

# BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE – COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 9, 2019 – 7:30 p.m. – Location: 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge, NJ 08829

## CALL TO ORDER: CALLED TO ORDER BY THE 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/CFO/Tax Collector Bonnie Fleming, and Municipal Clerk Adam Young along with six members of the public and press.

## READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to dispense with the reading of the December 12, 2019 and January 2, 2020 minutes: Hughes / Columbus  
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;  
Motion passes: 6 yes  
Motion to approve the December 12, 2019 regular minutes: Hughes / Strange  
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;  
Motion passes: 6 yes  
Motion to approve the December 12, 2019 executive session minutes: Hughes / Strange  
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;  
Motion passes: 6 yes  
Motion to approve the January 2, 2020 re-organizational minutes: Hughes / Strange  
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hughes, yes ; Moore, yes ; Strange, yes ; Zappa, yes ;  
Motion passes: 6 yes

## PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON: NONE

## PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

**A.** Safe routes to school: Administrator Bonnie Fleming spoke about picking a design firm to work on the Safe Routes project and forming a committee for the project. Councilman Zappa spoke about the process of choosing a design firm other than Maser and that the Borough has received a \$360,000 grant which can be utilized for sidewalks and curbing on Hart St. with a bike and walking lane on one portion of the road.  
**B.** 100 West Main St.: Mayor Michele Lee spoke about the history of the 100 West Main St. property, putting pressure on the owners to have it be redeveloped and to move forward, that there is a disagreement between the Borough and the owners about how much has been accomplished on the property, that a court date was set to resolve a violation issue but that resolution did not happen.  
Councilman Zappa spoke about the details of the violation pertaining to maintenance. Council agreed that this is the entrance to the Borough and that it is time to have some improvement on the site, spoke about the vacant property fines, and having another call with the prosecutor tomorrow. Mayor and Council discussed the redevelopment plan put in place. Administrator Fleming asked if the Mayor would like to put a committee in place. Mayor Lee spoke about having another court date prior to having a committee formed.

## INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

**A.** **Ordinance 2020-003:** Local enforcement of the New Jersey Uniform Fire Code and amending Ch. 180 of the Borough Ordinances  
Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2020-003:** Zappa / Strange  
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 2020-003** shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of January 23, 2020.

**B. Ordinance 2020-004: Rapid entry systems**

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2020-004:** 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 2020-004** shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of January 23, 2020.

**C. Ordinance 2020-005: Salary and wage range - Zoning Officer**

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2020-005:** Hughes / Zappa

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 2020-005** shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of January 23, 2020.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

<b>RESOLUTION #</b>	<b>TITLE</b>
Resolution - 055 - 2020	Appointment of Zoning Officer
Resolution - 056 - 2020	Updated Boards and Committees
Resolution - 057 - 2020	Lien redemption

Mayor Lee spoke about the appointment of the Zoning Officer. Council discussed the need to have a temporary part-time Zoning Officer due to residency and as a shared service with Tuesday or Thursday evening hours as set hours.

Motion to approve the consent agenda items: Strange / Moore

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON**

Elaina Vaida, co-executive of 100 West Main St. stated that she went to court today and that no one from the Borough was present, that a call was scheduled for the following day with the Prosecutor, that discussion with the Prosecutor continues about property maintenance, and spoke to Council about the improvements made over the summer. Attorney Goodman suggested that there be a discussion with the Mayor about how to move forward offline. Mayor Lee spoke about the intent of move forward in a different manner than what the owner is doing at this time.

Anthony Catalanno Jr. spoke about his work over the summer, the intent to sell or rent the property, about the area in need of redevelopment plan not being feasible, details of the work being done, the intention to come out in the spring to do more work on the property, issues with environmental equipment stored in the building hindering a sale or rental, plans for dealing with the other buildings, and a statement that there is a willingness to communicate.

Pablo Delgado spoke about the 100 West Main St. redevelopment plan, that he appreciates the work being done but that he believes the property is in knock down and rebuild condition, that the price needs to be reduced, that the property is currently a detriment to the Borough, the hope of having a better ratable, that cleaning the property up would be a mile stone for other developers and offered assistance with the process moving forward.

Mayor Lee respectfully disagreed with the course of action the owners are taking on 100 West Main St.

**LEGAL ISSUES**

**BILL LIST**

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: \$5,497.79**

Motion to approve bill list: Strange / Moore

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**A.** New Jersey Highlands notification letter - Waste water management plan

**B.** Round Valley refurbishment project letter

Mayor Lee spoke about the New Jersey water authority contacted the Borough about needing to take down 24 trees north of the Commons Park which is co-owned with the Borough which is an effort to protect bordering private property.

**ADJOURNMENT: PRESIDING OFFICER ASKS IF THERE IS ANY FURTHER BUSINESS**

Motion to adjourn: Moore / Strange

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

**Next Council Meeting:** January 23, 2020 - 7:30 pm – Fire House, 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge, NJ

**ATTEST:**



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Adam Young  
Municipal Clerk



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Michele Lee  
Mayor