

BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE – COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 7, 2019 – 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	Councilwoman Moore	present	Mayor Lee	present
Councilwoman Ferry	present	Councilman Strange	present		
Councilwoman Hughes	present	Councilman Zappa	present		

Also present were Attorney Goodman, Police Chief Brett Bartman, Administrator Michael Pappas, Department of Public Works Director Rick Roll, Clerk Adam Young and twenty-one members of the public and press were present. Councilman Zappa entered at 8:11 p.m.

Mayor Lee asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Alan Dunford.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to dispense with the reading of the regular January 24, 2019 minutes: Hughes / Columbus
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, absent ;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Motion to approve the January 24, 2019 regular minutes: Hughes / Strange
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, absent ;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Motion to approve the January 24, 2019 executive minutes: Hughes / Strange
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, absent ;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON: NONE

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. Ordinance 2019-003: Golf rates 2019

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-003: Columbus / Ferry
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, absent ;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Councilman Columbus gave an overview of what is contained within the Ordinance as it pertains to the course working within monetary ranges to set rates as needed.

Mike Butkus asked how it is determined when the course is open and if multiple people are kept on staff for only one or two people to play golf. Councilman Columbus and Administrator Pappas spoke about staffing being done as necessary and the determination to keep staff working being done by course managers.

Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-003: Columbus / Hughes
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, absent ;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-003: Columbus / Strange

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A.** Frenchtown Police Department - Councilman Strange gave an overview of Frenchtown's staffing being low and the idea to assist with having an Interlocal agreement in place. Mayor Lee spoke about the definition of an interlocal agreement as compared to a shared service agreement. Police Chief Brett Bartman spoke about the items of the agreement between Frenchtown Borough and the Borough of High Bridge. Attorney Barry Goodman stated the amounts of cost.
- B.** Commons Park/Pump Track/Dog Park water line - Councilman Strange spoke about the request and logistics to have a water source at the dog park and pump track, some concerns which were discussed in a meeting with the Department of Public Works Director Rick Roll to ensure longevity of the water line, construction of the line, who takes ownership of the project, how to fix the current spigot for use in this project, and the current challenges of digging in that area.
- C.** Ad-hoc Committee for Highlands Recreation Plan and Open Space Plan – Mayor Lee and Councilman Strange spoke about the appointments to the ad-hoc Committee and the intent to have the team do a study for the uses of Open Space in the Borough. Administrator Pappas spoke about Borough Planner Darlene Green being available as soon as the Committee is appointed.
- D.** Snow Ordinance – Director of DPW, Rick Roll, spoke about having an Ordinance for clearing snow in driveways and the hope to have an Ordinance introduced at the new few meetings.
- E.** Background checks – Councilman Strange gave background about the history of High Bridge using background checks with youth-serving Organizations, attempts to update the system for getting these background checks completed, an issue with the perception of having to get fingerprints done each year, and if the Ordinance allows for two years to pass without getting background checks. Discussion ensued with the Chief of Police of when, and how, background checks are needed, the need for clarification which was sought, and introducing an Ordinance for suggested changes at next meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

- A.** Ordinance 2019-004: Salary and wage ranges

Motion to introduce Ordinance 2019-004: Hughes / Strange

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Mayor Lee states that the Ordinance 2019-004 shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of February 21, 2019.

CONSENT AGENDA:

RESOLUTION #	TITLE
Resolution – 074 - 2019	Acceptance of Credit Card Reader for electronic receipts
Resolution – 075 - 2019	Ad-hoc Committee for the Open Space and Recreation Plan Element
Resolution – 076 - 2019	Approval of application for open space funds - Lake Solitude financing
Resolution – 077 - 2019	Authorization to advertise – Full-time / Part-time Department of Works
Resolution – 078 - 2019	Authorization of Social Affairs Permit – For High Bridge
Resolution – 079 - 2019	Authorization to bid – Borough website and newsletter
Resolution – 080 - 2019	Authorization to release tenant from Solitude House Annex lease
Resolution – 081 - 2019	Amend professional services contract - Maser

Resolution – 082 - 2019	Community Day Sub-Committee for 2019
Resolution – 083 - 2019	Director of the Department of Public Works - Probationary period end - Rick Roll
Resolution – 084 - 2019	Establishing the Creative team
Resolution – 085 - 2019	Frenchtown interlocal Police services agreement
Resolution – 086 - 2019	Professional Contracts - Borough Risk Manager - Balken
Resolution – 087 - 2019	Special Events Chair and Vice Chair Appointments for 2019

Motion to approve the consent agenda items (add as amended if necessary): Hughes / Ferry
 Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, absent ;
 Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent
 Councilman Strange abstains from Resolution 078-2019.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

- A.** Dam report letter - Discussion of satisfactory report.
- B.** Roots to rivers reforestation grant letter - Councilwoman Lynn spoke about getting the Reforestation grant and what that means for the Borough.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 3 MINUTES PER PERSON

Nicole Poko spoke about the parking lot on McDonald being dark in the morning for people parking in the lot.
 Councilwoman Hughes spoke about having the beginning of a plan for getting lights on that lot.

Pablo Delgado asked if the Economic Development Committee would be represented for the ad-hoc Committee for Open Space, if there is a reason why fingerprinting must be done in a repeated fashion, and asked for clarification about what the Creative Team does. Councilman Strange spoke about the logistics of fingerprinting. Chief Brett Bartman spoke about the system for fingerprinting not retaining images for fingerprints, that it is a comparison of prints on file, and that it is a specific system for youth-serving organizations. Mayor Lee and Councilwoman Hughes spoke about the formation of the Creative Team which is a subset of the Green Team and will identify community assets and events.

Mike Gronsky asked if there will be a Committee set up to review the utilization of Old Borough Hall and other historic buildings in the case of house sales and stated that individuals with experience should assisting with items of this nature. Administrator Pappas spoke about how this item would be considered and that it is based on the bids received in the case of Old Borough Hall. Mr. Gronsky stated that it is urgent.

Nancy Hunt spoke about the concept of historic preservation in the Borough, about the review process needing to be addressed if the Borough has concerns about losing history, and that a conversation of preservation needs to be utilized.

LEGAL ISSUES: NONE

BILL LIST:

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: \$555,252.16**
 Motion to approve bill list: Hughes / Strange
 Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, absent ;
 Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

EXECUTIVE SESSION: LEGAL ADVICE FOR TOWN OF CLINTON MEDIATION AND PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT, CONTRACTS, AND AVAILABLE HOURS

Resolution 088-2019 - Motion to move into executive session: Columbus / Strange
 Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, absent ;
 Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent
 Action may now be taken.

Councilman Zappa enters at this time.
 Motion to move into open session: Strange / Columbus
 Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;

Motion passes: 6 yes

Resolution 089-2019 – Salary and wages

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: Columbus / Zappa

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Next Council Meeting: February 21, 2019 - 7:30 pm - Borough Hall, 97 West Main Street, High Bridge, NJ