

BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE – COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 14, 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	present	Councilman Strange	present		
Councilwoman Hughes	present	Councilman Zappa	absent		

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to dispense with the reading of the regular October 24, 2019 minutes: Hughes / Columbus
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, abstain ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, abstain ; Zappa, absent ;
Motion passes: 3 yes, 2 abstain, 1 absent

Motion to approve October 24, 2019 regular minutes: Hughes / Columbus
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, abstain ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, abstain ; Zappa, absent ;
Motion passes: 3 yes, 2 abstain, 1 absent

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON: NONE

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Ordinance 2019-038: Amend land use Ordinance for non-conforming lots

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-038: Strange / Columbus
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, absent ;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent
Administrator Pappas spoke about the intent of the Ordinance.
Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-038: Strange / Columbus
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, absent ;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent
Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-038: Hughes / Columbus
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, absent ;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

B. Ordinance 2019-039: Golf cart path improvements, purchase of vehicle equipment lift, and purchase of tractor mower

Motion to re-open the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-039: Columbus / Moore
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, absent ;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent
Mayor Lee spoke about the need to introduce a slightly altered Ordinance later in the meeting.
Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-039: Moore / Columbus
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, absent ;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-039: Moore / Ferry

Roll call vote: Columbus, no ; Ferry, no ; Hughes, no ; Moore, no ; Strange, no ; Zappa, absent ;

Motion does not pass: 5 no, 1 absent

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A.** Golf fees - Councilman Columbus spoke about resident rates staying the same and other membership prices going up by about two percent, and having a Resolution for rates for the 2020 reorganizational meeting.
- B.** Main St. parking - Mayor Lee spoke about the map created by Councilman Strange which adds spots to Main Street, the intent to mark the listed areas on the street, and the addition of spots behind 71 Main Street with an amendment to the current lease. Councilman Strange spoke about Chief Bartman measuring for safe spaces to be added to Main Street which will make parking clearer for drivers.
- C.** Emergency Squad merger with Town of Clinton - Mayor Lee spoke about merging the EMS department with the Town of Clinton, the specific handling of the LOSAP for Emergency Services, that the handling of vesting will need to be discussed, how to pay into the LOSAP program in the future which may involve making a payment to the Town of Clinton which can be dispersed to those in the program, about speaking to the State about how this process moves forward, and about discussions with the use of the building. Attorney Goodman spoke about Council being able, by a two-thirds vote, to modify the plan, for the handling of members in an Ordinance.
Chief of Emergency Services John Silliman asked about getting a contract for the changes. Councilman Strange spoke about doing the process in the future to work out details, including the use of grounds of the current Emergency Services building, and Attorney Goodman spoke about having an Ordinance which would cover the changes in the proposed plan which need at least two meetings to pass. Melanie Sloyer asked about the benefits of the High Bridge LOSAP plan versus the Town of Clinton LOSAP plan. Mayor Lee spoke about the tiered system in the Town of Clinton which may be slightly more beneficial to the EMS personnel.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

- A.** Ordinance 2019-041: Amend Borough Code, Chapter 407, Chapter 303, and 149 regarding water meters
Motion to introduce Ordinance 2019-041: Columbus / Strange
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, absent ;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent
Mayor Lee states that the Ordinance 2019-041 shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of December 12, 2019.
- B.** Ordinance 2019-042: Golf cart path improvements, equipment, and sprinkler system
Motion to introduce Ordinance 2019-042: Columbus / Strange
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, absent ;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent
Mayor Lee states that the Ordinance 2019-042 shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of December 12, 2019.
- C.** Ordinance 2019-043: Amend StreetScape Phase 2
Motion to introduce Ordinance 2019-043: Hughes / Strange
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, absent ;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent
Mayor Lee states that the Ordinance 2019-043 shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of December 12, 2019.
- D.** Ordinance 2019-044: Approving Financial Agreement - 20 Main
Motion to introduce Ordinance 2019-044: Strange / Moore
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, absent ;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent
Mayor Lee states that the Ordinance 2019-044 shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of December 12, 2019.

- E. Ordinance 2019-045:** Mine Rd. bridge additional funding
 Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2019-045:** Moore / Strange
 Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, absent ;
 Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent
 Mayor Lee states that the **Ordinance 2019-045** shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of December 12, 2019.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION #	TITLE
Resolution – 302 – 2019	Amend Ordinance Chapter 184-10: Parking prohibited at all times, establishing Chapter 184-24.2, schedule 3b permissible parking distances
Resolution – 303 – 2019	Calling for Study Commission to review the Open Public Records Act
Resolution – 304 – 2019	Authorization to advertise for part-time DPW laborer
Resolution – 305 – 2019	Award of contract - StreetScape
Resolution – 306 – 2019	Year-end transfers
Resolution – 307 – 2019	Golf fees
Resolution – 308 – 2019	Amend professional contract - Maser
Resolution – 309 – 2019	Authorizing emergency appropriation - Mine Rd. bridge
Resolution – 310 – 2019	Approving application of Riverview Village, LLC. for five-year tax exemption
Resolution – 311 – 2019	Lien redemption
Resolution – 312 – 2019	Award of contract - pole lighting
Resolution – 313 – 2019	Award of contract - cameras
Resolution – 314 – 2019	Authorizing amendment to lease - 71 Main Street
Resolution – 315 – 2019	Amend Capital Budget - Mine Rd. bridge
Resolution – 316 – 2019	Award of contract - Penn Bower - Mine Rd. bridge

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

COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Councilman Zappa - Engineering, Department of Public Works

No report at this time.

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

Spoke about the spotted lantern fly talk at the Emergency Squad, County hazardous waste recycling on Nov 23, High Bridge is able to join a recycling event in future dates, the rabies clinic was held on November 9, Bronze level achieved for the year of 2019, and the Green Team is part of a hub for partnering with other Green Teams.

Councilwoman Moore - Special Events / Finance

Spoke about meeting next week to catch up and advertising in the future and the tree lighting and planters coming soon. Councilman Strange spoke about the PaintOut event going well and the need to push for more patrons to purchase the artwork.

Councilman Strange - Emergency Services / Recreation

Spoke about the Fire Department report with statistics read, repairs for the Fire House, vehicle repairs for the Police Department, review of cameras for the Commons, Live Scan quote and installation, grounds repairs and improvements, the weapon transition being nearly completed, the Police Chief's work on Main Street was recognized, the submission of a grant for ballistic vest reimbursement, an award received for a grant, and the 2020 budget being submitted to Finance. Spoke about moving forward with the EMS merger, participating in the North Hunterdon Fire Alliance, and brainstorming about volunteer coverage for towns in the future. Spoke about the roof of the gazebo being done on the recreation fields, discussion with the Dept. of Works about fixing the basketball court, the trails being redone and the progress made, meeting with the Environmental Commission about the trails, and raising funds at High Rail with a Trail Ale which benefits the building of the trails.

Councilwoman Ferry - Historical / Education

For the Historical Committee, spoke about Nancy Hunt giving a talk at the school, open houses at Solitude House, Committee Members are working on items for sale at the Solitude House, volunteers are needed for the open

house coming up, fund raising being done with a bake sale, and that the new lit sign in front of the school which stays on until 9 p.m.

Councilman Columbus - Golf / Economic Development Committee

Spoke about golf updates, rounds being down, and read the stats of the golf course, green airification which hindered revenue but is part of long-term maintenance, heavy rain at the end of the month which affected revenues, a strong start to November, and a focus on locking in sales. Spoke about working on the County EDC grant, SBA seminar early in 2020, two seats are available on the Committee if anyone is interested, small business day and to please support small, local shops.

Administrator Michael Pappas - Administrator

Spoke about interested parties contacting Borough Hall about properties on Main and West Main Street. Attend conference on transit villages, spoke about the success stories with this program, and how to move forward at this time. Also spoke about the County nearing the completion of Mine Road.

Mayor Michele Lee - Executive Services

Spoke about the McDonald Street project being under way, the potential to need to wait till spring to finish the project, Coffee with the Mayor being this Saturday, the future of 81 West Main, being part of the Veteran's Day ceremony, the 78-22 Coalition train ride, and no executive session for this evening.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON: NONE

LEGAL ISSUES

Attorney Goodman spoke about waiting for comments from the Town of Clinton for quite some time, the Borough sending comments in September, and a response which was received today which will be analyzed and discussed at a future meeting.

BILL LIST

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: \$692,151.34**

Motion to approve bill list: Hughes / Moore

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

COMMUNICATIONS

A. Planning Board comments for Ordinance 2019-038

B. Code Blue letter

EXECUTIVE SESSION: SEWER AGREEMENT: NONE

Resolution 317-2019 - Motion to move into executive session: No motion, no second.

ADJOURNMENT: PRESIDING OFFICER ASKS IF THERE IS ANY FURTHER BUSINESS

Motion to adjourn: Strange / Moore

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Next Council Meeting: December 12, 2019 - 7:30 pm – Fire House, 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge, NJ

ATTEST:



Adam Young
Municipal Clerk



Michele Lee
Mayor