; Stemple, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes. Action may now be taken.

Motion to move into open session: Hughes ; Second, Strange ;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes ; Shipps, yes ; Stemple, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

Resolution 227-2017 – Accept resignation of Joan Sliker, crossing guard: LoIacono ; Second, Strange ;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes ; Shipps, yes ; Stemple, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

Resolution 228-2017 - Motion to advertise for crossing guard: Strange ; Second, Stemple ;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes ; Shipps, yes ; Stemple, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

Amend to include the amount of \$40,000 in Resolution 229-2017: Stemple ; Second: Shipps ;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes ; Shipps, yes ; Stemple, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

Resolution 229-2017 – Appropriating \$40,000 to provide funding of a contract dispute:
Motion: Stemple; Second, Strange ;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes ; Shipps, yes ; Stemple, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

Resolution 230-2017 – Approval to submit a grant application to NJDOT for Washington Ave. improvement:
Strange ; Second, Hughes ;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes ; Shipps, yes ; Stemple, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

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

Motion to adjourn: LoIacono ; Second: Strange ;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes ; Shipps, yes ; Stemple, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

Next Regular Council Meeting: October 26, 2017 - 7:30 pm – 7 Maryland Ave, High Bridge NJ, 08829

Adam Young
Acting Municipal Clerk

Mark Desire
Mayor