

# BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE – COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 21, 2019 – 7:30 p.m. – Location: 7 Maryland Ave., 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: READ BY 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, Director of the Department of Public Works Rick Roll, Chief Financial Officer Bonnie Fleming, and Clerk Adam Young along with eight members of the public and press.

## READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to dispense with the reading of the regular March 7, 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 March 7, 2019 regular minutes: Moore / Strange

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

## AWARDS:

**A.** Volunteer of the Year Award – Presented to Greg Lindgren by the Mayor and Council

## PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON: NONE

## PUBLIC HEARINGS:

**A.** Ordinance 2019-005: CAP bank

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-005: Zappa / Strange

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Chief Financial Officer Bonnie Fleming explained how the CAP Bank is utilized.

Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-005: Hughes / Strange

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-005: Strange / Moore

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

**B.** Ordinance 2019-007: Bond Ordinance amending in its entirety Bond Ordinance numbered 2018-013 of the Borough of High Bridge, in the County of Hunterdon, New Jersey, finally adopted May 10, 2018, in

order to increase the appropriation amount to \$100,000, to increase authorization amount to \$100,000 and to increase section 20 cost to \$100,000

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-007: Strange / Ferry

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Councilman Zappa explained the purpose of the Ordinance.

Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-007: Hughes / Strange

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-007: Zappa / Columbus

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

**C.** **Ordinance 2019-008**: Dog park

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-008: Strange / Moore

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Mayor Lee spoke about the dog park rules being refined and the purpose of the Ordinance. Councilman Strange noted the good work put in by Chief Bartman on this Ordinance.

Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-008: 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 2019-008: Strange / Ferry

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

**PUBLIC HEARINGS: AMEND AND ADOPT BUDGET**

**A.** Motion to open public hearing on budget **Resolution 091-2019**: Moore / Strange

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Chief Financial Officer Bonnie Fleming presented the 2019 budget. Councilman Strange spoke about the borrowing to do the initial phase of the AMP project and asked about the amount of principal forgiveness. Administrator Pappas spoke about how the funding of the AMP project must proceed and that at the end of the project the amount of principal forgiveness will be determined. He noted that the State stated that they will be covering two times the amount of principal forgiveness as in 2018. Conversation ensued about the possible need of future borrowing for the Borough as well as being ahead with the study. Pablo Delgado of 9 Hickory Circle asked how the fees for the golf course match the revenue, about the possibilities of the Borough making any money from the course in the future, and about how the fees for the sewer utility are operating. CFO Fleming spoke about how the budget works with this item, that the debt service being paid off will allow for revenues from the course to be utilized in the Borough, and how the fees for sewer are calculated along with considerations for infiltration.

Motion to close the public hearing on budget **Resolution 091-2019**: Strange / Hughes

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Motion to adopt **Resolution 115-2019** amending the budget: Zappa / Strange  
 Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;  
 Motion passes: 6 yes

Motion to adopt budget **Resolution 091-2019** the budget: Hughes / Strange  
 Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;  
 Motion passes: 6 yes

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- A.** Pedals for Progress bike and sewing machine collection - Councilwoman Hughes spoke about the Pedals for Progress collection effort down at Union Forge Park coming up.
- B.** Historical Committee Ordinance - Councilwoman Ferry spoke about the drafting of the Historical Committee Ordinance, that the Borough is perhaps not ready to start a Commission on this issue without more growth, discussion of the red-line items of the documents, and the intent to incorporate the comments into another version. Attorney Goodman spoke about the use of terms with members of a possible, future Commission.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

<b>RESOLUTION #</b>	<b>TITLE</b>
Resolution – 116 - 2019	Appropriation reserve transfer
Resolution – 117 - 2019	Approve Environmental Commission Sponsorship of Environmental Awareness Event
Resolution – 118 - 2019	Calling for an Amendment to the New Jersey Constitution to Stop the Diversion of 9-1-1 Fees to Non 9-1-1 Uses
Resolution – 119 - 2019	Make application for ANJEC open space stewardship grant
Resolution – 120 - 2019	Opposition of the NJ Department of Agriculture's New Beekeeping Regulations
Resolution – 121 - 2019	Pedals for progress bike and sewing machine collection
Resolution – 122 - 2019	Police authorization to participate in DOD surplus program
Resolution – 123 - 2019	Refund of overpaid funds to the dog fund
Resolution – 124 - 2019	Salary and Wage
Resolution – 125 - 2019	Sewer utility rates
Resolution – 126 - 2019	Summer Recreation event and advertising for Assistant Directors
Resolution – 127 - 2019	Appointment of full-time laborer with CDL - Aaron Mandigo
Resolution – 128 - 2019	Approval of North Hunterdon Youth Baseball raffle

Motion to pull Resolution 127-2019 from the consent agenda: Zappa / Strange  
 Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;  
 Motion passes: 6 yes

Motion to amend Resolution 127-2019 to remove “with CDL” from the Resolution: Zappa / Hughes  
 Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;  
 Motion passes: 6 yes

Motion to approve Resolution 127-2019: Strange / Moore  
 Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;  
 Motion passes: 6 yes

Motion to approve the consent agenda Resolutions 116-2019 to 126-2019 and 128-2019: Hughes / Strange  
 Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;  
 Motion passes: 6 yes

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS/GOALS:**

<b>Official</b>	<b>Department</b>
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Councilman Zappa	Engineering, Department of Public Works Spoke about accepting bids for McDonald Street project, DPW cleaning of parks and fields, 20 tons of salt delivered, McDonald Street repairs, DPW yard work, Cregar Road bridge being replaced by the New Jersey Dept. of Transportation.
Councilwoman Hughes	Environmental, Solid Waste / Recycling, Public Health & Open Space Spoke about the Environmental Commission and Green Team applying for another grant, acquisition of signs to preserve milk weed, river cleanup on April 13th, electronics recycling event, the Roots-For-Rivers meeting going well with Administrator Pappas speaking about the planning for the use of the grant, an eye-glass collection campaign at the Library for donation, migrating bird walk being put on by a Borough resident, the marking of milk weed
Councilwoman Moore	Special Events / Finance Spoke about the Events Committee sponsorships coming in, Commons Park events with bands, Friday Night Flicks to be announced, a Community Day Committee meeting getting scheduled, Soap Box Derby and Paint Out moving along well
Councilman Strange	Emergency Services / Recreation Spoke about the Summer Recreation program beginning, organization of the Recreation manual/guide, playground upgrades of equipment, participation in Community Day, a possible fishing event in June, and the Adventure Race. Spoke about Emergency Services, Police Department vehicle maintenance, shelving equipment, possible expansion of surveillance equipment at the Solitude House, inspection of possible handgun upgrades, possible installation of a prescription drop-off box, possible presentation of information for 7th graders about smoking, assisting with a school lockdown drill, assisting with the dog park Ordinance, Police stats read, progress with the training of Frenchtown Police Officers. Spoke about the Fire Department stats.
Councilwoman Ferry	Cultural and Heritage / Education Spoke about the speaker series putting on a talk about General William Taylor, Solitude House cleaning for an open house, presenting at the Solitude House for the Environmental Commission, seats being available for individuals to join if interested
Councilman Columbus	Golf / Economic Development Committee Spoke about the new member joining the Economic Development Committee, seats being available if interested, extension of train services on the weekend, working on grant research for state and County grants, working with other Committees, the Spring Seminar being postponed due to the need to promote the location. Spoke about the golf stats for January, people playing February and March being a good month so far, the repair on Hole 3 being successful for drainage, path damage near Hole 11 being fixed, Resident Appreciation day, and the course being rated most improved for 2018, the 20th anniversary of the course on June 26th.
Michael Pappas	Administrator Spoke about groundwater issues being responded to by the Department of Works, complaints of recycling not being picked up which has been rectified, landlord letters requesting relief which missed the deadline, the history of the fees.
Mayor Michele Lee	Executive Services Spoke about the Town of Clinton sewer litigation issue being partially resolved, utilization of the escrow monies, the service agreement being in progress, introducing the first budget, road improvement projects moving forward, park utilization, field maintenance and playground equipment, Coffee with the Mayor discussion mostly around the quality of the roads, delivering meals on wheels with follow Mayors to people in the Borough, the 100th year for the Legion Post.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON**

Pablo Delgado asked about the budget for the playground equipment, about the release of the escrow being reflected in the budget presentation, Council spoke about the budget for the playground, about the next bit of escrow monies being used for the I&I.

**LEGAL ISSUES:**

Attorney Goodman spoke about the draft of the contract review for the sale of Old Borough Hall.

**BILL LIST:**

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: \$467,987.37**

Motion to approve bill list: Zappa / Strange

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 / Strange

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

**Next Council Meeting:** April 11, 2019 - 7:30 pm – Fire House, 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge, NJ

**ATTEST:**

Adam Young  
Municipal Clerk

Michele Lee  
Mayor