

BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE – COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 8, 2020 – 7:30 p.m. – Location: WebEx online Council meeting

CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR LEE

FLAG SALUTE: LEAD BY MAYOR LEE

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 Administrator Bonnie Fleming, Municipal Clerk Adam Young and thirteen members of the public and press.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM MAYOR LEE

The Mayor read statistics about the Covid-19 pandemic, held a moment of silence for those who have passed, spoke about plans to start a joint treatment center at Raritan Valley Community College, asked for PPE donations for personnel on the front lines, spoke about the closing of the public parks and trails, spoke about High Bridge closing certain areas to avoid groups from forming, asked people to call the local law enforcement phone number if needed, spoke about local members of High Bridge making masks available, thanked High Bridge staff, and wished all a Happy Passover.

PROCLAMATIONS

- A.** Arbor Day – Read by Mayor Lee
- B.** Earth Day – Read by Mayor Lee

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to dispense with the reading of the March 26, 2020 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 March 26, 2020 regular 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

Gordon Marks asked for an update on the McDonald Street project, asked if the current GPS support contract has been canceled for savings, and asked if the contract for the new fleet of golf carts has been entered into. Mayor Lee spoke about the essential building continuing. Councilman Columbus spoke about having the GPS application rolled out in the future and getting more information about this. Administrator Fleming says the carts are due in.

Linda Demarzo asked if the carts are gas or electric and the status of the golf cart contract. Mayor Lee spoke about the carts being gas carts as the budget did not allow for electric carts. Mayor Lee and Councilman Columbus spoke about the six year contract but that the technology is getting better and hopes that the contract can be looked out during that time to see if there is an option for electric carts.

Marie and Joe Furka stated that they are opposed to the trails being closed. Mayor Lee spoke that the Columbia Trail being closed was enacted by the Governor. The Furkas asked if the Borough had any feedback for the State and County for this issue. Mayor Lee spoke in support of closing the trail due to safe distancing concerns. The Furkas stated that there is no way to keep automobiles away from each other when parking, that it is an overreach of the government to punish all people for some people's actions of not following the social distancing, spoke about opposing public officials having citizens call the Police if they see gatherings. Mayor Lee spoke about using other areas in the Borough, not gathering for the safety of others, and keeping this pandemic in perspective.

Kristen Evans asked how enforcement of keeping people off the trail will be done. Mayor Lee spoke that park rangers will be patrolling. Mayor Lee reiterated that closing parks is not easy for anyone but hopes that everyone can get by as best they can.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

- A.** **Ordinance 2020-024:** Appropriating an additional \$80,354 from Grant Fund for StreetScape Phase 2
- Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2020-024:** 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 2020-024** shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of April 23, 2020.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION #	TITLE
Resolution - 114 - 2020	Accept resignation of Michael Steinwand
Resolution - 115 - 2020	Ch 159 – StreetScape grant
Resolution - 116 - 2020	Resolution to join Hunterdon Area Energy Cooperative
Resolution - 117 - 2020	Updated boards and committees

Mayor Lee and Councilman Zappa thanked Michael Steinwand for a job well done.

Motion to approve the consent agenda: Hughes / Zappa

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

LEGAL ISSUES: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS

- A.** Resignation letter from Michael Steinwand
- B.** Monthly Tax and Finance Reports
- C.** Monthly Zoning Report
- D.** DEP Permit
- E.** Ch 159 – StreetScape grant award

BILL LIST

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: \$332,210.88**

Motion to approve bill list: Strange / Zappa

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

ADJOURNMENT: PRESIDING OFFICER ASKS IF THERE IS ANY FURTHER BUSINESS

Motion to adjourn: Strange / Zappa

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

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

ATTEST:



Adam Young
Municipal Clerk



Michele Lee
Mayor