

# BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE – COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 27, 2020 – 7:30 p.m. – Location: 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge, NJ 08829

## CALL TO ORDER: CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR LEE

## FLAG SALUTE: LEAD BY MAYOR

## ROLL CALL

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

Also attending the public meeting is Attorney Barry Goodman, Administrator/Tax Collector/CFO Bonnie Fleming, Clerk Adam Young and eight members of the public and press.

## READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to dispense with the reading of the February 13, 2020 regular minutes: Hughes / Zappa

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Motion to approve the February 13, 2020 regular minutes: Hughes / Zappa

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

## VISITORS

A. Hunterdon Area Energy Cooperative presentation - Lisa Hibbs presented on the Hunterdon Area Energy Cooperative presentation, spoke about energy deregulation and how energy suppliers are selected, spoke about the pros and cons of community energy aggregation, and spoke about the opt-in/opt-out options of the plan. Councilman Zappa asked if increasing municipal membership would get better rates and if communication is mandated by law. Lisa spoke that it does put the municipality in a better place to get better rates and that communication is mandated by law. Mayor Lee asked about communications with other supplier letters is different than this municipal co-op and that she personally supports the program. Lisa spoke about the differences. Pablo Delgado asked about opt-out thresholds and if that will affect the rates, and if PSE&G customers are excluded. Lisa answered that it would not affect the ability to opt out of the system and that PSE&G customers will be included but perhaps with different rates. Contact information was shared: [www.njaggregation.us/haec](http://www.njaggregation.us/haec)

## PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON

## PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. Ordinance 2020-006: Authorizing participation in the Hunterdon County Cooperative - Electric

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2020-006: Strange / Zappa

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Council spoke about exploring the possibility of putting this Ordinance in place. Attorney Goodman stated that the documents within the Ordinance give authority to the Mayor to execute documents. Mayor Lee spoke about having more awareness events and the intent to speak with Council prior to signing documents.

Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2020-006: Strange / Zappa

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-006: Zappa / Strange

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

**B. Ordinance 2020-007: Purchase of sewer camera**

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2020-007: Strange / Zappa

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2020-007: Strange / Moore

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-007: Zappa / Strange

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

**C. Ordinance 2020-008: Sewer plant alarm system**

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2020-008: Strange / Zappa

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Councilman Zappa spoke about the intent of the Ordinance and the alarm which will alert personnel of an issue if needed.

Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2020-008: Strange / Moore

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-008: Moore / Strange

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

**D. Ordinance 2020-009: Ordinance to amend McDonald St. grant**

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2020-009: Zappa / Moore

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2020-009: Strange / Moore

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-009: Zappa / Strange

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

**E. Ordinance 2020-010: Purchase of bucket truck**

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2020-010: Strange / Moore

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Councilman Zappa spoke about the intent of the Ordinance and the need for a bucket truck. A used model has been found.

Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2020-010: Strange / Moore

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-010: Strange / Moore

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**A. Ordinance 2020-011: Ordinance confirming properties affected by vacations of portions of streets**

Mayor Lee spoke about the intent of this Ordinance, having more town hall meetings, and a public hearing.

Motion to introduce Ordinance 2020-011: Zappa / Moore

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Mayor Lee states that the **Ordinance 2020-011** shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of March 26, 2020.

**B. Ordinance 2020-012:** CAP bank

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2020-012:** Strange / Moore

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Mayor Lee states that the **Ordinance 2020-012** shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of March 26, 2020.

## INTRODUCTION OF BUDGET

**A. Resolution 085-2020** - Budget introduction - Public hearing on March 26, 2020

Mayor Lee states that no municipal increase to taxes is planned.

Motion to approve **Resolution 085-2020:** Zappa / Strange

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

## CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION #	TITLE
Resolution - 086 - 2020	Approval of septic system repair waiver request
Resolution - 087 - 2020	Approval to advertise for Summer Recreation positions
Resolution - 088 - 2020	Award of field maintenance contract
Resolution - 089 - 2020	Change order 1 for McDonald St.
Resolution - 090 - 2020	Escrow refund
Resolution - 091 - 2020	Hunterdon County open space grant
Resolution - 092 - 2020	Lien redemption
Resolution - 093 - 2020	Tax refund
Resolution - 094 - 2020	Golf cart lease
Resolution - 095 - 2020	Authorization of Social Affairs Permit - High Bridge Fire Department 1
Resolution - 096 - 2020	Authorization of Social Affairs Permit - High Bridge Fire Department 2
Resolution - 097 - 2020	Authorization of Social Affairs Permit - For High Bridge - Hot Drinks
Resolution - 098 - 2020	Commons Natural Recycling Facility dates

Motion to approve the consent agenda items: Zappa / Moore

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

Councilman Strange and Councilman Zappa abstain from Resolution 097-2020.

## COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS/GOALS

**Councilman Zappa - Department of Public Works / Engineering**

Spoke about an engineering notice for McDonald Street, road closure for this work, StreetScape, speaking with an engineering firm about Cregar Road bridge work, DPW landscaping, a sink hole filled in, looking for full time help with DPW, a recent water main break, DPW preparing for the McDonald Street project and recycling dates being posted on the website.

**Councilwoman Hughes - Public Health / Environmental / Solid Waste / Recycling**

The NJ Water Supply Authority received a watershed restoration grant which the High Bridge Environmental Commission will be involved in and spoke about applying for a Sustainable Jersey non-matching grant for \$20,000.

**Councilwoman Moore - Finance**

Announced the budget hearing for March 26th date.

**Councilman Strange - Emergency Services / Education / Open Space / Recreation**

Spoke about the PD trainings, bloodborne pathogen training, an LED yield sign has been requested from the County, Borough archive creation, routine maintenance on vehicles, read the Fire Department statistics, F.D. responding to a porch fire, completing mandatory training, Emergency Medical Services possible merger with Clinton discussions, a Recreation Committee meeting with Jersey Off Road Bicycle Association about trail closures, connection of trails between Municipalities, review of Recreation Committee Ordinances, a review of

2019 goals and 2020 goals moving forward including trail maintenance, Ordinance rewriting, and a map of the town.

**Councilwoman Ferry - Website / Newsletter / Historical / Special Events**

Spoke about the Historical Committee joining a national organization which assists Committees and museums, working on applications to the State and preserving architecture of the Solitude House, Events Committee goals being posted online, collecting sponsorships, having an update on the website redesign, and an April 24th deadline for the newsletter.

**Councilman Columbus - Golf / Economic Development Committee**

No report at this time.

**Administrator Bonnie Fleming - Administrator's report**

Financial documents done and introduced ahead of time, thanked Michael Pappas for his good transition information, working on the move of the natural recycling center, working with NJ transit for making sure dog park and pump track are in line, thanked Borough Hall staff for support.

**Mayor Michele Lee - Executive services**

Spoke about successful Coffee with the Mayor, alleyways with residents, a meeting of the Raritan Valley Line Mayor's Alliance and High Bridge's goals for weekend service, transit village, the 78/22 Coalition focusing on weekend train service, met with JCP&L about converting streetlights to LED, a meeting with the Huskies about converting lights on the field to LED, looking for energy saving ideas with the Environmental Commission, the new lease of golf carts at High Bridge Hills, and the website meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON**

Nancy Hunt spoke about having an individual helping to look through Solitude House to identify items and assist with possible future repairs.

**LEGAL ISSUES: NONE AT THIS TIME**

**BILL LIST**

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: \$989,807.32**

Motion to approve bill list: Strange / Moore

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**A.** Septic system repair waiver request - Report from Maser Consulting

**B.** Tax and Finance monthly reports

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

Motion to adjourn: Zappa / Strange

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

Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 absent

**Next Council Meeting:** March 12, 2020 - 7:30 pm – Fire House, 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge, NJ

**ATTEST:**



Adam Young  
Municipal Clerk



Michele Lee  
Mayor