

BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE – COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Date: January 25, 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

COUNCIL ROLL CALL:

Councilman Columbus present Councilman LoIacono present by phone Mayor Desire present
Councilwoman Ferry present Councilman Strange present
Councilwoman Hughes present Councilman Zappa present

Also present were 23 members of the public and press as well as Police Chief Brett Bartman, Borough Attorney Barry Goodman, Borough Administrator Michael Pappas, and Acting Clerk Adam Young.

NEW COUNCIL MEMBER:

A. Nomination and appointment of new Council member – term expiring 12/31/2018

The presiding officer opens nominations. George Columbus was nominated by Councilman Zappa.

Motion to close nominations: Hughes ; Second: LoIacono ;

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

Motion passes. 5 yes.

Motion to approve **Resolution 060-2018**, appointment of George Columbus to the Borough Council.

Motion: Strange ; Second: Zappa ;

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

Motion passes. 5 yes.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MINUTES – JANUARY 11, 2018

Motion to dispense with the reading of the January 11, 2018 minutes:

Motion: Hughes ; Second: Strange ;

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

Motion passes. 6 yes.

Motion to approve the January 11, 2018 minutes: Strange ; Second: Zappa ;

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

Motion passes. 5 yes. 1 abstain.

OATHS/APPOINTMENTS:

A. Appointment of Coleen Conroy to the Planning Board / Board of Adjustment – Term expiring 12/31/2021

Motion to approve **Resolution 061-2018**, appointment of Coleen Conroy to the Planning Board / Board of Adjust.

Motion: Zappa ; Second: Strange ;

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

Motion passes. 6 yes.

B. Appointment of Crissy McConnell to the Events Committee – Term expiring 12/31/2020

Motion to approve **Resolution 062-2018**, appointment of Crissy McConnell to the Events Committee

Motion: Hughes ; Second: Strange ;

Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes. 6 yes.

C. Appointment of Yolanda Robinson to the Events Committee – Term expiring 12/31/2019

Motion to approve **Resolution 063-2018**, appointment of Yolanda Robinson to the Events Committee

Motion: LoIacono ; Second: Hughes ;

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

Motion passes. 6 yes.

D. Appointment of Tom Wescoe to the Planning Board Alternate 2 position – Term expiring 12/31/2019

Motion to approve **Resolution 064-2018**, appointment of Tom Wescoe to the Planning Board Alternate 2 position

Motion: Zappa ; Second: Strange ;

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

Motion passes. 6 yes.

E. Appointment of Max Fox to the Economic Development Committee – Term expiring 12/31/2019

Motion to approve **Resolution 065-2018**, appointment of Max Fox to the Economic Development Committee

Motion: Zappa ; Second: Strange ;

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

Motion passes. 6 yes.

F. Appointment of Michele Lee to the Economic Development Committee – Term expiring 12/31/2020

Motion to approve **Resolution 066-2018**, appointment of Michele Lee to the Economic Development Committee

Motion: Zappa ; Second: Strange ;

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

Motion passes. 6 yes.

VISITORS / PROCLAMATIONS:

A. Green Award – Coleen Conroy – Presented by the Mayor and Council

B. HBBA 2018 Goals – Christina Whited – Will be presented at next meeting

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON - NONE

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. **Ordinance 2018-001:** Setting Salary and Wage ranges

Motion to open the public hearing for **Ordinance 2018-001:** Hughes ; Second, Zappa ;

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

Motion passes. 6 yes.

Motion to close the public hearing for **Ordinance 2018-001:** Strange ; Second, Zappa ;

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

Motion passes. 6 yes.

Motion to adopt **Ordinance 2018-001:** Hughes ; Second, Strange ;

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

Motion passes. 6 yes.

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

Motion to open the public hearing for **Ordinance 2018-002**: Strange ; Second, Zappa ;
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes. 6 yes.

Council gave an overview of the proposed improvements covered by this Ordinance and what portions are covered by a grant. Councilman LoIacono recommended not utilizing these funds from the budget as other projects still need funding. Council discussed the process and time for bidding and what other projects are pending.

Motion to close the public hearing for **Ordinance 2018-002**: Zappa ; Second, Strange ;
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes. 6 yes.

Motion to adopt **Ordinance 2018-002**: Zappa ; Second, Strange ;
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, no ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes. 5 yes, 1 no.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Requests for proposal – Solitude House Annex and Garage - Mayor Desire described the process and history for use of the Solitude House and Annex for leasing. Administrator Pappas spoke that one of the proposals for the garage was found to have a material defect. The proposal for the Annex was found to be sufficient however that some items of the proposal should be considered. Discussion ensued about expenses proposed, the State's involvement and criteria for the use of the property, how taxes are handled on tax exempt properties being used for commercial purposes, and how to incorporate some information into the proposal.

Resolution 074-2018: Amend consent agenda to include Resolution to reject bid for use of Solitude Garage and authority to advertise for new requests for proposals.

Motion: Strange ; Second: Hughes ;

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

Motion passes. 6 yes

B. Review of Point Pleasant Beach Ordinance banning the sale of marijuana - Council discussed an Ordinance used by Point Pleasant pertaining to banning the sale of marijuana in certain zones, how other towns have been affected by dispensaries, the current standing of Federal laws as it pertains to marijuana, and the current vision of High Bridge. Conversation ensued.

C. Water utility - Administrator Pappas spoke about High Bridge meeting with the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank about the asset management plan, funding for the plan, authorization, the savings from the efforts of the High Bridge Fire Department previously mapping fire hydrant locations, timeframe of the process, and other capital projects pending in the Borough.

D. Water utility estimate calculation - Council discussed the difference between commercial rates and residential rates, how the use of the tax rolls will define residential and commercial, the hope to get rid of the tiered system as it is found to be more fair, and using a flat rate system with unit price.

E. Utility rates – As above with utility estimate calculation.

Resolution 075-2018: Amend consent agenda to include Resolution to set water utility rates at \$50.00 base amount, \$6.25 per unit used, and to include the definition of a commercial account.

Motion: Strange ; Second: Zappa ;

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

Motion passes. 6 yes

F. Sewer rates – Held for next meeting

G. Solid waste rates – Held for next meeting

H. Amend code to include the definition of commercial rates – As above with item D.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

A. Ordinance 2018-003: Chapter 75, Police outside duty

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2018-003**: Strange ; Second: LoIacono ;
 Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
 Motion passes. 6 yes

The presiding officer states that the **Ordinance 2018-003** shall be published in whole or summary in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of February 8, 2018.

B. Ordinance 2018-004: Amend Ordinance 184-17, municipal parking lot fees

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2018-004**: LoIacono ; Second: Strange ;
 Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
 Motion passes. 6 yes

The presiding officer states that the **Ordinance 2018-004** shall be published in whole or summary in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of February 8, 2018.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: END OF MONTH

Mayor, member, or official	Department
Councilman Zappa	Engineering, Department of Public Works A water pump burned out, potholes have been filled, snow removal being completed, Planning Board met
Councilwoman Hughes	Environmental, Solid Waste / Recycling, Public Health & Open Space Teacher's association sponsoring Feb 7th optical examination
Councilman LoIacono	Education, Finance, Emergency Services Police Department stats have been read on overtime and the Police Department is commended for saving funds, other Police Department stats have been read, Fire Department report will be read at next meeting, meeting with the Board of Education next week, the budget is being reviewed. Golf stats read, rounds are up by 511 rounds, repairs and costs for the golf course, and budget objectives were met.
Councilman Strange	Economic Development Committee, Recreation The ice rink setup stopped due to weather, new trail has been flagged, looking ahead to more members joining, Economic Development Committee met and spoke about the local hackathon, connecting to businesses and schools locally, an icon set being developed that is County specific, yearly event being planned, Mass Transit village focus, brochures to address activities in the area, develop local beauty of the area for use, looking for grants.
Councilwoman Ferry	Cultural and Heritage, Golf Cultural and Heritage kickoff meeting went well, new members are encouraged to join, included new sponsorship packages, dates picked for speaker series, a wedding for the Solitude House, Nancy Hunt attended a meeting on preservation planning. Events has two new members sworn in tonight, looking for volunteers, event dates have been approved, sponsorship packages are in the current agenda for approval,
Councilman Columbus	Events Councilman Columbus appointed as Events liaison this evening.
Michael Pappas	Administrator Showed the new improvements to the website, updates about StreetScape needing permission of five property owners to proceed to go out to bid.
Mayor Mark Desire	Executive Services 100 West Main St update about working on a plan for redevelopment, 81 West Main St. developer has been talking to surrounding owners, meeting

	with Mayor Kovach went well as did testimony during the deposition, development meeting for internship program tomorrow, Solitude dam update about other towns developing hydropower, 2018 goals at coming meeting and future awards.
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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 067 - 2018	Summer Recreation Program Dates
Resolution 068 - 2018	Support for sustainable open space
Resolution 069 - 2018	Cultural and Heritage Events 2018
Resolution 070 - 2018	Approve 2018 event sponsorship packages
Resolution 071 - 2018	Increase temporary budget
Resolution 072 - 2018	Approve asset management plan
Resolution 074 - 2018	Reject bid for use of Solitude Garage and authority to advertise for new requests for proposals
Resolution 075 - 2018	Water utility rates and definition of commercial account

Motion to approve the consent agenda items as amended: Hughes ; Second: Strange ;
 Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
 Motion passes. 6 yes

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. 2018 Sponsorship Packages
- B. Proposed Ordinance – Amend code to add definition of Commercial rates
- C. Asset management plan proposal and addendum

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. **Resolution 056-2018:** Foreclosure List – Authorizing IN REM action

Council discussed the total collection amount. Councilman LoIacono is concerned that the amount of money brought in, after attorney action, not outweighing the cost. Attorney Goodman agreed based on the numbers presented by Councilman LoIacono. Discussion ensued about selecting lots which may be worth the action, how liens will follow the property, and needing more information.

Motion to table **Resolution 056-2018** indefinitely.
 Motion: Zappa ; Second: Strange ;
 Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
 Motion passes. 6 yes

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 3 MINUTES PER PERSON

Leah Epstein believes the banning of marijuana may be premature, believes the tenor of the conversation should be inclusive.

LEGAL ISSUES:

Attorney Goodman stated that the update in the Executive report is sufficient.

BILL LIST:

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: \$1,976,862.69**

Motion to approve bill list: Strange ; Second: Hughes ;
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes. 6 yes

EXECUTIVE SESSION: LEGAL ADVICE FOR TOWN OF CLINTON ARBITRATION

Resolution 073-2018 - Motion to move into executive session: Zappa ; Second, Strange ;
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes. 6 yes

Action may now be taken.

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

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

Motion to adjourn: Zappa ; Second: Strange ;
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes at 11:11pm. 6 yes

Next regular meeting: February 8, 2018 – 7:30 pm – 97 West Main St., High Bridge, NJ

Adam Young
Acting Municipal Clerk

Mark Desire
Mayor