

BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE – COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 24, 2019 – 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	Councilwoman Moore	present	Mayor Lee	present
Councilwoman Ferry	present	Councilman Strange	present		
Councilwoman Hughes	present	Councilman Zappa	present		

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to dispense with the reading of the regular January 10, 2019 minutes: Hughes / 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 10, 2019 regular minutes: Hughes / 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 10, 2019 executive minutes: Hughes / Strange
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

VISITORS:

A. Jeff Smith – Fire Department 2018 Report – Jeff Smith gave the 2018 Fire Department report statistics, stated the Fire Department involvement in extensive Borough activities, stated safety checks, and spoke about the success of the Hunterdon Fire Alliance in 2018.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Naming of Borough Hall - Mayor and Council spoke about the history of the dedication of Borough Hall, the intent behind the dedication, the intent to have a plaque for all Mayors with their date they take office, the intent to have a barrier-free A.D.A. accessible building, and that there is no requirement to have an Ordinance for the hanging of a plaque.

B. Cyber security policy – Clerk Young spoke about the intent of the cybersecurity policy.

C. Meeting dates for February and March – Clerk Young spoke about the meeting dates for February and March being shifted but that the dates have been legally advertised and has only a small impact on Borough business.

D. Committee Reorganization/alignment - Councilman Strange and Councilwoman Ferry spoke about the changing of practices vs. Ordinances for Committees, having the Events Committee handle more sponsorship items, having other Committees run other events that are more in line with their purpose, the intent to modify Ordinances, the creation of sub-committees to assist with different tasks, a Community Day sub-committee to assist with that event, and establish a form Golf Committee.

E. Ad-hoc Committee for Highlands Recreation Plan and Open Space Plan - Administrator Pappas spoke about the grant received, the intent to inform an ad-hoc Committee to assist with the process, and the intent to have a seated Committee appointed at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON

Alan Schwartz spoke about sending a letter to the Mayor and Council about background checks and the condition of the fields. Council mentioned that the requests are reasonable.

Mike Gronsky asked about Ordinance 002-2019 of Old Borough Hall and if it will be open for public hearing. Council said that it will be. Mr. Gronsky asked about protecting the facade or architectural elements. Council spoke about the history of the Ordinance allowing a tear-down but having a historical architect advise on putting back historic elements. Discussion about offers received ensued as well as mechanisms of preservation.

Christina Whited seconded Mike Gronsky about having a review board to maintain the buildings on Main St. and asked that it be given consideration, that listing the Mayors on a plaque is a good compromise, and that the construction of the new Borough Hall was challenging and expensive. Administrator Pappas spoke about the task of moving into new Borough Hall and that the budget was met.

Jamie Taylor stated that the new Borough Hall should not be named after Mayor Desire.

Michele Hoffman asked if a new slide is available for the playground, spoke about the current status of the playground, and offered pricing advice for replacement equipment. Administrator Pappas spoke about the original slide breaking and not being safe, the time and effort with finding a vendor, and the request to send the pricing information to the Administrator.

Karen Gove asked about how the budget works with vision benefits and the employees. Council discussed the process of how the budgeting of line items works with Borough employees.

Jason Morales spoke in favor of putting up a plaque for Mark Desire and making the new Borough Hall which is A.D.A. accessible.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. Ordinance 2019-001: Salary and wage ranges

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-001: Strange / Zappa

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Council gave an overview of the intent with the salary and wage Ordinance.

Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-001: Columbus / Strange

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-001: Strange / Hughes

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

B. Ordinance 2019-002: Sale of Old Borough Hall, 71 Main Street

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-002: Strange / Columbus

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Attorney Goodman spoke about the non-substantive update to the Ordinance and the time of noticing.

Michele Schwartz asked about the state of the Library with the Ordinance. Council spoke about three different options of having the library going out five years from now and the intent to keep the Library on Main St.

Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-002: Columbus / Ferry

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-002: Hughes / Strange

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

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

A. Ordinance 2019-003: Golf rates

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2019-003:** Columbus / Ferry

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Mayor Lee states that the **Ordinance 2019-003** shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of February 7, 2019.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS/GOALS:

Official	Department
Councilman Zappa	Engineering, Department of Public Works Spoke about StreetScape continuing and the grant awarded for this project, McDonald Street rebuild and drainage project and the plans being through the State, the want to redo water lines on McDonald, a grant received for Washington Ave. project, awaiting Safe Routes to School grant results, awaiting Department of Transportation grant results, spoke about ground water saturation, resurfacing West Main St. with pricing, an infiltration study being done to find cracks in pipes. Spoke about the Department of Works filling pot holes, finishing water readings, salt delivery, cleaning leaves out of the Commons, setting up and maintaining the ice rink, spreading salt for snow, a water main break, cleaning up the DPW yard, budgeting, the water asset management plan. Also discussed the curbing by Mr. Rispoli's house.
Councilwoman Hughes	Environmental, Solid Waste / Recycling, Public Health & Open Space Spoke about the Environmental Commission sub-committee Green Team submission of the Roots for Rivers grant.
Councilwoman Moore	Special Events / Finance Spoke about the first Events Committee meeting, and the need for volunteers for the Committee.
Councilman Strange	Emergency Services / Recreation Spoke about the Police Department camera installation, replacement of tables and chairs, and a prescription drop-off box, and the formation of an annual report, no report on the Frenchtown assistance project, spoke about traffic study on Main Street and the vehicles averaging 25.01 MPH, spoke about the first Recreation meeting, an article in the newsletter, an ice rink update, spoke about background checks for recreation activities and the need to clarify the timeline for how the task is accomplished, spoke about the quality of the fields and how maintenance will continue with a growing program. Gave 2018 goals report and set 2019 goals.
Councilwoman Ferry	Cultural and Heritage / Education Spoke about Cultural and Heritage first meeting, the discussion of sub-committees, preservation of the Solitude House docs being submitted, Mia Baldwin hosting an event at the Solitude House, discussion of the speak series, other activities. Spoke about the re-org meeting of the School Board, budget discussion.
Councilman Columbus	Golf / Economic Development Committee Spoke about the creation of the 2019 golf rates and the Resolution being created, drainage on hole three on the golf course, stats of passes and memberships sold, creation of a Golf Committee, High Bridge Resident's day being planned, the 20 Year Anniversary of the course, stats of rounds. 2018 goals were read aloud for Golf. Spoke about the first Economic Development Meeting, an update for High Rail Brewing, SBA Spring Planning event on the 23rd of April is pending, spoke about EDC looking for new members, researching matching grants, HBBA and EDC being more involved with Events.
Michael Pappas	Administrator Spoke about the outlining of a proposal for getting an agreement together for a Frenchtown shared service agreement, that DPW conducting the meter readings in the 4th quarter did occur, and the last Resolution for the solid waste contract was being pulled until the company gets DEP approval.

Mayor Michele Lee	Executive Services Spoke about getting familiar with the current processes of the Borough, reorganizing the Committees being a good goal, meeting with the School Board President and having a combined meeting of the Boards, having the first Coffee With the Mayor, and getting updated with the sewer litigation.
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CONSENT AGENDA:

RESOLUTION #	TITLE
Resolution – 066 - 2019	Cancelation of grants
Resolution – 067 - 2019	Final payment – Mill Street
Resolution – 068 - 2019	Information Technology Cyber Security and Data Privacy Policy
Resolution – 069 - 2019	Lien redemption
Resolution – 070 - 2019	Award of professional contract – Auditor
Resolution – 071 - 2019	Shed at the Commons on the Wye
Resolution – 072 - 2019	Solid waste collection contract

Motion to remove Resolution 072-2019 from the consent agenda: Strange / Columbus

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Council discussed that the Resolution was pulled as the solid waste collection service is awaiting D.E.P. approval and Council should wait until the company has that approval to pass this Resolution.

Motion to adopt Resolution 072-2019: No motion / No Second

Resolution does not pass due to no motions.

Motion to approve the consent agenda items Resolution 066-2019 to Resolution 071-2019: Zappa / Hughes

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

A. County restriping program letter

B. End of month Tax and Finance reports

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 3 MINUTES PER PERSON

Christina Whited spoke about the water from Church and North Main coming into her basement and volunteered to draft an Ordinance to allow event signs in the Borough.

Jamie Taylor asked why there was no notification about a water main break. Council stated that there should have been notice as the road was closed but that the policy has been changed to notify those who are affected or impacted by the breaks.

LEGAL ISSUES:

BILL LIST:

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: \$1,728,075.97**

Motion to approve bill list: Strange / Moore

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 AND PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT, CONTRACTS, AND AVAILABLE HOURS

Resolution 073-2019 - Motion to move into executive session: Columbus / 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: Strange / Columbus

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

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