

BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE – COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 23, 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 MAYOR LEE

FLAG SALUTE: LED BY MAYOR LEE

COUNCIL ROLL CALL:

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

Also present were Administrator Michael Pappas, Attorney Barry Goodman, Department of Public Works Director Rick Roll, Chief of Police Brett Bartman, Clerk Adam Young and nine members of the public and press.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to dispense with the reading of the regular May 9, 2019 minutes: Hughes / Columbus
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, absent ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes. 5 yes, 1 absent

Motion to approve May 9, 2019 regular minutes: Hughes / Moore
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, absent ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes. 5 yes, 1 absent

Motion to approve May 9, 2019 executive minutes: Hughes / Moore
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, absent ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes. 5 yes, 1 absent

Councilman Zappa spoke about Mr. Silvestri's accident and asked that the Silvestri family be kept in everyone's thoughts and prayers.

AWARDS:

- A.** Longevity award – Mayor Lee presented the longevity award to Mrs. Doris Shuetz. Mrs. Shuetz spoke about her years in High Bridge.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON: NONE

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

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

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-018: Zappa / Strange
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, absent ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes. 5 yes, 1 absent

Councilman Zappa spoke about the Ordinance and saving \$20,000 using this method.

Pablo Delgado asked about the location of this phase of the project, asked about the replacement fence, and if the parking lot will still be there. Councilman Zappa spoke about having a different fence put into that area and that the lot will still be there.

Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-018: Columbus / Strange
 Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, absent ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
 Motion passes. 5 yes, 1 absent

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-018: Strange / Columbus
 Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, absent ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
 Motion passes. 5 yes, 1 absent

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A.** Sale of Old Borough Hall and Lease Agreement - Administrator Pappas and Attorney Barry Goodman spoke about the possible closing of the sale of Old Borough Hall on June 15th, the current status of the lease of the library, the delays with the title company and oil tank documentation.
- B.** Pfauth trails - Councilman Strange spoke about the existing bike trail behind the Commons park not having as much traffic as anticipated, presented the project of altering the trail for improvement, spoke about the marking of trails in High Bridge, the use of the multi-use trails remaining for walking as well as biking, funding will be from funds raised by entities outside of the Borough, the trails would be completed by the end of 2020, and no funds from the Borough will be utilized.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

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

Motion to introduce Ordinance 2019-019: Strange / Columbus
 Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, absent ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;

Motion passes. 5 yes, 1 absent
 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 June 13, 2019.

- B.** Ordinance 2019-020: Ordinance providing for local enforcement of the New Jersey uniform fire code and amending chapter 180 of the Borough Ordinances

Motion to introduce Ordinance 2019-020: Zappa / Strange
 Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, absent ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
 Motion passes. 5 yes, 1 absent

Mayor Lee states that the Ordinance 2019-020 shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of June 13, 2019.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion to amend the agenda to add Resolution 192-2019 for the approval to begin the proposed trail plan:
 Strange / Hughes
 Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, absent ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, no ;
 Motion passes. 4 yes, 1 no, 1 absent

| RESOLUTION # | TITLE |
|-------------------------|---|
| Resolution – 181 – 2019 | Award of professional services contract – Community Action Services |
| Resolution – 182 – 2019 | Amend professional services contract - Maser |
| Resolution – 183 – 2019 | Appointment of seasonal laborer – Ian Harris |
| Resolution – 184 – 2019 | Award of contract - Playground Equipment |
| Resolution – 185 – 2019 | Cancellation of Capital balances |
| Resolution – 186 – 2019 | Chapter 159 – Wastewater management plan |
| Resolution – 187 – 2019 | Updated Special Events Fees |

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|-------------------------|--|
| Resolution – 188 – 2019 | Refund of outside duty |
| Resolution – 189 – 2019 | Refund of tax overpayment |
| Resolution – 190 – 2019 | Lien Redemption |
| Resolution – 192 – 2019 | Approval to begin with proposed trail plan |

Motion to approve the consent agenda items as amended: Strange / Zappa

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

Motion passes. 5 yes, 1 absent

COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS/GOALS:

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| <p>Councilman Zappa - Engineering, Department of Public Works Spoke about improvements to the water system, not needing an air stripper to be rebuilt, about StreetScape items which need to be addressed for the DoT to keep the project moving forward, about the Department of Works pothole repairs, leaf and brush pickup, storm basin repairs, spoke about putting the Fall brush pickup for this year on hold but extending the Commons drop off hours and days to have DPW focus on construction projects and road repairs.</p> |
| <p>Councilwoman Hughes - Environmental, Solid Waste / Recycling, Public Health & Open Space Spoke about the electronics recycling event going well, the upcoming rigid plastic and document shredding event, the Environmental Commission receiving a \$500 grant for the mini-park, redoing the planters at the mini-park, planting day for Roots-For-Rivers grant coming soon, Mia Baldwin is continuing with the Monarch Butterfly awareness and milkweed planting, recertification for Tree City, a thank you to Girl Scout Troop for maintenance of the gazebo, thanked Chrissy Darmstadt for her hard work in the Borough, and addressing garbage pickup concerns. Administrator Pappas spoke about the handling of the garbage pickup, the current contract length for solid waste disposal.</p> |
| <p>Councilwoman Moore - Special Events / Finance Spoke about the coming Soap Box Derby logistics, movies in the park, Pooch parade, Community Day and sub-committee planning, Salsa Night, Trunk-Or-Treat, and other events to coming.</p> |
| <p>Councilman Strange - Emergency Services / Recreation Read the Fire Department statistics, spoke about the recent coin toss, the Fire Department Easter Bunny drop off in Union Forge park, and equipment checks. Read the Police Department statistics, spoke about vehicle maintenance, reviewing plans for a Commons Park camera, LiveScan project moving forward, updating Department firearms, installation of the drug drop-off box, and replacing ballistic vests with a grant. Spoke about the Recreation Committee involvement with the Soap Box Derby, Free Fishing Day, and the High Bridge Adventure Race.</p> |
| <p>Councilwoman Ferry - Cultural and Heritage / Education. No report at this time.</p> |
| <p>Councilman Columbus - Golf / Economic Development Committee Spoke about Resident Appreciation Day, meeting of the Golf ad-hoc Committee, the purchase of the new sprayer, read the golf statistics, spoke about golf irrigation repairs due to lightening strike, an upcoming event at the golf course to benefit the Jonathan Sekula fund, and the 20th anniversary event at the golf course coming up. Spoke about Economic Development Committee meeting schedule and submission of the State Tourism grant declaration of intent for promoting tourism of the Borough.</p> |
| <p>Michael Pappas, Administrator Spoke about meeting with the joint insurance fund which offers online training, the increases for JIF membership which he feels are reasonable, spoke about a request made by a resident to put away the morritorium on the roads, spoke about the Food Stock letter and participating in this program, the newsletter coming out, a County public hearing about having more frequent stops of the LINK bus as well as more locations in High Bridge.</p> |
| <p>Mayor Michele Lee, Executive Services Spoke about the grant for Safe Routes to School, communication with the solid waste pickup company and complaints going to Borough Hall, spoke about getting closer to the sale of Old Borough Hall, registration being up on the Borough website for the Summer Recreation program, the Memorial Day Service on Saturday, Roots for Rivers needs volunteers, and hydrant flushing beginning.</p> |

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Monthly Tax and Finance Reports

B. Food Stock

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON

Nicole Poko spoke about having communication about the Main Street projects, spoke about a request to have lighting in The Commons, spoke about having a possible bike lane in town. Councilman Zappa spoke about the geography of StreetScape phase 2 as well as the items considered and the County paving Main Street.

Matt Henderson at 33 Nassau asked why there are tail cameras in the public parks. Nicole Poko spoke to an artist

who takes long exposure pictures.

LEGAL ISSUES: NONE AT THIS TIME

BILL LIST:

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: \$293,070.70**

Motion to approve bill list: Strange / Zappa

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

Motion passes. 5 yes, 1 absent

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

Resolution 191-2019 - Motion to move into executive session: Zappa / Columbus

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

Motion passes. 5 yes, 1 absent

Action may now be taken.

Motion to move into open session: Zappa / Strange

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

Motion passes. 5 yes, 1 absent

Motion to take from the table, amend to have the contract date start June 1st, 2019,

and adopt **Resolution 146-2019**: Authorization to enter into employment agreement with Police Chief Brett Bartman: Zappa / Moore

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

Motion passes. 5 yes, 1 absent

ADJOURNMENT: PRESIDING OFFICER ASKS IF THERE IS ANY FURTHER BUSINESS

Motion to adjourn: Zappa / Strange

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

Motion passes. 5 yes, 1 absent

Next Council Meeting: June 13, 2019 - 7:30 pm – Fire House, 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge, NJ