

BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE – COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 11, 2018 – 7:30 p.m. – Location: 97 West Main St., 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: CALLED TO ORDER BY THE MAYOR

FLAG SALUTE: LED BY MAYOR OR PRESIDING OFFICER

COUNCIL ROLL CALL:

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

Also present were Police Chief Brett Bartman, Borough Attorney Barry Goodman, Administrator Michael Pappas, and Acting Clerk Adam Young along with 22 public and press.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MINUTES – DECEMBER 14, 2017 JANUARY 4, 2018

Motion to dispense with the reading of the December 14, 2017 and January 4, 2018 minutes:

Motion: Zappa ; Second: Hughes ;

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

Motion passes: 5 yes

Motion to approve the December 14, 2017 minutes: Strange ; Second: Zappa ;

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

Motion passes: 2 yes, 3 abstentions

Motion to approve the January 4, 2018 minutes: Hughes ; Second: Strange ;

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

Motion passes: 5 yes

VISITORS:

Motion made to add visitor Mr. Soldano from the Toys for Tots Foundation

Motion: Zappa ; Second: Hughes ;

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

Motion passes: 5 yes

Mr. Chris Solando from Toys for Tots presented a certificate of recognition to the Mayor and High Bridge in recognition of High Bridge's participation with the program.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON

Stan Praeter greeted Councilwoman Ferry, updated Council that Jersey Central Power and Light will be doing tree trimming, Mr. Coughlin asked for Mr. Praeter's contact information regarding power line history. Discussion ensued.

Doug Walker asked that the water plan will be posted on the website and where the charges to the water system will be listed. Council discussed the information being posted on the website.

Dr. Brenden Coughlin spoke about the Town of Clinton utility issue and having arbitration between two Government entities not being productive, read interest charges, and asked about the status of the cost of the arbitration. Attorney Goodman explained the points of the contract held between the two entities, the use of the amounts held in escrow, and the reason for being in arbitration at this time.

Adrienne Shipps spoke in favor of opposing the current proposed legislation on pollinators, spoke on the regulations being inconsistent, and asked that the Resolution proposed be adopted tonight by the Borough. Christina Whited commented on the parking fees, the status of vehicles in the Commons parking lot during the last storm, stated that people intend to boycott the parking rules on Main St., and suggested lowering the fees for parking. Council discussed the total number of spots currently being utilized.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. 5k Run - Councilwoman Ferry spoke on the planning of a 5k run during the Halloween weekend, the use of Basecamp 31 in the process, logistics of trail planning, and attendance expected. Discussion ensued.

B. Water Utility - Council discussed the proposed utility rates for the future, the cost of plotting fire hydrants being covered by the Fire Company information already being completed, the cost for the analysis and other projects for the water utility, applying for grants for other Borough projects and the proposed meeting to discuss these rates with Borough professionals as well as other entities.

C. Calculation for estimated water utility reading - Council discussed the tiered rate versus flat / unit rate pros and cons, and would like to speak with Bonnie Fleming, the CFO, about the setting of rates.

D. Utility rates - The utility rates for all of the utilities will be addressed at the next meeting.

E. Advertising for Summer Recreation directors - Administrator Pappas spoke about the Borough being short of two of the four Recreation Directors for the coming season, spoke on the proposition of seeking two new Assistant Directors via advertising, ensuring the cost was not increased, and the dates of July 9th to the 13th, and July 16th through the 20th for the Recreation program.

F. Outside duty Ordinance update – Police Department - Council spoke with Chief Bartman about the proposed updates to the outside duty Ordinances to assist with payment options as it pertains to cancelation of outside duty work, and addressing minimum hour cost for this work. Conversation ensued about how the current Ordinance operates, an emergency scenario, and the benefit rendered to the Borough.

G. Ordinance 2014-16 - Rezoning of Center street – The Borough will be doing a review of 2014-16 and possible future revision to the Ordinances. Discussion ensued.

H. Parking permit fees - Council discussed the reasons behind the fee changes to the current rate, possible new areas for Borough parking, new ways to utilize parking permitting with the Police Department, and strategies to utilize current available parking.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

A. **Ordinance 2018-002:** Appropriating \$27,000.00 from the Capital improvement fund for preliminary engineering for Washington Ave. road improvements

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2018-002:** LoIacono ; Second: Zappa ;
Roll call vote: Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 5 yes

The presiding officer states that the **Ordinance 2018-002** shall be published in whole or summary in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of January 25, 2018.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion to add **Resolution 058-2018** to the consent agenda, amend fees for parking permits to \$25.00 per month, \$100.00 per year, and to refund the difference of payments made since the previous permitting change.

Motion: Zappa ; Second: Strange ;
Roll call vote: Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 5 yes

Motion to add **Resolution 059-2018** to the consent agenda, opposing newly proposed legislation impacting pollinators in New Jersey and the Borough.

Motion: Hughes ; Second: Strange ;
 Roll call vote: Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
 Motion passes: 5 yes

Motion to amend the agenda to remove **Resolution 056-2018** from the consent agenda, discuss, and table to next regular Council meeting.

Motion: LoIacono ; Second: Strange
 Roll call vote: Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
 Motion passes: 5 yes

Discussion: Councilman LoIacono asked if the fees would be recouped on the proposed property. Mr. Goodman and Administrator Pappas recommended finding the assessed value for the Resolution. Discussion ensued about the standing of the Borough on this matter.

RESOLUTION #	TITLE
Resolution 049 - 2018	Amend professional contract – Maser
Resolution 050 - 2018	Approval of Fireman – George Lird
Resolution 051 - 2018	Award of bid – Solid Waste – Premiere Disposal LLC.
Resolution 052 - 2018	Borough Special Events - 2018
Resolution 053 - 2018	Cancel capital appropriation balances
Resolution 054 - 2018	Certification of compliance - Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
Resolution 055 - 2018	Escrow refund – Gateway at High Bridge
Resolution 056 - 2018	Foreclosure List – Authorizing IN REM action
Resolution 057 - 2018	Special Events Fees
Resolution 058 – 2018	Parking fees
Resolution 059 – 2018	Opposition to newly proposed legislation impacting pollinators

Motion to approve the consent agenda Resolutions 049-2018 to 055-2018 and 057-2018 to 059-2018:
 LoIacono ; Second: Strange ;
 Roll call vote: Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
 Motion passes: 5 yes

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

- A.** Assembly Letter – response to OPRA bill
- B.** Civil Rights Requirement
- C.** Civil Rights Requirement - affidavit

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 3 MINUTES PER PERSON

Adrienne Shipps thanked Council for passing the Resolution on the pollinators.
 Doug Walker asked about the rates necessary to increase for changing the meters and cost for the water main on Hillcrest. Council clarified. Doug Walker asked about the time period for the redoing the referendum and why change the meters at this point. Council discussed the period necessary and the continuing need to work on other projects as well as working on meters and having professionals dictate needs based on analysis.
 Christina Whited commented on the residential water rate versus the commercial rate and keeping commercial interests in mind. Council discussed the tiered structure in place.
 Leah Epstein asked about signage on North Main St. and how that works. Council said they would reach out to the County to see how this can be addressed.

LEGAL ISSUES: NONE

BILL LIST:

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: \$ 208,211.07**
 Motion to approve bill list: LoIacono ; Second: Zappa ;

Roll call vote: Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 5 yes

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

Motion to adjourn: Zappa ; Second: LoIacono ;
Roll call vote: Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 5 yes

Next regular meeting: January 25, 2018 – 7:30 pm – 97 West Main St., High Bridge, NJ