

BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE – COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: October 26, 2017 – 7:30 p.m. – Location: 7 Maryland Ave., 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:

Presiding Officer calls meeting to order and states: “Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of 2017 regular meeting dates were 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 MAYOR OR PRESIDING OFFICER

ROLL CALL:

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

Also present were Attorney Steve Firkser, Administrator Michael Pappas, Chief Brett Bartman, Borough Planner Darlene Green, Acting Clerk Adam Young, and twenty public and press.

The Mayor asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Charles Bruton.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MINUTES – OCTOBER 7TH, 12TH, AND 17TH

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 October 7th, 12th, & 17th, 2017 minutes: Zappa ; Second: LoIacono ;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes ; Shipps, yes ; Stemple, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

Motion to approve the October 7th, 2017 minutes: LoIacono ; Second: Zappa ;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes ; Shipps, yes ; Stemple, abstain ; Strange, abstain ; Hughes, abstain; Zappa, yes;
Motion passes: 3 yes, 3 abstentions

Motion to approve the October 12th, 2017 minutes: LoIacono ; Second: Zappa ;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes ; Shipps, yes ; Stemple, abstain ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 abstention

Motion to approve the October 17th, 2017 minutes: LoIacono ; Second: Zappa ;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes ; Shipps, abstain ; Stemple, abstain ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, abstain ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 3 yes, 3 abstentions

VISITORS / PROCLAMATIONS:

- A.** Proclamation - Colleen Hann and Girl Scout Troop #80330 presenting their Bronze Award project – Read by Mayor Desire and presentation given by Girl Scouts.
- B.** New Jersey Office of Historic Preservation – Andrea Tingey, Jonathan Kinney - Spoke about resources for designation of historic areas in High Bridge, how the Municipal Land Use Law empowers local municipalities to begin the process of creating a program for this with future planning decisions as it pertains to the Master Plan. Council discussed the survey which has been done, the hope of setting districts and designations to utilize grants and tax credits, and how the designations may effect private property owners.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON

John Valenta - Supports the sale of the water system and spoke on the cost of other products and services going down when government is not involved.

Mara Farmer - Does not support the sale of the water system, spoke about alternative loans, gave examples of the alternative public financing being done in other towns and Boroughs, suggested people read sites with alternatives, and mentioned the November 1st meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

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

Motion to open the public hearing for **Ordinance 2017-24:** Lolocono ; Second, Zappa ;
Roll call vote: Lolocono, yes ; Shipps, yes ; Stemple, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

Council clarified the plow to be 36" high, 10 foot wide plow, discussed the prior issues with the warranty of the prior plow, installation is included.

Motion to close the public hearing for **Ordinance 2017-24:** Stemple ; Second, Strange ;
Roll call vote: Lolocono, yes ; Shipps, yes ; Stemple, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

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

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

Motion to open the public hearing for **Ordinance 2017-25:** Strange ; Second, Zappa ;
Roll call vote: Lolocono, yes ; Shipps, yes ; Stemple, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

Administrator Pappas spoke on the design of the drainage improvements and paving being done by Skoda for free for hosting their equipment during parts of the Cregar construction project, the value of having this work done for free by Skoda,

Motion to close the public hearing for **Ordinance 2017-25:** Strange ; Second, Shipps ;
Roll call vote: Lolocono, yes ; Shipps, yes ; Stemple, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Parking concerns - Council discussed parking practices and business owner discussions with the parking committee, the setting of fees in the proposed Ordinances, timed parking practices, and handicapped parking space work.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

A. **Ordinance 2017-26:** Ordinance setting construction fees

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2017-26**: LoIacono ; Second: Zappa ;
 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 2017-26** shall be published in whole or summary in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of November 16, 2017.

B. Ordinance 2017-27: Amend Ordinance Chapter 184-10: Parking prohibited at all times

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2017-27**: 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 2017-27** shall be published in whole or summary in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of November 16, 2017.

C. Ordinance 2017-28: Amend Ordinance 184-17: Parking permits for municipal lots

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2017-28**: Strange ; Second: Zappa ;
 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 2017-28** shall be published in whole or summary in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of November 16, 2017.

D. Ordinance 2017-29: Amend Ordinance 197-6: Handicapped parking spaces designated

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2017-29**: Hughes ; Second: LoIacono ;
 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 2017-29** shall be published in whole or summary in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of November 16, 2017.

E. Ordinance 2017-30: Amend Ordinance 184-31: Schedule 10: Time limit parking

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2017-30**: Hughes ; Second: Strage ;
 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 2017-30** shall be published in whole or summary in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of November 16, 2017.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: END OF MONTH

Mayor, member, or official	Department
Councilman Zappa	Planning , Engineering, Department of Public Works Spoke about road work for Cregar Ave delay for installation of water mains with pressure testing, drainage, and curb work, Mill Street roads being redone and offering of gas services now being offered, tarring and chipping of roads to extend the life of good roads as it is inexpensive, the plan for future road repairs, DPW brush and leaf pickup being done, Planning Board has not met due to lack of agenda items
Councilwoman Hughes	Public Health, Environmental, Solid Waste / Recycling, & Open Space Hazardous waste pickup dates, 8th grade decorating for the holidays, amend the agenda to include Bee pollination Resolution

Councilman LoIacono	Golf, Recreation Recognizing Frank and Sue-Ellen Ricara for donating a flag for the gazebo at the park for the reciting of the National Anthem, the need to address some of the holes in the soccer fields next year, nearly time to put up the ice rink. High Bridge has been selected for the autobon designation for the relocation of endangered raptors, golf statistics, rounds being up, revenue being up by 10,000 as compared to last year, behind for earnings for this year, and expenses are up, possible plans for managing expenses of the golf course.
Councilman Strange	Emergency Services, Municipal Court, Cultural and Heritage Fire Department statistics read, Police Department preventative maintenance items and mold items read, Parking Committee items being reviewed with the Chief of Police and the Committee, gathering data on speeds of cars, involvement in HAART Street Smart campaign, honorary Police Officers being approved, and the walk to school program, spoke about the good work of DPW moving the dirt that had delayed the pump track, Cultural and Heritage preparing for the 275th celebration and the event being successful,
Councilwoman Shipps	Special Events, Economic Development, Newsletter, Website EDC assisting with getting the parade to happen for the 275th, grand opening of new businesses, Events Committee debriefing on Salsa Night, preparing for Trunk or Treat in Union Forge park, preparations for the PaintOut, newsletter has gone out,
Councilman Stemple	Finance, Utilities, & Education Planning for next year's budget and a true 5 year plan, discussion of the PBA contract will be in executive session, part of the utility rates and budget will be discussed,
Michael Pappas	Administrator Updated Council on the new zoning map, Old Borough Hall is nearly finished being cleaned out and furniture is to be auctioned, Columbia Trail arch installation will be modified for having a safer intallation, will attend a League of Municipalities information course on water systems, construction permits have increased from previous years,
Mayor Mark Desire	Executive Services Clinton Town sewer will be discussed in Executive Session and that a proposal to have a High Bridge member on their sewer Committee, meeting with the DEP speaking about the possibility of a modern sewer plant and a percentage of what the sewer treatment plant is worth should that be needed for the future, capability of the dam to use hydropower and a state program that may allow for this project, upcoming library board meeting that perhaps a Council person can attend,

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion to amend the consent agenda to add **Resolution 235-2017** – Support of pollinator species and legislation:

Motioned by: Strange ; Second: LoIacono;

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

RESOLUTION #	TITLE
Resolution 230 – 2017	Authorize RFP for professional services
Resolution 231 – 2017	Escrow Refund - JSS
Resolution 232 – 2017	Lien Redemption
Resolution 233 – 2017	Approval to submit grant application – Local Freight Impact Fund
Resolution 235 - 2017	Support for pollinator species and legislation

Motion to approve the consent agenda items as amended: LoIacono ; Second: Zappa ;

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

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

- A.** End of month Tax and Finance reports
- B.** New Jersey Department of Transportation letter regarding Local Freight Impact Fund

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 3 MINUTES PER PERSON

Nancy Hunt: Spoke about the 275th event and the cooperation between the EDC and the HBBA which came together to make the event successful, thanked the churches, Masonic lodge, Boy Scouts, American Legion, the iron working demonstrators, the Old Tools group in High Bridge, the ladies of Alaska who owned the dredge bucket, and the Historic Society for supporting the ladies of Alaska.

LEGAL ISSUES:

Attorney Firkser spoke about the Clinton sewer issue and an order from the single arbitrator that enables two other arbitrators to be used and an update on the OPRA request that was made to the GRC

BILL LIST:

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: \$2464396.44**
Motion to approve bill list: Strange ; Second: Stemple ;
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 Department of Works related.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: PBA CONTRACT, LEGAL ADVICE FOR FAIR SHARE HOUSING AND LEGAL ADVICE FOR TOWN OF CLINTON ARBITRATION

Resolution 234-2017 - Motion to move into executive session: Zappa ; Second, LoIacono ;
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: Strange ; Second, Shipps ;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes ; Shipps, yes ; Stemple, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

Motion to amend the agenda to add **Resolution 236-2017** – PBA contract agreement
Motioned by: Hughes ; Second: Strange;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes ; Shipps, yes ; Stemple, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

Motion to adopt **Resolution 236-2017** – PBA contract agreement
Motioned by: Hughes ; Second: Strange;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes ; Shipps, abstain ; Stemple, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 abstain

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

Motion to adjourn: Zappa ; 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: November 16, 2017 - 7:30 pm – 97 West Main Street, High Bridge NJ