

BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE
COUNCIL REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 4, 2018 – 7:30 p.m. – Location: High Bridge Firehouse, 7 Maryland Ave.

CALL TO ORDER: MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY THE MAYOR

FLAG SALUTE: LED BY MAYOR

SWEARING IN OF ELECTED OFFICIALS:

- A.** Councilwoman Natalie Ferry sworn in– Term expiring 12/31/2020
- B.** Councilman Chris Zappa sworn in– Term expiring 12/31/2020

Resolution 046-2018 - Accept resignation of Councilman Michael Stemple – Motion: Strange ; Second: Hughes ; Roll call vote: Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ; Motion passes. 5 yes, 1 vacancy

ROLL CALL:

Councilwoman Ferry	present	Councilman Strange	present	Mayor Desire	present
Councilwoman Hughes	present	Councilman Zappa	present		
Councilman LoIacono	present	Council vacancy			

Councilman LoIacono was present by phone. Present were six public and members of the press. Also present were Police Chief Brett Bartman, Attorney Barry Goodman, Administrator Michael Pappas, and Acting Clerk Adam Young.

COMMENTS OF COUNCIL:

Council welcomed Natalie Ferry.

NEW ORDINANCE:

- A. Ordinance 2018-001:** Salary and Wage Ranges

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2018-001**: Hughes ; Second: Zappa ; Roll call vote: Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ; Motion passes. 5 yes, 1 vacancy

Mayor Desire states that the **Ordinance 2018-001** shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the Public Hearing date of January 25th, 2018.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A.** Nomination and Election of Council President – Mayor Desire asked to open nominations

Councilwoman Hughes nominates Chris Zappa for Council president.

Motion to close nominations: Hughes ; Second: LoIacono Roll call vote: Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ; Motion passes. 5 yes, 1 vacancy

Resolution 001-2018 - Motion to approve nomination and adopt **Resolution 001-2018**: Zappa ; Second: Strange ; Roll call vote: Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ; Motion passes. 5 yes, 1 vacancy

B. Temporary Budget

Resolution 002-2018 – Motion to adopt the temporary budget: Zappa ; Second: Strange ;
Roll call vote: Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes. 5 yes, 1 vacancy

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A.** Halloween weekend 5k run - Councilwoman Ferry updated Council about the last 5k run during Halloween, about speaking with Chief Bartman pertaining to logistics and location of the race, sponsorships, and registration fees covering the event fully. Council discussed coverage with liability and the use of waivers, which Committee will be handling the events, and the addition of sponsorship information.
- B.** Water utility - Councilman Strange spoke about the process of selecting water utility rates, showed slides on water rate increases, the monies needed for the asset management plan development and engineering, and water main repairs. Council discussed funding strategies between rates and bonding, the historic ability for High Bridge to pay down debts, building up surplus, continuing with the Hillcrest project, provided operations that need to be covered
- C.** Estimated reading of utilities – Council discussed estimated reads being done due to inclement weather and the best way to proceed with this and a rate change.

Motion to amend **Resolution 047-2018** to the same rate calculations as **Resolution 107-2017:**

Motion: Strange ; Second: Hughes ;

Roll call vote: Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;

Motion passes. 5 yes, 1 vacancy

Resolution 047-2018 – Set utility rates – Motion: Hughes ; Second: LoIacono ;

Council discussed the current and past rates of the utilities, planning to the future of the utility, adjusting rates, and effects on the budget.

Roll call vote: Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;

Motion passes. 5 yes, 1 vacancy

D. St. Hubert’s contract – Council discussed the contract and agreed that they are pleased with the services.

CONSENT AGENDA:

RESOLUTION #	TITLE
Resolution 003-2018	Council Meeting Dates
Resolution 004-2018	Newspapers
Resolution 005-2018	Tax and Utility delinquencies
Resolution 006-2018	Cancel small balances
Resolution 007-2018	Tax appeals
Resolution 008-2018	Depositories and Cash Management Plan
Resolution 009-2018	Non-fair and open process professional contracts
Resolution 010-2018	Signatures on Checks
Resolution 011-2018	Appointments
Resolution 012-2018	Council Committee Assignments
Resolution 013-2018	Boards and Committees
Resolution 014-2018	Adopt Personnel Policy
Resolution 015-2018	Animal Control
Resolution 016-2018	Appointment of Annual Assessment Officer

Resolution 017-2018	OPRA Hours
Resolution 018-2018	Authorization to bid
Resolution 019-2018	Authorize purchases from memberships
Resolution 020-2018	Authorizing professional memberships
Resolution 021-2018	Adopt green purchasing policy
Resolution 022-2018	Dog license late date and fees
Resolution 023-2018	Duplicate tax certificate
Resolution 024-2018	Fair and open professional awards
Resolution 025-2018	Fee schedule – Planning Board / Board of Adjustment
Resolution 026-2018	Meter charges
Resolution 027-2018	Newsletter rates
Resolution 028-2018	NSF Check charge
Resolution 029-2018	Authorization to advertise – Crossing Guard
Resolution 030-2018	Police outside duty
Resolution 031-2018	Police rules and regulations
Resolution 032-2018	Recycling grant
Resolution 033-2018	Grant application – Cregar Road improvements
Resolution 034-2018	Commissioner assignment
Resolution 035-2018	Risk Manager / Consultant agreement
Resolution 036-2018	Join Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council
Resolution 037-2018	Municipal alliance – Form 1B
Resolution 038-2018	Soil witness fees – PERC test
Resolution 039-2018	Recreation fees
Resolution 040-2018	Shared service agreement
Resolution 041-2018	Somerset County JIF Indemnity and Trust agreement
Resolution 042-2018	Somerset County JIF resolution to join
Resolution 043-2018	Special events fees
Resolution 044-2018	Authorizing Sunesys fiber optic line installation
Resolution 045-2018	Authorize part-time, temporary clerical assistant

Motion to remove **Resolution 011-2018** from the consent agenda: Appointments: LoIacono ; Second: Strange ;
Roll call vote: Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes. 5 yes, 1 vacancy

Motion to approve **Resolution 011-2018**: No motion made
Motion does not pass.

Motion to add **Resolution 048-2018** to the consent agenda to approve request for proposal for expressions of interest for the Solitude House Annex and Garage: LoIacono ; Second: Strange ;
Roll call vote: Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes. 5 yes, 1 vacancy

Motion to approve the consent agenda items as amended: Hughes ; Second: Strange ;
Roll call vote: Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes. 5 yes, 1 vacancy

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

- A.** High Bridge Police Department Rules and Regulations – no updates
- B.** St. Hubert’s Contract
- C.** Sunesys documents
- D.** 2017 – 2018 Rate change comparison

BILL LIST:

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: \$ 365,163.00**

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

Roll call vote: Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;

Motion passes. 5 yes, 1 vacancy

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON

Michael Darmstadt commented that he is pleased how the water referendum is being handled and recommended that the Borough leave the door open for future sales as it pertains to rates for the water utility, and the plan by Maser to have the Borough be within legality with the new legislation, the use of smaller style valves and how the Borough may be able to correct these on budget. Council commented that the rest of the utility projects will also need work with the funding from the Utility.

Pablo Delgado asked about the amount of water lost through non-revenue water and recommended to remember how that will affect bills in the future, and to be mindful of how raising rates will look to the public. Council commented that being mindful of bonding is important prior to knowing what work needs to be done and that the numbers proposed by the Borough Engineer take the work needed into consideration.

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

Motion to adjourn: Zappa ; Second: Strange ;

Roll call vote: Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;

Motion passes. 5 yes, 1 vacancy

Next Council Meeting: January 11th, 2018, 7:30 pm - Borough Hall, 97 West Main Street, High Bridge, NJ