

BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE – COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 25, 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: LED BY MAYOR

FLAG SALUTE: LED BY MAYOR

COUNCIL ROLL CALL:

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

Councilman Zappa participated via speaker phone. Three members of the public and press were present as well as Department of Public Works Director Rick Roll, Administrator Michael Pappas, Attorney Barry Goodman, and Clerk Adam Young.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to dispense with the reading of the April 11, 2019 regular and executive minutes: Hughes / Strange
Roll call vote: Columbus, absent ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, absent ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 4 yes, 2 absent

Motion to approve the April 11, 2019 regular minutes: Hughes / Strange
Roll call vote: Columbus, absent ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, absent ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 4 yes, 2 absent

Motion to approve the April 11, 2019 executive minutes: Hughes / Strange
Roll call vote: Columbus, absent ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, absent ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 4 yes, 2 absent

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON

Margaret Lipani reported that the street sign on Hillcrest is leaning over and asked for a repair. Councilman Zappa stated that he had seen it leaning and that it will be fixed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. Ordinance 2019-009: Funding for Washington Ave., Phase 2

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-009: Hughes / Strange
Roll call vote: Columbus, absent ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, absent ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 4 yes, 2 absent

Councilman Zappa spoke about the specifics of the repair projects geographically and the process of going out to bid, the use of the grant monies for the project.

Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-009: Strange / Hughes
Roll call vote: Columbus, absent ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, absent ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 4 yes, 2 absent

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-009: Hughes / Strange

Roll call vote: Columbus, absent ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, absent ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 4 yes, 2 absent

B. **Ordinance 2019-010:** Purchase of sewer pump

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-010: Hughes / Strange

Roll call vote: Columbus, absent ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, absent ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 4 yes, 2 absent

Councilman Zappa spoke about the location of the pump, and the need to maintain a backup pump.

Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-010: Hughes / Strange

Roll call vote: Columbus, absent ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, absent ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 4 yes, 2 absent

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-010: Hughes / Strange

Roll call vote: Columbus, absent ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, absent ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 4 yes, 2 absent

C. **Ordinance 2019-011:** McDonald Street water main

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-011: Hughes / Strange

Roll call vote: Columbus, absent ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, absent ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 4 yes, 2 absent

Councilman Zappa spoke about the McDonald Street water main project, the need for the repairs, that the project is being paid for by a grant.

Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-011: Hughes / Strange

Roll call vote: Columbus, absent ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, absent ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 4 yes, 2 absent

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-011: Hughes / Strange

Roll call vote: Columbus, absent ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, absent ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 4 yes, 2 absent

D. **Ordinance 2019-012:** Ordinance authorizing access easement

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-012: Hughes / Strange

Roll call vote: Columbus, absent ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, absent ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 4 yes, 2 absent

Councilwoman spoke about the easement process planned, the easement leading from The Commons down to Main Street, and the alternative location for the easement.

Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-012: Hughes / Strange

Roll call vote: Columbus, absent ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, absent ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 4 yes, 2 absent

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-012: Hughes / Strange

Roll call vote: Columbus, absent ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, absent ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 4 yes, 2 absent

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A.** Adult softball league - Councilman Strange spoke about the meeting with the Adult Softball League to discuss having a contract to assist with the reservation and upkeep of the fields. Council discussed that this will be for other organizations as well in the future, and some of the points of the draft contract pertaining to field usage. Administrator Pappas spoke about the draft agreement being circulated and reviewed.
- B.** Brush and leaf pickup - Administrator Pappas spoke about the delay in brush and leaf pickup, and the announcement to pick up leaves in the future will be announced soon.
- C.** Summer recreation - Administrator Pappas spoke about the update in fees to be paid to workers due to the minimum wage increase, the adjustment of fees charged, the location, and the applications going up on the website.
- D.** Solitude House - Mayor Lee spoke about getting the Solitude House on the Historic Register and applying for a matching grant which will hopefully lead to future opportunities. Councilwoman Hughes asked about restrictions. Attorney Barry Goodman spoke about restrictions for having the building on the register but also the grant opportunities. Discussion ensued about a certificate of eligibility having been received by the Borough. Nancy Hunt spoke about the signing of an agreement which speaks to having the building kept in a historic fashion, that everything needs maintenance at the Solitude House, and spoke about a grant which gave a report on the status of the Solitude House.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

- 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 introduce **Ordinance 2019-013:** Strange / Hughes

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

Motion passes: 4 yes, 2 absent

Mayor Lee states that the **Ordinance 2019-013** shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of May 9, 2019.

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

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2019-014:** Strange / Hughes

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

Motion passes: 4 yes, 2 absent

Mayor Lee states that the **Ordinance 2019-014** shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of May 9, 2019.

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

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2019-015:** Zappa / Hughes

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

Motion passes: 4 yes, 2 absent

Mayor Lee states that the **Ordinance 2019-015** shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of May 9, 2019.

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

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2019-016:** Strange / Hughes

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

Motion passes: 4 yes, 2 absent

Mayor Lee states that the **Ordinance 2019-016** shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of May 9, 2019.

E. Ordinance 2019-017: Water System Improvements

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2019-017**: Strange / Hughes

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

Motion passes: 4 yes, 2 absent

Mayor Lee states that the **Ordinance 2019-017** shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of May 9, 2019.

CONSENT AGENDA:

RESOLUTION #	TITLE
Resolution – 148 - 2019	Authorization to enter into contract with the Adult Softball League
Resolution – 149 - 2019	Amend Capital Budget
Resolution – 150 - 2019	Amend professional contract – Maser
Resolution – 151 - 2019	Amendment to NJIB loan application
Resolution – 152 - 2019	Apply for a Preserve NJ Historic Fund Capital Level 1 matching grant - Solitude House rehab
Resolution – 153 - 2019	Approve registration of Solitude House on the NJ Historic Register
Resolution – 153 - 2019	Appointment of Seasonal Laborer – Bukowski
Resolution – 154 - 2019	Authorization of Social Affair Permit – High Bridge Fire Department 1
Resolution – 155 - 2019	Authorization of Social Affair Permit – High Bridge Fire Department 2
Resolution – 157 - 2019	Award of contract – Field maintenance
Resolution – 158 - 2019	Bamboo handling by the Department of Public Works
Resolution – 159 - 2019	Cancel Capital appropriation balances
Resolution – 160 - 2019	Ch 159 Plan – Conformance I and I
Resolution – 161 - 2019	Recreation fees updated
Resolution – 162 - 2019	Hydrant testing personnel appointments
Resolution – 163 - 2019	Borough Recreation Event – Fishing Event

Motion to approve the consent agenda items: Hughes / Strange

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

Motion passes: 4 yes, 2 absent

COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS/GOALS:

Official	Department
Councilman Zappa	Engineering, Department of Public Works Spoke about receiving a grant from the Highlands to have the Infiltration and Inflow study funded. Phase III Washington Ave grant for \$180,000 was received.
Councilwoman Hughes	Environmental, Solid Waste / Recycling, Public Health & Open Space Spoke about a thank you email from the Pedals for Progress program, the Solitude House event and a thank you for Mia Baldwin's efforts, the River Cleanup event going well, Electronic Recycling this Saturday.
Councilwoman Moore	Special Events / Finance No report at this time
Councilman Strange	Emergency Services / Recreation Spoke about the Fire Department statistics, about Police statistics and repairs, possible security upgrades at the Solitude House and the Commons Park, upgrading the fingerprinting equipment, upgrading sidearms, a talk to seventh

	graders about smoking and controlled substances. Spoke about making updates on the Recreation Committee handbook, had a meeting about Community Day logistics, assisting with the Soap Box Derby, Summer Recreation taking in applications, replacement of playground equipment, a new fishing event on June 8th, the June 1st HBAR event, involvement in a Somerset Patriots event night.
Councilwoman Ferry	Cultural and Heritage / Education Spoke about the Cultural and Heritage event Natural Solitude program going well with activities, the speaker at Solitude House which spoke about early inhabitants of Hunterdon County, the work on grant opportunities for Solitude House, creating a list of items at the Solitude House, and the open house on May 12 th .
Councilman Columbus	Golf / Economic Development Committee No report at this time
Michael Pappas	Administrator Spoke about the hydrant testing beginning soon, proofing the coming newsletter and going to print by the 9th of May.
Mayor Michele Lee	Executive Services Spoke about working on the contracts with the Youth programs, development of a new Golf Committee, the 20th anniversary and the May 3rd Resident's Appreciation Day, merging the High Bridge Emergency Squad with Clinton, and the electronics recycling event.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. I and I Study Grant Award from NJ Highlands Council
- B. Tax and Finance Reports
- C. Union forge park - professional lawn care service

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON

Margaret Lipani asked about the status of the sale of Old Borough Hall. Administrator Pappas spoke about the buyer having a consultant doing some work for a few more days and then expects a closing. Mayor Lee spoke about the school board's public hearing on the budget coming up.

LEGAL ISSUES:

Attorney Goodman spoke about the Government Record Council complaint pending and stated that he is working on a response with the Clerk to the complaint. He spoke about the records being requested never having been kept and thus not subject to an OPRA request.

BILL LIST:

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: \$2,296,003.19**
 Motion to approve bill list: Hughes / Strange
 Roll call vote: Columbus, absent ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, absent ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
 Motion passes: 4 yes, 2 absent

EXECUTIVE SESSION: NONE

ADJOURNMENT: PRESIDING OFFICER ASKS IF THERE IS ANY FURTHER BUSINESS

Motion to adjourn: Strange / Hughes
 Roll call vote: Columbus, absent ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, absent ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
 Motion passes: 4 yes, 2 absent

Next Council Meeting: May 9, 2019 - 7:30 pm – Fire House, 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge, NJ

ATTEST:



Adam Young
Municipal Clerk



Michele Lee
Mayor