

BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE – COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 26, 2019 – 7:30 p.m. – Location: 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge, NJ 08829

CALL TO ORDER: LEAD BY MAYOR

FLAG SALUTE: LEAD BY MAYOR

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, Clerk Adam Young, and five twenty members of the public and press.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to dispense with the reading of the regular September 12, 2019 minutes: Moore / Zappa

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

Motion passes: 4 yes, 2 abstain

Motion to approve September 12, 2019 regular minutes: Moore / Strange

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

Motion passes: 4 yes, 2 abstain

AWARDS

A. Summer Recreation Awards - Thanks and awards given by Mayor Lee to those involved with the Summer Recreation program.

PROCLAMATION

A. Put the brakes on fatalities day - Mayor Lee read the Proclamation

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON

Maryanne Pish of 51 Dewey Ave. asked what is happening across from her property. Administrator Pappas spoke about the Department of Public Works looking for a new recycling center for leaves with shrinking space near the Commons park and making that space a potential site for recreation fields. Mrs. Pish asked how to keep communication with the Borough on this project. Councilman Strange spoke about the possibility of reviewing Borough properties for different uses. Council spoke about having involvement in the meetings being the best way to find information about the project. Discussion ensued about the location of lots being reviewed by the Borough.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. **Ordinance 2019-028:** Amending Code 37-5 Duties of the Fire Chief

Motion to open the public hearing for **Ordinance 2019-028:** Zappa / Moore

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Councilman Strange reviewed the intent of the Ordinance. Mayor Lee spoke about future implications in the future pertaining to shared services with Fire and Emergency Squad personnel.

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Motion to adopt **Ordinance 2019-028:** Zappa / Strange

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

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

Motion to table the Ordinance 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

Administrator Pappas and Councilman Zappa spoke about tabling this Ordinance for consideration with the Resolution put into place at the previous meeting.

C. **Ordinance 2019-30:** Amending Ordinance Ch 261 Parks and Playgrounds Part 2 and Disorderly Conduct 261-5

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-030: Zappa / Columbus

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Mayor Lee spoke about the improvements at the Union Forge Park fields and the language being updated.

Councilman Strange explained that the Ordinance specifies areas which can be accessed via vehicle.

Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-030: Zappa / Strange

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-030: Strange / Moore

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

D. **Ordinance 2019-31:** Ordinance Appropriating \$35,000 from Capital - Pole lighting at Commons

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-031: Zappa / Strange

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Mayor Lee reviewed the intent of the Ordinance and spoke about ensuring minimum light pollution during the project is created and the need for this as the Commons is being utilized for recreation space.

Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-031: Moore / Strange

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-031: Strange / Moore

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Snow Ordinance - Councilman Zappa spoke about the snow Ordinance changes for the definition of precipitation for the use of the snow emergency route and spoke about the history of how a snow emergency was declared in the past compared to now. Administrator Pappas spoke about the help this Ordinance will do to announcing a snow emergency.

B. Committees - Mayor Lee spoke about having an open call for volunteers for Committees, looking at the structure of Committees, possibly combining some Committees, Committees needing more organization, that not having volunteers does mean that High Bridge will not have these events, and asked those watching to please help by volunteering. Mayor Lee requested that Council be aware of strategic planning meeting for the School Board and asked for a Council member to attend. Councilman Zappa agreed to attend. Councilman Strange agrees that there can be reorganization of the Committees as they exist and supports having an event to raise awareness. Councilwoman Ferry spoke about a volunteer fair in the spring to add more Committee members, processes for utilization of Committees, the Organization of events such as Community Day, the importance of having sponsorships for the Events Committee as an effort, and having a volunteer recruiting event sooner than later as sponsorships go out in February. Councilwoman Moore spoke about Community Day volunteers being overwhelmed and that having a regrouping and planning session would be useful. Councilman Zappa spoke about getting together a good effort to get more volunteers, the history of volunteerism on Committees being an ebb and flow process. Administrator Pappas spoke about advertising in the coming newsletter for this process.

C. Position descriptions - Administrator Pappas spoke about being ready to distribute position descriptions of staff for the Council's review and comments.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

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

Motion to introduce Ordinance 2019-032: Zappa / Hughes

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 2019-032** shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of October 10, 2019.

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

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2019-033:** Strange / Moore

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 2019-033** shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of October 10, 2019.

C. Ordinance 2019-034: Surveillance equipment

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2019-034:** Strange / Moore

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 2019-034** shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of October 10, 2019.

D. Ordinance 2019-035: General engineering

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2019-035:** Strange / Moore

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 2019-035** shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of October 10, 2019.

E. Ordinance 2019-036: Amending snow emergency routes

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2019-036:** Strange / Columbus

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 2019-036** shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of October 10, 2019.

F. Ordinance 2019-037: Grandfather clause

Motion to table the introduction of **Ordinance 2019-037** to an undetermined date: Zappa / Strange

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION #	TITLE
Resolution – 275 – 2019	Amend Capital budget
Resolution – 276 – 2019	Amend lease agreement - 71 Main St
Resolution – 277 – 2019	Approval of Fireman - Jyjon Rodriguez-Matos
Resolution – 278 – 2019	Emergency appropriation - McDonald St.
Resolution – 279 – 2019	Award of contract - McDonald St. - Black Rock
Resolution – 280 – 2019	End of probationary period - Aaron Mandigo
Resolution – 281 – 2019	Opposing the Penn East permit applications
Resolution – 282 – 2019	Refund of tax overpayment
Resolution – 283 – 2019	Updated Boards and Committees - September 26
Resolution – 284 – 2019	Veteran's exemption and refund

Motion to approve the consent agenda items: Hughes / Zappa

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Councilman Strange abstains from Resolution 281-2019.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS/GOALS

Councilman Zappa - Engineering, Department of Public Works

Spoke about Streetscape progress the bid process moving forward, construction in the spring, about the Safe Routes to School areas, McDonald St. grant increase amount and a thank you to Administrator Pappas, announcement of a public informational meeting for McDonald Street, Washington Ave. work update, a grant for Wilson Ave. for work next year, well eight emergency generator pad installation, an October 1st meeting with the DEP about the removal of the air stripper as it is no longer required, getting a report of infiltration of water into the system next week, the temporary water bypass at Mine Road, installation of the bridge by the County being completed by November, the Department of Public Works filling potholes, getting leaf pickup ready, a parking study, catch basins, mowing, tree trimming, receiving new water meters, Aaron Mandigo starting classes, brush pickup not being done this year but that the Commons will be open for extended times.

Councilwoman Hughes - Environmental, Solid Waste / Recycling, Public Health & Open Space

Spoke about giving away cloth bags at Community Day, releasing butterflies, thanking volunteers for watering flowers on Main St., purchasing of five trees for Union Forge park, Sustainable Jersey awards going to businesses, the schools, and the Borough, decoration of the gazebos by the 8th graders, status of the planter contest, Clean Communities monies being used for trash receptacles, and planters being relocated.

Councilwoman Moore - Special Events / Finance

Spoke about having a conflict with attending the last Committee meeting, losing volunteers in the Events Committee, having Mr. Fasolino assist with concerts, looking for more volunteers, Community Day being a success with positive press, Salsa Night Sizzle in the Commons this Saturday, Events Committee working with the HBBA, the cancelation of the Trunk-or-treat, the Paint Out event is coming up with a limited number of canvases being submitted.

Councilman Strange - Emergency Services / Recreation

Spoke about a conflict with attending the last Committee meeting, having a light agenda, the reorganization of the trails behind the pump track, the update about testing parking at the Union Forge fields, the Open Space subcommittee meeting and discussing the use of open space in the Borough. Read the Fire Department statistics, seeking reimbursement of Hep B inoculations for volunteer fire fighters, an Ordinance for Knox boxes for emergency access to building in the Borough. Maintenance of Police vehicles and grounds read, surveillance cameras, fingerprinting equipment, cyberlock access controls for the Police Headquarters, holsters being acquired, helping with parking at the Union Forge parks, Chief Brett Bartman will be shaving his head to support St. Balderick's.

Councilwoman Ferry - Historical / Education

Thanked Councilman Strange, Zappa, and Mayor Lee, Karen Gove, and Ruby Reuter and others with their Community Day contributions, submissions of the reptile, the DPW with the bucket, and all the efforts to make Community Day great. Spoke about the speaker series, setting up the booth for Community Day, having the Taylor Wharton items present, the next talk being on October 28th, and the Solitude open house dates.

Councilman Columbus - Golf / Economic Development Committee

Read the golf statistics, charity corporate events happening in September, the tent and table at Community Day with giveaways, booked the Cherry Event, spoke about the changes of the redraft of the Golf Committee Ordinance and being done and ready for review, spoke to waiting for the State tourism grant, EDC working with the Events committee for upcoming events, and asked for those interested to join.

Administrator Michael Pappas - Administrator's Report

Acknowledged the efforts of the Department of Public Works with their hard work, attended a stormwater management seminar, attending a Hunterdon County Planning Board meeting about the coming federal Census, attending the Solitude House meeting for the effort of the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of America, and mentioned the selected sites may be eligible for funding.

Mayor Michele Lee - Executive Services

Mayor Lee reiterated that the dog park and pump track are status is close to being approved, updated that the final points of the sewer agreement are being sent back to the Town of Clinton. Attorney Goodman spoke to not having a time frame at this point but that future discussion of this can happen in executive session. Mayor Lee thanked Ruby Reuter and Michelle Davis for their efforts with Events, having members resign and join the Committees, putting down new mulch at Union Forge park, JORBA schedule for breaking ground on the bike park, losing Mrs. Cathy Trimmer-Hoffman from the Community, spoke about not having brush pickup but having extended hours at the Commons, requesting leaf bags at the DPW facility, the Coffee With The Mayor at the Polka dot Cafe being a fun and unique time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON

Karen Gove thanked Zappa for attending the school meeting, reaching out to Clinton to see how they do their fair, spoke about the list of planter decorating being difficult, finding out that trunk-or-treat was right before an HBBA event and that funds are low for offering prizes, and commented about not losing sponsorships with combining with for profit groups.

LEGAL ISSUES: NONE

BILL LIST

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: \$632,492.20**

Motion to approve bill list: Zappa / Moore

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

COMMUNICATIONS

A. Tax and finance month end reports

B. Safe Routes to School award letter

C. Dept. of Transportation Letter - \$120,000 for McDonald St.

ADJOURNMENT: PRESIDING OFFICER ASKS IF THERE IS ANY FURTHER BUSINESS

Motion to adjourn: Zappa / Strange

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Next Council Meeting: October 10, 2019 - 7:30 pm – Fire House, 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge, NJ

ATTEST:



Adam Young
Municipal Clerk



Michele Lee
Mayor