

# BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE – COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 10, 2019 – 7:30 p.m. – Location: 97 West Main St., High Bridge, NJ 08829

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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 THE MAYOR

## COUNCIL ROLL CALL:

Councilman Columbus	present	Councilwoman Moore	present	Mayor Lee	present
Councilwoman Ferry	present	Councilman Strange	present		
Councilwoman Hughes	present	Councilman Zappa	present		

Also present were Attorney Barry Goodman, Administrator Michael Pappas, Clerk Adam Young and thirty members of the public and press.

## READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to dispense with the reading of the regular December 13, 2018 and January 3, 2019 minutes:

Zappa/Hughes

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Motion to approve the December 13, 2018 regular minutes: Hughes/Zappa

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Motion to approve the December 13, 2018 executive minutes: Zappa/Strange

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Motion to approve the January 3, 2019 regular minutes: Strange/Zappa

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

## OATHS/APPOINTMENTS:

**A.** Appointment of Mary Beth Strange to the Board of Health – Term expiring 12/31/2021.

Motion to approve **Resolution 057-2019**, appointment of Mary Beth Strange to the Board of Health:

Hughes/Columbus

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 abstention

**B.** Appointment of Rose Trilone to the Board of Health – Term expiring 12/31/2019.

Motion to approve **Resolution 058-2019**, appointment of Rose Trilone to the Board of Health: Strange/Hughes

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

## AWARDS:

**A.** Green award – Councilwoman Lynn Hughes presented the award to Mia Baldwin for her efforts.

## PROCLAMATION

**A.** Proclamation – 001-2019 – Support for Arbor Day – Read by Councilwoman Hughes

**B.** Proclamation – 002-2019 – Support for Earth Day – Read by Councilwoman Hughes

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON**

It is the policy of the Borough Council that all public comments on an issue shall be limited to five (5) minutes per person and no person may make more than one (1) comment per subject. Comments may be made on any subject pertaining to Borough issues. Comments pertaining to Public Hearings should be saved for that section of the agenda. No debating between residents. Comments should be addressed to Mayor and Council at the public microphone.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

Motion to amend the agenda to add three discussion items: F. Shed, G. Disc Golf, H. Sale of Old Borough Hall: Strange/Zappa

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

**A.** Borough professionals – Councilwoman Hughes stated that the bids were reviewed and that the review committee favors Greenbaum, the current Attorney, for the professional position. Councilman Zappa stated that he had not had the chance to do an in-depth review of the resumes or go to the interviews which were scheduled. Mayor Lee stated that the resumes were reviewed thoroughly by the sub-committee, that the other applicant for the professional position had no municipal experience, and stated that it would be a conflict of interest if the second applicant needed to represent the Borough at a State level. Councilman Zappa and Councilman Strange spoke in favor of going out to bid for professionals each year, spoke in favor of having an interview process for all bids, that interviews should be done for all if one is done, and spoke about about an agreement with Greenbaum to continuing to have representation with the Borough even if Greenbaum was not the chosen Borough Attorney due to ongoing litigation.

Motion to amend the agenda to add **Resolution 064-2019** to accept the bid of Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith, and Davis LLP: Hughes/Ferry

Roll call vote: Columbus, no ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, no ;

Motion passes: 4 yes, 2 no

Motion to approve **Resolution 064-2019** to accept the bid of Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith, and Davis LLP: Moore/Ferry

Roll call vote: Columbus, no ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 no

**B.** Committee organization - Council discussed work sessions to coordinate the Committees and their actions, spoke about giving goals to the Committees, the need for structure on this issue, proposed reviewing the Ordinances for any needed updates, forming a sub-committee to review the Ordinances, Mayor Lee stated that she would like to form a formal Golf Committee.

**C.** Highlands Council Grant Award Letter - Administrator Pappas spoke about receiving \$25,000 from the Highlands for starting the High Bridge Open Space and Recreation Plan Element. Council gave the Administrator consent to proceed.

**D.** Frenchtown shared services – No updates at this time.

**E.** Cyber security personnel policy – Clerk Young spoke about an update to the personnel policy being prepared and reviewed by the Borough Department heads which will soon be available for Council review pertaining to cyber security items.

**F.** Shed - Councilman Strange spoke about putting a container between the pump track and Dog Park for tools to be locked in, the objective to avoid the expenditure of funds if possible.

- G.** Disc Golf - Councilman Strange spoke about an interested group to build a disc golf course somewhere in the Borough, the performance of these items used for the game, and the hope to have a presentation to the Council by the future.
- H.** Sale of old Borough Hall - Councilman Strange spoke about progress on the sale of old Borough Hall, the request to do a home inspection before submitting a bid, the process being more common now, and the minor change to allow for the check for the winning bid to be dropped off next day.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES: NONE**

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE GOALS/REPORTS:**

Official	Department
Councilwoman Hughes	Environmental, Solid Waste / Recycling, Public Health & Open Space Councilwoman Lynn Hughes presented the 2018 wrap up of goals for Environmental, Solid Waste/Recycling, Public Health and Open Space.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Amend to add **Resolution 065-2019**, the appointment of Joe Triolone as OEM Coordinator, to the consent agenda: Zappa/Strange  
 Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;  
 Motion passes: 6 yes

RESOLUTION #	TITLE
Resolution – 059 - 2019	Anti-idling support
Resolution – 060 - 2019	Refund fee - Metropolitan
Resolution – 061 - 2019	New Jersey Infrastructure Bank
Resolution – 062 - 2019	“For High Bridge” social affair permit permission
Resolution – 065 - 2019	Appointment of Joe Trilone as OEM Coordinator

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

Motion to amend the agenda to include **Resolution 066-2019**, the naming of Borough Hall: Strange/Columbus  
 Councilman Strange discussed the timeline of amending the agenda to add this item to the Agenda. Council discussed the use of an Ordinance in place of a Resolution, having the introduction of the Ordinance added at the next meeting to appear on the future agenda. Mayor Lee stated that it is inappropriate as the individual for the naming of Borough Hall is still alive. Councilman Strange disagreed. Councilwoman Ferry stated that she disagreed with the prior Resolution in 2018 on this issue but voted yes for it. Discussion ensued.  
 The motion and second was withdrawn by Councilman Strange and Councilman Columbus.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A.** Highlands Council Grant Award Letter
- B.** For High Bridge event request letter

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: 3 MINUTES PER PERSON**

Fred Ferry: 5 stillwell road. Stated that the Resolution to name Borough Hall was made in a bubble, that it is inappropriate, that the loss of an election is not a reason to give an outgoing Mayor a participation prize, and stated that there is dissatisfaction in the Borough.

Michelle Hoffman: Stated that Council is in a bubble, stated the Council is a clique, the residents have feelings about the decisions made by Council and do not feel like they have the ability to participate or make an impact, stated that she can not make all of the meetings but that she is involved in the community.

Tom Wescoe: Stated that the naming of Borough Hall is inappropriate while someone is alive as we do not know what can happen during the rest of someone's life and asked that it not be named for a live person.

Jane Karp: Stated that her son and family are pedestrians are asked if Council was considering redoing striping on roads or adding speed limit signs in the Main Street area. Council discussed that the lining will be done after streetscape projects are completed. Discussion of the sign on Dewey ensued.

Cindy Sharkey: Congratulated Mayor Lee and stated that she respects Mark Desire, believes it is a shame that Mark is not being appreciated, and stated that Michele Lee's accomplishments will hopefully be recognized one day.

Jim Rispoli: Just purchased 19-21 Center Street and stated that the curbs are ruining tires and rims of his tenant's cars, stated that water shut-offs are above the sidewalks and are dangerous as trip hazards, thanked Mayor Lee and Mark Desire for their hard work, and stated that people drive quickly down Main Street.

Nicole Poko: Welcomed the new Council members and Mayor Lee, introduced herself as the new President of the High Bridge Business Association, stated that she is looking to get businesses involved.

Karyn Gove: Stated that Mill Street has speeding, asked if Adult Softball can use the restrooms at the field, stated that she pays the taxes and should be able. Councilman Strange stated to contact him about getting an agreement together to use the restroom, that other items also need to be addressed such as the popcorn machine.

Allan Martin: Stated that it may be appropriate to recognize all of the past Mayor of High Bridge and a nice gesture.

Chris Zappa stated that it is difficult to attend all of the meetings and that if you do not, the agendas are posted, that amending the agenda has not been used to slip items onto the agenda, that it was done for a surprise, and takes exception that the Council is operating in a bubble as Council is available.

Mayor Lee restated that it is inappropriate and that a plaque is appropriate.

## **LEGAL ISSUES: NONE**

## **BILL LIST:**

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: \$244,651.82**

Motion to approve bill list: Strange/Hughes

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

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

**Resolution 063-2019** - Motion to move into executive session: Zappa/Strange

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Action may now be taken.

Motion to move into open session: Zappa/Columbus

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

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

Motion to adjourn by voice vote: All ayes

Motion passes

**Next Council Meeting:** January 24, 2019, 7:30 pm - Borough Hall, 97 West Main Street, High Bridge, NJ