

BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE – COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 25, 2017 – 6:45 p.m. – Location: 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge, NJ 08829

CALL TO ORDER: THE MAYOR CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER

FLAG SALUTE: LED BY MAYOR

ROLL CALL:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION: LEGAL ADVICE FOR TOWN OF CLINTON SEWERAGE ISSUE

Resolution 131-2017 - Motion to move into executive session: LoIacono; Second: Strange;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shippis, yes; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
Motion passes: 6 yes

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MINUTES – MAY 11, 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 May 11, 2017 minutes: Hughes; Second: Strange;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shippis, absent; Stemple, abstain; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 abstain

Motion to approve the May 11, 2017 minutes: Strange; Second: LoIacono;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shippis, absent; Stemple, abstain; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 abstain

OATHS/APPOINTMENTS:

Motion to amend the agenda to include the oath being taken by Karl Dorwart: Strange; Second: LoIacono;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shippis, yes; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
Motion passes: 6 yes

A. Appointment of Jeanie Baker to the Environmental Committee – Term expiring 12/31/2018
Motion to adopt **Resolution 132-2017** - Appoint Jeanie Baker - Motion: Hughes; Second: LoIacono;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shippis, yes; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
Motion passes: 6 yes

B. Appointment of Michele Lee to the Environmental Committee – Term expiring 12/31/2019
Motion to adopt **Resolution 133-2017** - Appoint Michele Lee - Motion: Hughes; Second: Strange;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shippis, yes; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
Motion passes: 6 yes

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS:

- A.** Friend of High Bridge - Sal Albanese – held for presentation at the next meeting
B. Relay for Life – proclamation – Resolution 145-2017 – read out by the Mayor

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON

John Lathrop of 9 Woodland Drive has concerns about the rising cost of the utility bill, the cost of the Police force, the use of utility funds, and the cost of High Bridge schools. Council explained the use of budgets for utilities and how they differ from other budgets as well as the benefits of 24/7 Police Department coverage. Mike Butkis asked questions about the water usage going up. Council explained how the utility estimates are generated and encouraged Mr. Butkis to come into Borough hall to have their account assessed. Christina Whited presented a framed Columbia Trail sign to thank those for their efforts in highlighting the Columbia Trail.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. Ordinance 2017-12: Vacant property registration due date

Motion to open the public hearing for **Ordinance 2017-12**: LoIacono; Second, Strange;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, yes; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
Motion passes: 6 yes

Administrator Pappas explained the change in the registration period proposed by this Ordinance for the simplification of accounting and registration.

Motion to close the public hearing for **Ordinance 2017-12**: LoIacono; Second, Strange;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, yes; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
Motion passes: 6 yes

Motion to adopt **Ordinance 2017-12**: Zappa; Second, LoIacono
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, yes; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
Motion passes: 6 yes

B. Ordinance 2017-13: Appropriating \$12,300.00 from the capital improvement fund for the purchase of a zero turn 60" diesel mower

Motion to open the public hearing for **Ordinance 2017-13**: Zappa; Second, Strange;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, yes; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
Motion passes: 6 yes

Council discussed the life of the current mower, the need for new mower, and where the mower will be used. Council discussed the brand of the mower being a Kubota. Brands were discussed from a cost and quality perspective.

Motion to close the public hearing for **Ordinance 2017-13**: LoIacono; Second, Shipps;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, yes; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
Motion passes: 6 yes

Motion to adopt **Ordinance 2017-13**: LoIacono; Second, Shipps;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, yes; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
Motion passes: 6 yes

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Easement connecting the Commons Park to 71 Main Street - Administrator Pappas and Mayor Desire discussed the general hope for the use of the area and the possible fix to the water run-off issue.

B. Water utility - Administrator Pappas discussed the current issue with water meter fixes, the possible future uses of estimated reads, the cost of new radio read meters to be replaced, the current financial situation of the system.

- C.** Zoning map correction - Council discussed the omission of one block and lot from the zoning change Ordinance and how to correct this issue.
- D.** 20 Main St. garbage removal request - Administrator Pappas discussed the request to have garbage at 20 Main removed behind the building, with recycling. Council considered this request.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

A. Ordinance 2017-14: Towing

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2017-14:** LoIacono; Second, Strange;
 Roll call vote: Lolacono, yes; Shipps, yes; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
 Motion passes: 6 yes

Mayor Desire states that the **Ordinance 2017-14** shall be published in whole or summary in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the Public Hearing date of June 8, 2017.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: END OF MONTH

Mayor, member, or official	Department
Councilman Zappa	Planning , Engineering, Department of Public Works
County paving of 513 from 31 to Bridge St. project, Cregar Road Phase 6 award is tonight, Mill Street bid going out, StreetScape communications, Washington Ave. grant available, Cregar Road gas installations going well, DPW out picking up brush, mowing	
Councilwoman Hughes	Public Health, Environmental, Solid Waste / Recycling, & Open Space
Electronics recycling was successful, Memorial Day ceremony announcement, planters have been planted by the Environmental Committee, mural dedication is in June, asking for volunteers to pull weeds in the Commons park	
Councilman LoIacono	Golf, Recreation
Met with Billy Casper about better statistics for the golf course, gave rounds and revenue report, gave details about new initiatives utilized by the golf course, use golf course for Summer Recreation program, looking into estimates to fertilize the recreation fields, putting down stone in Borough driving areas, register for Summer Recreation soon, talked about the possibility of an enclosed dog park, looking for a new location for the proposed bike park, installation of new playground equipment	
Councilman Strange	Emergency Services, Municipal Court, Cultural and Heritage
Spoke about fixes to Police Department assets, upgrades to security on the email system, start of Click-It-Or-Ticket mobilization, spoke about fire department statistics, a successful coin toss fundraiser, a recent meeting of Cultural and Heritage discussing the Solitude House Caretaker position, possibility of storing Cultural and Heritage information digitally, discussion of the waiver for volunteers, Old Tyme ice-cream picnic	
Councilwoman Shipps	Special Events, Economic Development, Newsletter, Website
Economic Development has the potential for new members, discussed dog park plans, 3rd annual small business association meeting for small businesses, potential branding of High Bridge, Soap Box Derby went well, spoke to new music events coming up, town-wide yard sale, first movie night of the year in the Commons, Pooch Parade, the newsletter is going to print with new options for receiving	
Councilman Stemple	Finance, Utilities, & Education
Updated Council and the public about the possibility of outsourcing the water system by referendum with the idea of creating rate stabilization. Encouraged people to come out to some public meetings on this.	
Michael Pappas	Administrator
Spoke about the proposal for a redevelopment plan of 100 West Main St. with potential to be funded by the Highlands Council. Spoke about the digitization of over 180,000 documents starting next week.	
Mayor Mark Desire	Executive Services
Mayor Desire spoke about having to testify about the current arbitration issue with sewerage and Clinton Township's inappropriate charges, how to utilize Borough properties to have them utilized with something new that fits High Bridge, Main Street filled with businesses, attending the High Bridge middle-school girl's softball game, World Basketball championship at Union Forge park, Memorial Day observance	

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 134-2017	Distracted Driving – Ch. 159
Resolution 135-2017	Lien Redemption
Resolution 136-2017	Rabies Clinic
Resolution 137-2017	Appointment of annual assessment inspector
Resolution 138-2017	Green Team appointments – Jeanie Baker, Michele Lee
Resolution 139-2017	Girl Scout troop native rain barrel garden
Resolution 140-2017	Authorization of road closure for 275 th Anniversary
Resolution 141-2017	Award of contract – Cregar Road VI
Resolution 142-2017	Common Multi-purpose trail construction
Resolution 143-2017	Plenary Permit Renewal - Circa
Resolution 144-2017	Girl Scout troop pollinator garden
Resolution 145-2017	Relay for Life - proclamation

Motion to approve the consent agenda items (add “as amended” if needed): LoIacono; Second: Hughes;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, yes; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
Motion passes: 6 yes

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

- A.** Tax and Finance – end of month reports
- B.** Painted fire hydrant, revised design – orange bonnet
- C.** Resolution 178-2016 as reference to garbage request

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 1 MINUTE PER PERSON

Pedro Fernandes asked if taxpayers pay for the maintenance of the golf course and how many residents utilize the course. Council answered yes and explained the revenue statistics of how people from outside of High Bridge are primarily drawn to the course.

Nickie Fernandes stated her feelings on utility consumption, Cregar Road issues, and the sewer portion of the utility bill. Council encouraged an account assessment and explained the Cregar Road reconstruction process to date. John Lathrop asked how many section 8 houses are in High Bridge and commented that High Bridge is no longer safe.

LEGAL ISSUES:

BILL LIST:

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: \$513,207.98**
Motion to approve bill list: LoIacono; 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: Hughes; Second: Shipps;
Roll call vote: LoIacono, yes; Shipps, yes; Stemple, yes; Strange, yes; Hughes, yes; Zappa, yes;
Motion passes: 6 yes

Next Council Meeting: June 8, 2017 - 7:30 pm – 97 West Main Street, High Bridge NJ, 08829

Adam Young
Acting Municipal Clerk

Mark Desire
Mayor