

# BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE – COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 9, 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: MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT CHRIS ZAPPA

## FLAG SALUTE: LED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

## 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, Police Chief Brett Bartman, Director of Public Works Rick Roll, Clerk Adam Young, and six members of the public and press.

Mayor Lee entered at 8:23 p.m.

## READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to dispense with the reading of the regular April 25, 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 April 25, 2019 regular minutes: Hughes / Strange

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

Motion passes: 4 yes, 2 abstain

## PROCLAMATIONS:

**A.** Proclamation – 006-2019 – National DPW week – Council President Chris Zappa read the proclamation.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON

Adam Borchin from High Bridge Youth Basketball spoke about getting a storage container at the Union Forge Field for basketball supplies used throughout the season, showed photos of proposed container and area, and stated that they would pay for the container.

## PUBLIC HEARINGS:

**A.** **Ordinance 2019-013:** Ordinance appropriating \$11,000.00 from the Capital Improvement Fund for a replacement of the utility body for DPW F450

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-013: Hughes / Strange

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

Motion passes: 5 yes

Councilman Zappa spoke about the need to replace the rusty parts on the 12 year old truck.

Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-013: Strange / Columbus

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

Motion passes: 5 yes

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-013: Hughes / Strange

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

Motion passes: 5 yes

**B.** **Ordinance 2019-014:** Ordinance appropriating \$26,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund for Police Livescan equipment

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-014: Columbus / Strange

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

Motion passes: 5 yes

Council spoke about the updating of the system for maintenance purposes.

Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-014: Strange / Columbus

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

Motion passes: 5 yes

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-014: Moore / Strange

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

Motion passes: 5 yes;

**C.** **Ordinance 2019-015:** Ordinance appropriating \$65,000.00 from the Capital Improvement Fund for a leaf vacuum

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-015: Strange / Moore

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

Motion passes: 5 yes;

Councilman Zappa spoke about the need for the purchase of a leaf vacuum. Pablo Delgado of 9 Hickory Circle spoke about the possibility of looking at the current leaf pickup policy, looking at the cost perspective and possibly finding alternatives. Administrator Pappas spoke about hosting a leaf composting event at Community Day hosted by a Master Gardener John Moskway. Discussion ensued about the current process of leaf pickup and alternative methods for the use of leaves.

Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-015: Strange / Moore

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

Motion passes: 5 yes

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-015: Strange / Moore

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

Motion passes: 5 yes

**D.** **Ordinance 2019-016:** Chemical sprayer for High Bridge Hills Golf Course

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-016: Strange / Columbus

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

Motion passes: 5 yes

Councilman Columbus spoke about the need to replace the old equipment, finding a good used version, and the purchase.

Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-016: Strange / Moore

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

Motion passes: 5 yes

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-016: Columbus / Moore

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

Motion passes: 5 yes

**E.** **Ordinance 2019-017:** Water System Improvements

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-017: Moore / Ferry

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

Motion passes: 5 yes;

Councilman Zappa spoke about the need for securing of funds for the Ordinance, the need for the repairs in the water system, and the involvement of the sub-committee approving.

Michele Schwartz asked if this impacts the utility bill. Council spoke about the history of the utility billing and that this legislation will not effect the rate yet. Mrs. Schwartz asked if securing the funds will effect the rate. Council and Administrator Pappas spoke about the Ordinance securing the funds rather than being used to spend money, that the cost of maintaining the water system will likely cause some increase in the bills but that the grants will help cushion the impact. Dennis Ferrera at 24 Chestnut Ct.

asked what the impact would have been if the proposed private company would have managed the system, if there would have been any savings, and could the system be sold in the future. Council stated that the rates would have been frozen for two years under American Water, that gradual increases over 10 years would have put the rates in line with other users of that system, that larger repairs would probably have been accomplished more quickly, that payment for the system would have offset current debts, that the Department of Public Works would have been unburdened by not needing to maintain the system, that the system could be put out for bid again in the future, that people view the utility as an asset and that it could be if it were in good condition, that the asset management plan was \$75,000 in cost and may have had an impact in the past. Pablo Delgado stated that the rates are currently higher than the state average, stated his feelings about the communication needed between the Borough and residents on the issue, the handling of rate increases, and the use of a future discussion.

Council spoke about the challenges of getting the message out to the Borough and that it is responsible to get the water system in order.

Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-017: Columbus / Strange

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

Motion passes: 5 yes

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-017: Hughes / Strange

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

Motion passes: 5 yes

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**A.** Fire Official - Administrator Pappas spoke about the possibility of having a Borough Fire Official, the current status of having the State official carry out this function for the Borough, that the costs of carrying out the function are covered by the fees generated, the advantage of having someone on staff for faster service to the residents, a local official not being rotated out as a State Official has been, the use of possible shared services available with the position, and the timeline to begin the service. Department of Public Works Director Rick Roll spoke about items covered by a Fire Official, required inspections, fund collection by the Borough, when the inspections would be done, shared service handling, and that notification to the State and Council action would be needed to begin the process. Council spoke about the hours this would be utilized, how the Borough events would utilize the Fire Official, and what steps would be needed to begin the process. Attorney Goodman spoke about the Council action needed.

Motion to amend the agenda to add Resolution 180-2019 to move forward to explore the possibility of hiring a Fire Inspector, drafting of a letter to the State, and drafting the Ordinance to take this action: Strange / Hughes

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

Motion passes: 5 yes

Motion to adopt Resolution 180-2019: Hughes / Strange

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

Motion passes: 5 yes

**B.** Energy Cooperative - Administrator Pappas spoke about information gathering and perhaps pursuing an energy cooperative in the future.

**C.** Pool Fill Ordinance - Administrator Pappas and Clerk Young spoke about the intent behind vacating the pool filling Ordinance as the cost to the Borough is high and the benefit is extremely minimal to the residents. Discussion of tabling the Ordinance ensued to gather more information.

**D.** Historical Ordinance - Councilwoman Ferry discussed the history of amending the draft of the new Historical Ordinance, the discussion by the current Committee, and the hope to have it introduced June 13th.

**E.** Youth basketball - Council spoke about the request to put a container at a location in the Borough to contain Youth Basketball equipment. Attorney Goodman spoke about the Council reaching consensus with a straw poll being appropriate. Administrator Pappas spoke about working with Dir. Roll to find an adequate spot.

## **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**A.** Ordinance 2019-018: Washington Phase 1

Motion to table introduction of Ordinance 2019-018 to the next meeting: Zappa / Strange

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

**B. Ordinance 2019-019:** Amending Borough Code, Chapter 303-7, C.(7)

Motion to table **Ordinance 2019-019:** Strange / Zappa

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 2019-019** shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of May 23, 2019.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

<b>RESOLUTION #</b>	<b>TITLE</b>
Resolution – 164 – 2019	Amend capital budget
Resolution – 165 – 2019	Award of Bid – Washington Ave Phase 1 – 1A
Resolution – 166 – 2019	Award of Bid – Washington Ave Phase 1 – 1B
Resolution – 167 – 2019	Award of Bid – Washington Ave Phase 1 – Base Bid
Resolution – 168 – 2019	Emergency Appropriation – Washington Ave Phase 1
Resolution – 169 – 2019	Opposing an Amendment to the New Jersey Surface Water Quality Standards
Resolution – 170 – 2019	Rabies Clinic
Resolution – 171 – 2019	Refund of escrow
Resolution – 172 – 2019	Reject bids and authorize rebidding – McDonald St.
Resolution – 173 – 2019	Reject bids and authorize rebidding – Washington Ave. Phase 2
Resolution – 174 – 2019	Special Events Fees Updated
Resolution – 175 – 2019	Monarch Butterfly Conservation
Resolution – 176 – 2019	Approval of Fire Department Raffle 1
Resolution – 177 – 2019	Approval of Fire Department Raffle 2
Resolution – 178 – 2019	Authorize RFP for Administrative Agent

Motion to approve the consent agenda items: Zappa / Columbus

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: NONE AT THIS TIME**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON**

Adam Borchin showed the Mayor photos of the proposed container for High Bridge Youth Basketball.

Pablo Delgado asked about the trigger event for getting a local Fire Official, stated that it may not be favorable to a business, and that these seem like more inspections by the Borough which can be onerous to businesses.

Administrator Pappas spoke about current fees being paid yearly to the state by business but inspections only being done by the State every five years, that a local Official may have more knowledge and be more easily reached if needed. Discussion ensued about how the Fire Official can be utilized.

**LEGAL ISSUES:**

Attorney Goodman updated Council with the current status of the drafting of a service agreement with the Town of Clinton, receiving a preliminary draft of the service agreement, and that providing a reasonable amount of time for the Clinton Town Sewerage Authority to settle with the Town of Clinton is appropriate prior to getting a service agreement in place, and that three parties agreeing upon the agreement up front is easier.

**BILL LIST:**

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: \$390,780.77**

Motion to approve bill list: Strange / Zappa

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: LEGAL ADVICE FOR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE CHIEF OF POLICE**

**Resolution 179-2019** - 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 / Hughes

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Motion to table **Resolution 146-2019**: Authorization to enter into employment agreement with Police Chief Brett Bartman: Zappa / Ferry

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: Zappa / Columbus

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

**Next Council Meeting:** May 23, 2019 - 7:30 pm – Fire House, 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge, NJ

**ATTEST:**



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Adam Young  
Municipal Clerk



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Michele Lee  
Mayor