

# BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE – COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 26, 2018 – 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 BY MAYOR DESIRE

## FLAG SALUTE: LED BY MAYOR DESIRE

Also present were Attorney Barry Goodman, Administrator Michael Pappas, Acting Clerk Adam Young, Chief Finance Officer Bonnie Fleming, and fifteen public and press.

## COUNCIL ROLL CALL:

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

## READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to dispense with the reading of the April 12, 2018 minutes: Motion / Second: Hughes / Strange  
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, abstain ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;  
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 abstain

Motion to approve the April 12, 2018 minutes: Motion / Second: Hughes / Strange  
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, abstain ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;  
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 abstain

## PROCLAMATION

- A.** Proclamation – 002-2018 – Support for Arbor Day – read by Mayor and Council
- B.** Proclamation – 003-2018 – Support for Earth Day – read by Mayor and Council
- C.** Proclamation – 004-2018 – Fire Alliance – read by Mayor and Council

## PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON

Christina Whited states that areas on Main Street have been identified for placement of bike racks and would like to remove the cones on Main Street and place bike racks on the walks and in other areas, noted individuals are making K-turns on Main Street, and a new set of gnome home design guidelines has been released.

Pablo Delgado updated Council on the grant application for the tourism marketing plan, the match of \$2500 needed from the Borough, and gave an overview of the purpose of the grant. Council discussed the raising of funds, the terms of the online declaration of intent, that there is very little room in the budget and that it may need to come from another budget.

Nancy Hunt thanked Mike and his team for their work on getting the grant for the Solitude House, noted another grant that is available for the grounds of Solitude House. Discussion of the specifics of what the grant covers ensued. A request was made to add Resolution 131-2018.

Paul Lipani asked about specifics for the repair of Hillcrest Lane. Administrator Pappas spoke about the deficiency in the public notice and the intent to hold the public hearing on the Bond for Hillcrest on May 10, and the note from JTG allowing the extension of time to accept the bid. Paul Lipani asked about the sale of old Borough Hall, 71 Main Street. Council noted that the request for proposals are still out, described the bidding process; spoke about the considerations for having a new Borough Hall. Mr. Lipani asked about the sale of Old Borough Hall paying for new Borough Hall. Council spoke about the costs of new Borough Hall, and saving thousands of dollars with the new building's efficiencies.

Motion to amend the agenda to add Resolution 131-2018 to the consent agenda: Council to approve the subject matter of the grant being approved by the Cultural and Heritage Chair and the monies of \$2500.00 be made available of the grant application pending certification of the availability of funds from the Borough CFO. Motion / Second: LoIacono / Hughes  
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;  
Motion passes: 6 yes

## PUBLIC HEARINGS: AMEND AND ADOPT BUDGET

- A.** **Resolution 123-2018:** Set sewer utility rates: Motion / Second: LoIacono / Strange  
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;  
Motion passes: 6 yes
- B.** **Resolution 124-2018:** Set solid waste utility rates: Motion / Second: Strange / LoIacono  
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;  
Motion passes: 6 yes
- C.** Motion to open public hearing on budget **Resolution 105-2018:** Motion / Second: Strange / Zappa  
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;  
Motion passes: 6 yes

Councilman LoIacono presented the budget presentation. Discussion ensued about the amount of open land, open space which cannot be taxed, and past plans to utilize that space. Michele Lee asked about selling green acres land. Council discussed how green acres property can be sold within the state, how the golf course will be able to generate revenue after it is paid off, utilizing a five year capital improvement plan, how the tax abatement plan is working for buildings on, and near, Main Street, the sewer utility rate not changing for nearly five years, the most recent rate change, a discussion of the effects of the Town of Clinton litigation on the sewer utility costs, and the commitment that once the litigation ceases the rates will be looked at and adjusted accordingly as they should go down. Pablo Delgado asked about costs of the golf course. Council commented that will be in the capital improvement plan with the aging of the course but that the amount needed will not significantly skew the numbers shown tonight.

Motion to close the public hearing on budget **Resolution 105-2018:**

Motion / Second: LoIacono / Columbus

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

Motion to adopt **Resolution 125-2018** amending the budget: Motion / Second: Strange / Hughes

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

Motion to adopt budget **Resolution 105-2018** the budget: Motion / Second: LoIacono / Hughes

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

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS: ORDINANCES**

- A.** **Ordinance 2018-017:** Bond Ordinance providing for the water meter replacement project  
Motion to table the public hearing for Ordinance 2018-017 to May 10, 2018:  
Motion / Second: LoIacono / Hughes  
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;  
Motion passes: 6 yes

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- A.** Water utility - water meters – Councilman LoIacono stated that he wished to state the facts to correct some of the misrepresentations from some of the emails that he, and other members of Council, receives. Councilman LoIacono discussed how Bonds operate, and that no money has been spent but that grants are being sought for the replacement of the water meters to at least offset some of the cost of the meters. Councilman Zappa noted how replaced meters are found to be running slowly and the time it takes to read the meters.
- B.** 100 West Main redevelopment plan – Administrator Pappas described the proposed amendment to the Ordinance for the redevelopment plan of 100 West Main Street to add
- C.** Certificate of insurance for 5K race – Councilman Columbus was able to get the contract adjusted to decrease the fiscal issues which were holding up getting the insurance certificate for the 5k race.

- D.** Solitude House – Council discussed the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting which may contain items which will help to resolve issues with the Solitude House being used for a coming wedding as well as other needed repairs to the Solitude House.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

- A. Ordinance 2018-018:** Amending the 100 West Main Street Redevelopment plan  
 Motion to introduce: Motion / Second: Strange / Hughes  
 Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;  
 Motion passes: 6 yes

The presiding officer states that Ordinance 2018-018 shall be published in whole or summary in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat with the public hearing date of May 24, 2018.

- B. Ordinance 2018-019:** Golf rates  
 Motion to table Ordinance 2018-019 to next meeting: Motion / Second: LoIacono / Strange  
 Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;  
 Motion passes: 6 yes

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS AND GOALS:**

<b>Official</b>	<b>Department</b>
Councilman Zappa	Engineering, Department of Public Works Engineers have been finishing Washington Ave. designs for sidewalks, curbs, and parking, DPW has been cleaning up after the storms and the hope to have a form they will distribute to help with cleanup, no Planning Board meeting this month,
Councilwoman Hughes	Environmental, Solid Waste / Recycling, Public Health & Open Space River cleanup was a great success with 50 volunteers, please pick up trash as you walk, electronics recycling this Saturday, two free trees have been donated to the ball fields, the Veteran's park tree needs to be replaced, volunteers needed to weed
Councilman LoIacono	Education, Finance, Emergency Services Emergency Service goals are to make sure they have the equipment they need and to attend any support meetings which will help to that end
Councilman Strange	Economic Development Committee, Recreation Meetings with County and advertising professionals attended to have the recreation of the town have a brand, a recreation website component, utilizing the train station, recreation goal to rebuild the recreation committee, identify, maintain, and expand recreation activities with a new team structure
Councilwoman Ferry	Cultural and Heritage, Golf Cultural and Heritage update about successful talks throughout the year, two possible appointments of individuals pending for the Committee and other eager to help with the preservation of the Solitude House, preparing the Solitude House for the coming wedding, the Golf Committee will be meeting Monday
Councilman Columbus	Events Meeting for the logistics for the Soap Box Derby, spoke about type of sponsor involvement, reviewed goals for increasing sponsors for events, utilization of timeliness for development of events, keep events sponsored, find headcounts, 2018 fireworks show
Michael Pappas	Administrator Spoke about a nice letter from a resident who was In need of assistance and received it from the Fire Department, a note about adding a layer of review for Committees to utilize liaisons for expenditure requests into Borough Hall, presentation given on Finance goals and achievements, Bonnie Fleming was thanked for her fantastic efforts, finance goals, public works goals, Communication goals, management of assets and facilities, economic development and land use goals,
Mayor Mark Desire	Executive Services Progress on sustainable growth with continued economic measures, public involvement with community outreach, move Mayor meetings around town, protect and reduce the cost of our resources and utilities with formalized sewer contract and water and infrastructure upgrades, revenue generation through alternative methods such as private investment in the golf course

and transit village opportunities and shared service agreements which can be utilized
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Councilman LoIacono exited the meeting at 9:52 P.M.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

<b>RESOLUTION #</b>	<b>TITLE</b>
Resolution – 126 - 2018	LOSAP
Resolution – 127 - 2018	Rabies clinic
Resolution – 128 - 2018	Approval to submit grant application – Solitude House repairs
Resolution – 129 - 2018	Request for fireworks display
Resolution – 131 - 2018	Approval for submission of the Cultural and Heritage grant application

Motion to approve the consent agenda items as amended: Motion / Second: Strange / Zappa

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

Motion passed; 5 yes, 1 absent

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

**A.** End of month Tax and Finance reports

**B.** 100 West Main Redevelopment Plan amended

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: 3 MINUTES PER PERSON**

Christina Whited stated that special events signs have been removed and disposed of. Administrator Pappas stated that complaints have been made about signage on Borough property and that signs have been removed as per the Ordinances. The signs are being retained at the Department of Works temporarily. Discussion ensued about how to handle signs in the future, the Ordinance and how it is handled.

Karyn Gove of the events committee thanked Council for paving Mill Street, asked for access to restrooms on the fields at the different location, asked that money not be taken from the Events committee, commented that her shirt was taken away but that she will show up with another color shirt, commented about the timing on the Soap Box Derby, the advertising on the hay bales and keeping High Bridge spirit in the events rather than making events political. Councilman Zappa explained some of the benefits and drawbacks of how the timer was proposed to be used. Councilwoman Ferry commented about the shirts and how the issue was handled as there may have been a liability issue.

**LEGAL ISSUES:**

**BILL LIST:**

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: \$2,178,092.77**

Motion to approve bill list: Motion / Second: Hughes / Columbus

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

Motion passed; 5 yes, 1 absent

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: LEGAL ADVICE FOR TOWN OF CLINTON**

**Resolution 130-2018** - Motion to move into executive session: Motion/Second: Zappa / Columbus

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

Motion passed; 5 yes, 1 absent

Action may now be taken.

Motion to move into open session: Motion/Second: Columbus / Hughes

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

Motion passed; 5 yes, 1 absent

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

Motion to amend the agenda to add **Resolution 132-2018**: Appraisal of the Town of Clinton sewage treatment plant and development of a High Bridge sewage treatment plant

Motion / Second: Strange / Zappa

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

Motion passed; 5 yes, 1 absent

Motion to adopt **Resolution 132-2018**: Motion / Second: Strange / Zappa

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

Motion passed; 5 yes, 1 absent

Motion to adjourn: Motion / Second: Zappa / Columbus

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

Motion passed; 5 yes, 1 absent

Next regular meeting: May 10, 2018 – 7:30 pm – 97 West Main St., High Bridge, NJ

Respectfully submitted,

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Adam Young  
Acting Municipal Clerk

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Mark Desire  
Mayor