

BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE – SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER READ BY MAYOR LEE

“The need for a Special Council Meeting exists as substantial harm to the public interest is likely to result from a delay in the holding of a meeting at a later date. The business of the meeting will be limited to extending the grace period for 2nd quarter property taxes to June 1, 2020. The need for such meeting could not reasonably be foreseen at a time when adequate notice could have been provided as the deadlines for publication in the Borough designated newspapers had passed when the Borough received notice of Executive Order 130. Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this Special Council Meeting was posted less than 48 hours prior to this meeting with notification sent to the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Easton Express times on April 28, 2020, and posted on the Borough website, and on the door at Borough Hall. Action may now be taken.”

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 Attorney Barry Goodman, Administrator Bonnie Fleming, Municipal Clerk Adam Young and sixteen members of the public and press.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to hold a special meeting of the Governing Body: Zappa / Hughes

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

Motion passes: 7 yes

Mayor Lee announced specifics about Executive Order 133 and how this may be handled in High Bridge as it pertains to parks and trails.

Administrator Fleming reiterated that the Resolution is to extend the grace period rather than the tax payment due date. Councilman Zappa asked about the ratio of residents who pay through a mortgage company versus make direct payments. Administrator Fleming confirmed that it is about fifty percent.

Resolution 124-2020: Resolution to extend grace period for 2nd quarter property taxes to June 1, 2020

Motion to adopt **Resolution 124-2020:** Strange / Zappa

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

Mr. Gordon Marks asked if there were any anticipated hardships to the Borough due to the change in the grace period, asked about the status of the golf course, and if the software for the carts is ready. Mayor Lee stated that there should be no hardship on the Borough for at least this quarter, that the plan is for the golf course to open and to keep other capital projects going, and that the software is ready for the golf carts. Councilman Columbus spoke about the application being implemented to keep score digitally.

ADJOURNMENT: PRESIDING OFFICER ASKS IF THERE IS ANY FURTHER BUSINESS

Motion to adjourn: Strange / Ferry

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Next Council Meeting: May 13, 2020 - 7:30 pm – Fire House, 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge, NJ or WebEx

ATTEST:



Adam Young
Municipal Clerk



Michele Lee
Mayor