

BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE – COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: October 10, 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

Presiding Officer calls meeting to order and states: “Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of 2019 Meeting Dates were published in the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Easton Express times on December 20, 2018, and posted on the bulletin board at Borough Hall. Action may now be taken.”

FLAG SALUTE: LEAD BY MAYOR OR PRESIDING OFFICER

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 Attorney Barry Goodman, Administrator Michael Pappas, Clerk Adam Young, Department of Public Works Director Rick Roll, and seventeen members of the public and press.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to dispense with the reading of the regular September 26, 2019 minutes: Hughes / Strange
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, absent ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Motion to approve September 26, 2019 regular minutes: Moore / Zappa
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, absent ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

PROCLAMATION

A. Proclamation 010-2019: Lead poisoning awareness - Read by the Mayor

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON

Nicole Poko of 56 East Main St., stated that cones were put out on Main Street, that there was not communication on this issue, that where the cones were placed created a confusing scenario for patrons, and stated that the number of parking spaces on Main Street was decreased. Mayor Lee stated that parking on Main Street is an issue, the cones were put out to the State Statute standards to see how marking the curbs could work. Mrs. Poko stated that she would like more communication from the Borough with the businesses on Main St. to keep the businesses thriving. Councilman Strange stated that people have become used to parking in certain places over the years where perhaps the law does not allow.

Briana Pasternak, founder of Save Two Lives, spoke about the adoption of animals, spoke about having a successful lemonade stand to raise funds for donation to charity, hopes to create school programs to teach about the adoption of animals, and would like to host a town wide fundraiser. Mayor Lee asked that she should put together some information for the Borough newsletter. Councilman Zappa asked how Council can help. Miss Pasternak said that visiting her table for information would be helpful.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Ordinance 2019-029: Amend Land Use Ordinance for Nonconforming Lots

Motion to re-open the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-029: Zappa / Columbus

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 history of the Ordinance and asked Council to vote this Ordinance down as another, similar and corrected Ordinance is being introduced this evening.

Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-029: Moore / 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 2019-029: Moore / Strange
Roll call vote: Columbus, no ; Ferry, absent ; Hughes, no ; Moore, no ; Strange, no ; Zappa, no ;
Motion does not pass: 5 no, 1 absent

B. **Ordinance 2019-032**: Ordinance appropriating \$120,000 from Capital Improvement fund for additional funding for McDonald Street improvement project

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-032: Moore / 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 intent of the Ordinance for road repairs.
Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-032: Moore / Columbus
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 2019-032: Moore / Strange
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, absent ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

C. **Ordinance 2019-033**: Amending dog licensing fees for emergency service members

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-033: 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 close the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-033: Strange / Columbus
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 2019-033: Strange / Moore
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, absent ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

D. **Ordinance 2019-034**: Surveillance equipment

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-034: Hughes / Columbus
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, absent ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent
Councilman Strange spoke about the intent of the Ordinance to install surveillance equipment in the Commons parking lot and possibly other lots in the future. Nicole Poko recommended hiring someone outside of High Bridge to install the equipment. Council discussed the Police Department procedures for cameras.
Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-034: Strange / Columbus
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 2019-034: Hughes / Strange
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, absent ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

E. **Ordinance 2019-035**: General engineering

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-035: Moore / 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 intent of the Ordinance to cover various engineering costs.
Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-035: Strange / Columbus
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 2019-035: Strange / Columbus
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, absent ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

- F.** **Ordinance 2019-036:** Amending snow emergency routes
 Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-036: Strange / Columbus
 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 change to the snow emergency route Ordinance to set a different definition of "snow covered" and how a snow event occurs. Councilman Strange spoke about the issues with measuring snow in different parts of the town in the past.
 Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-036: Zappa / Moore
 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 2019-036: Zappa / Strange
 Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, absent ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
 Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A.** StreetScape Phase 2 - Administrator Pappas spoke about the bid opening for the project, the review of the bids by the professionals, and the process and timeline of the project as it has federal funding.
- B.** Safe Routes to School - Administrator Pappas spoke about a project kick-off meeting for the Safe Routes to School, the meeting member's reactions to the bid openings and the bids being high, and that Council may need to consider some of the project details to move forward with this project.
- C.** Position descriptions - Administrator Pappas spoke about making additional edits to the position descriptions, review by Attorney Goodman, and having them possibly ready for the next meeting.
- D.** Best practices - Administrator Pappas spoke about the State requirement of completing the best practices inventory, the scoring system and requirements for keeping State aid, and the new offering of consultation by the State to Municipalities for this.
- E.** LOSAP for Emergency Medical Services / EMS merger - Mayor Lee spoke about meetings since February to discuss merging the Clinton and High Bridge emergency squads together, the logistics of doing so, the LOSAP awards program differences between the entities, equipment handling, naming the entity North Hunterdon Emergency Services with a July 2020 closing date of creation and the need to have a sub-committee consider this item.
 Councilman Strange asked about seeing an insurance policy document. Administrator Pappas spoke about having the request for some time but that the insurance company is not responding. Attorney Goodman spoke about having Administrator Pappas make a final request more before sending a letter. Discussion ensued about setting the date for the next meeting.
- F.** Washington Avenue parking - Police Chief Brett Bartman spoke about the previous parking on Washington Ave., the intent of the Ordinance changes moving forward, outlined recommended parking areas, outlined how indicators can work in different areas for no parking and parking signs, and discussed the next steps for amending the Ordinance with the possibility of creating more spaces. Council discussed the use of the gravel lot near Solitude House which is Custom Alloy property, parking near East Side Services near the Fire House, striping of areas, studies of the north east portion of the Huskies fields, truck traffic, and the plan increasing the number of parking spots. Attorney Goodman stated that Custom Alloy can put up signs of no parking on Custom Alloy property and asked about signs for parking near the baseball fields pertaining to foul balls. Council people Hughes, Strange, and Zappa were appointed to a sub-committee to look at this issue.
- G.** Main Street parking - Police Chief Brett Bartman spoke about the placing of cones on Main Street as per State Statutes to assist Officers and public about where parking is and is not, stated that the "missing" spots are not missing because they did not exist currently by law, the handling of traffic on intersecting streets, the need for visual distance in cross walks, handling of twenty five foot spaces from stop signs, the recommendation of having an open meeting for the residents about the parking on Main St.
 Council discussed the proposed adjustments for Main Street, distances from cross walks and stop signs, having clear indicators on Main Street for safety, the interplay of the StreetScape project taking a long time, introducing a Resolution to establish painting of curbs prior to StreetScape, working up images for the public, the possibility of temporary painting of curbs, and the possibility of having a public information meeting on the parking situation. Attorney Goodman gave guidance to the passage of a Resolution at the next meeting and posting information on the website. Department of Public Works Director Rick Roll spoke about the curb paint not being easy to remove.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

- A. Ordinance 2019-038:** Amend Land Use Ordinance for non-conforming lots
 Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2019-038:** 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 2019-038** shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of November 14, 2019.
- B. Ordinance 2019-039:** Golf cart path improvements, purchase of vehicle equipment lift, and purchase of tractor mower
 Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2019-039:** Strange / Moore
 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 2019-039** shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of October 24, 2019.
- C. Ordinance 2019-040:** Amend Ordinance 184-28 Schedule 7 Parking prohibited at all times
 Motion to amend **Ordinance 2019-040** to including extra parking east of the curve to Dewey Ave.: Strange/Zappa
 Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, absent ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
 Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent
 Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2019-040** as amended: Strange / Moore
 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 2019-040** shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of October 24, 2019.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION #	TITLE
Resolution – 285 – 2019	Approval of solicitor’s permits - High Bridge Business Association
Resolution – 286 – 2019	Approve submission for reimbursement of Hepatitis B shots
Resolution – 287 – 2019	Authorization to re-advertise - maintenance for electronic control system
Resolution – 288 – 2019	Reject bid and re-advertise - pump and machine preventative maintenance and emergency services
Resolution – 289 – 2019	Award of contract - sewer pump
Resolution – 290 – 2019	Chapter 159 - Additional StreetScape award
Resolution – 291 – 2019	Designate responsible person in charge - StreetScape Phase 2
Resolution – 292 – 2019	Refund of escrow balance
Resolution – 293 – 2019	Refund of tax overpayment
Resolution – 294 – 2019	Release of executive session minutes
Resolution – 295 – 2019	Temporarily amend Police Department rules and regulations for participation in “No Shave November” fundraiser and awareness effort
Resolution – 296 – 2019	Trunk-or-treat date change
Resolution – 297 – 2019	Review and authorize execution of License Agreement with NJ TRANSIT for Dog Park

Motion to approve the consent agenda items: Strange / Moore
 Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, absent ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;
 Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON

Nicole Poko stated that she is looking forward to communicating about parking on Main St., smoking within 25 feet of a building, and is willing to work with the Environmental Commission to walk and clean Main Street. Attorney Goodman stated that he would check on the laws pertaining to smoking in front of buildings and that it only pertains to public buildings but that local Ordinances can be put into place concerning smoking. Councilman Zappa stated that the intent of placing butt-cans was to have butts not thrown into garbage cans which start fires.

LEGAL ISSUES: NONE

BILL LIST

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: \$205,989.29**

Motion to approve bill list: Strange / Moore

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

COMMUNICATIONS

A. Executive session minutes

ADJOURNMENT: PRESIDING OFFICER ASKS IF THERE IS ANY FURTHER BUSINESS

Councilman Zappa and Councilman Strange reminded the public that brush pickup will not be done this fall and to watch for leaf pickup, that leaf bags are available, that there are extended hours in the Commons, and to call to have brush pickup from a local organization or from Mr. Zappa and Mr. Strange to see if there are other options which can be found for the pickup to happen. Mayor Lee spoke about having the local organization pick up her brush and that anyone else should as well. Councilwoman Hughes spoke about having dead or dying ash trees being cut down in the Borough.

Motion to adjourn: Moore / Columbus

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Next Council Meeting: October 24, 2019 - 7:30 pm – Fire House, 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge, NJ

ATTEST:



Adam Young
Municipal Clerk



Michele Lee
Mayor