

BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE – COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 29, 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: CALLED TO ORDER BY THE MAYOR

FLAG SALUTE: LED BY MAYOR

COUNCIL ROLL CALL:

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

Also present were Attorney Barry Goodman, Administrator Michael Pappas, Director of the Department of Works Rick Roll, and Clerk Adam Young along with six (6) members of the public.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to dispense with the reading of the regular October 25, 2018 minutes: Motion / Second: Hughes / Strange
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, absent ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 5 ayes, 1 absent

Motion to approve the October 25, 2018 regular minutes: Motion / Second: Hughes / Strange
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, absent ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 5 ayes, 1 absent

Motion to approve the October 25, 2018 executive minutes: Motion / Second: Zappa / Strange
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, absent ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 5 ayes, 1 absent

After minutes approval Mayor announced the passing of Ray McCarthy Jr.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON

Marybeth Strange thanked Mayor Mark Desire for his time as Mayor and spoke about the times the Mayor has assisted others in the Community.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE AT THIS TIME

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A.** Best practices worksheet - Best Practices worksheet and items were discussed by the Administrator, Mayor, and Council.
- B.** Personnel policies – Proposed personnel policy changes about sick time were discussed.
- C.** Open space and preservation plan proposal – The open space and preservation plan proposal by Maser was discussed.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

- A.** **Ordinance 2018-038:** Appropriating \$25,000 from the sewer capital improvement fund for improvements to the sewer pump station

Motion to introduce: Motion / Second: Zappa / Strange
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, absent ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 5 ayes, 1 absent

The presiding officer states that Ordinance 2018-038 shall be published in whole or summary in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon Democrat with the public hearing date of December 13, 2018.

B. Ordinance 2018-039: Appropriating \$245,000 from the Capital Improvement fund for McDonald Street Road improvements

Motion to introduce: Motion / Second: Zappa / Strange

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

Motion passes: 5 ayes, 1 absent

The presiding officer states that Ordinance 2018-039 shall be published in whole or summary in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon Democrat with the public hearing date of December 13, 2018.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

Official	Department
Councilman Zappa	Engineering, Department of Public Works Spoke about the engineering grant from the Department of Transportation which the Borough will receive for \$245,000, what the repair will cover, the design timeline and for beginning the process of the repair, StreetScape plans being reviewed with hopeful approval by the Department of Transportation, Washington Avenue beginning, Cregar Road bridge repair update, Mine Road bridge water bypass, Planning Board and Board of Adjustment update about a variance application, Department of Works update about new Director Rick Roll, leaf pickup is ongoing, generator part replacements, road repairs, bucket truck repairs, the new truck delay, stats were read about DPW hours, ice maintenance, sewer pump station maintenance, and Hillcrest Road. Councilwoman Hughes asked about addressing ice patches at two locations and water running down Stillwell. Council is addressing the issue.
Councilwoman Hughes	Environmental, Solid Waste / Recycling, Public Health & Open Space Spoke about the rabies clinic results, carbon monoxide detector update, grant for help with the Environmental Commission, ANJEC "thank you" for environmental efforts, roots for rivers grant, cleaning up along the river.
Councilman LoIacono	Education, Finance, Emergency Services No report at this time.
Councilman Strange	Economic Development Committee, Recreation Spoke about the Economic Development Committee having no report for this meeting, the Recreation Committee beginning to set up the ice rink and possible locations for a new rink, the dog park/pump track work update and location update, High Bridge Adventure Race cancelation, Christmas Tree lighting happening this Saturday, and reviewing tasks of Committees.
Councilwoman Ferry	Cultural and Heritage, Events Spoke about the Solitude Dam talk and the Howard Menger talk put on by Cultural and Heritage, December 2nd open house at the Solitude House as well as help from the Girl Scouts for decorating, and future dates of other talks. Also spoke about the Events update on the success of PaintOut.
Councilman Columbus	Golf Spoke about the weather affecting rounds, read stats, meeting with Jay Palmer about pass sales, innovating 2019 ideas, drainage on hole 3 waiting for the weather.
Michael Pappas	Administrator Spoke about the Department of Works working well on groundwater repair issues, leaf pickup being an ongoing task, the repair of a water main break, the setup of the Christmas Tree on Main St., (listen), vacant property registration success with getting vacant properties back on the market, working on position description changes.
Mayor Mark Desire	Executive Services Spoke about the Columbia Trail sign installation communications with the County, meeting with an interested party about 71 Main Street, Old Borough Hall, High Rail Brewing opening in 2019, the Christmas Tree lighting on December 1st, a thank you to Tony Maglio for putting up lights, and speaking with residents about reducing speeding in the Borough.

CONSENT AGENDA:

RESOLUTION #	TITLE
Resolution – 253 - 2018	Amendment to the Capital budget
Resolution – 254 - 2018	Amend personnel policy – sick time
Resolution – 255 - 2018	Amend professional services contract - Maser
Resolution – 256 - 2018	Authorization of solicitor’s permit with additional date of sales
Resolution – 257 - 2018	Authorization to advertise for full-time DPW laborer/equipment operator with CDL
Resolution – 258 - 2018	Cancellation of taxes 2018-lease agreement – Union Forge Spirits
Resolution – 259 - 2018	End of year transfers
Resolution – 260 - 2018	Escrow refund - Labbadia
Resolution – 261 - 2018	Lien redemption
Resolution – 262 - 2018	Refund of overpaid taxes - Legates
Resolution – 263 - 2018	Request for proposals – Borough professionals
Resolution – 264 - 2018	Request for proposals – Newsletter production and website maintenance
Resolution – 265 - 2018	Cancellation of taxes 2018-Veterans exemption - Legates
Resolution – 266 - 2018	Roots for Rivers reforestation grant and technical assistance program

Motion to remove Resolution 263-2018 from the consent agenda for discussion: Columbus; Second: Strange
 Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Lolocono, absent ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
 Motion passes: 5 ayes, 1 absent

Council discussed the need to amend the Resolution to add all Borough professionals..

Motion to amend Resolution 263-2018 to add all Borough professionals to the Resolution: Strange/Columbus
 Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Lolocono, absent ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
 Motion passes: 5 ayes, 1 absent

Motion to approve Resolution 263-2018 as amended: Strange/Zappa
 Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Lolocono, absent ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
 Motion passes: 5 ayes, 1 absent

Motion to approve the consent agenda items as amended: Strange/Zappa
 Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Lolocono, absent ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
 Motion passes: 5 ayes, 1 absent

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

- A.** Best practices worksheet
- B.** Grant award letter – \$255,000 for McDonald St.
- C.** Highlands Municipal Exemption letter
- D.** End of month Tax and Finance reports

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 3 MINUTES PER PERSON: NONE

LEGAL ISSUES:

Attorney Goodman stated that mediation with the Town of Clinton continues. Council discussed that mediation had been moving along.

BILL LIST:

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: \$422,800.47**
 Motion to approve bill list: Motion / Second: Strange/Zappa
 Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Lolocono, absent ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
 Motion passes: 5 ayes, 1 absent

EXECUTIVE SESSION: LEGAL ADVICE FOR TOWN OF CLINTON MEDIATION

Resolution 267-2018 - Motion to move into executive session: Motion / Second: Columbus / Strange
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, absent ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 5 ayes, 1 absent

Action may now be taken.

Motion to move into open session: Motion/Second: Zappa/Columbus
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, absent ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 5 ayes, 1 absent

ADJOURNMENT: PRESIDING OFFICER ASKS IF THERE IS ANY FURTHER BUSINESS

Motion to adjourn: Motion / Second: Zappa/Columbus
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; LoIacono, absent ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 5 ayes, 1 absent

Next regular meeting: December 13, 2018 – 7:30 pm – 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge, NJ 08829