

BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE – COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 23, 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 Attorney Barry Goodman, Administrator Bonnie Fleming, Municipal Clerk Adam Young and fourteen members of the public and press.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM MAYOR LEE

Mayor Lee thanked all involved and working for the Borough of High Bridge, read the New Jersey Covid-19 statistics, High Bridge statistics, and spoke about the passing of Mr. Henry Hagan and Mr. Robert Smith.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to dispense with the reading of the April 8, 2020 regular minutes: Hughes / Strange

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

Motion carries: 6 yes

Motion to approve the April 8, 2020 regular minutes: Hughes / Zappa

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

Motion carries: 6 yes

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON: NONE

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. Ordinance 2020-024: Appropriating an additional \$80,354 from Grant Fund for StreetScape Phase 2

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2020-024: Strange / Zappa

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

Motion carries: 6 yes

Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2020-024: Strange / Zappa

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

Motion carries: 6 yes

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-024: Zappa / Strange

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

Motion carries: 6 yes

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. May/June Borough Events - Councilwoman Ferry spoke about the May/June Borough events coming up, looking to reschedule some Borough events, the logistics and planning needed for each event, and funding Borough events. Mayor and Council agreed rescheduling is a good idea, that it is good to have Borough events to look forward to if possible, and discussed the need explore some other details and to keep reassessing how to proceed. Administrator Fleming spoke about considering the logistics for the start of the StreetScape project and considering other roads for the Soapbox Derby.

B. Trail signs – Councilman Strange spoke about moving forward with trail signage which does not give permission to utilize the trails at this time and acknowledged the mixed feelings of closings of trails and parks.

C. Summer Recreation program - Mayor Lee spoke about the difficulty of canceling the Summer Recreation program, that she is not ready to do this yet, spoke of difficult logistics in continuing the program including needing workers to get working papers. Councilman Strange spoke about the intent of possibly have other forms of recreation being done remotely and supported this idea. Councilman Zappa spoke about the logistics for this

typically starting in February which doesn't leave much time but that there may be other options to be explored.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION #	TITLE
Resolution - 118 - 2020	Appointment of Alternate JIF Commissioner
Resolution - 119 - 2020	Approve Trail Signage
Resolution - 120 - 2020	Self-examination of Budget
Resolution - 121 - 2020	Losap Awards
Resolution - 122 - 2020	OEM Stipend
Resolution - 123 - 2020	Rabies Clinic

Motion to remove **Resolution 122-2020** from the consent agenda: Strange / Zappa

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

Motion carries: 6 yes

Councilman Strange asked if a Rice notice is necessary for this item on the agenda. Attorney Goodman stated that it is not needed as the item is not being discussed in an Executive Session meeting.

Motion to adopt **Resolution 122-2020**: Zappa / Strange

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

Motion carries: 6 yes

Motion to approve the consent agenda: Zappa / Strange

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

Motion carries: 6 yes

COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Councilman Zappa - Department of Public Works / Engineering

Councilman Zappa spoke about McDonald Street work beginning again with drainage, a meeting for StreetScape, Commons brush drop off is closed at this time but DPW is still working by picking up bags of brush and leaves, DPW has been doing virtual safety classes and looking for a new Department of Public Works laborer.

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

Councilwoman Hughes spoke about electronics recycling event being rescheduled, the shredding event is still on but may be rescheduled.

Councilwoman Moore - Finance

Councilwoman Moore spoke about the budget being adopted, the self-examination of budget Resolution being on the agenda tonight, and that the audit has begun.

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

Councilman Strange spoke about rescheduling ideas for recreation items, redoing brochures to include new businesses, possible placing of a pedestrian crossing sign, working on Recreation Ordinances, read information from the Fire Department statistics, about the virtual meetings of the EMS merger, spoke about items which have held up the process, and spoke about the vehicle leases and use of the EMS building.

Councilwoman Ferry - Website / Newsletter / Historical / Special Events

Councilwoman Ferry spoke about the website being in a draft state for Committee review, the deadline of the newsletter being tomorrow, a draft of the Events Ordinance which may be proposed for the next meeting, doing a Zoom meeting for the Historical Committee, working on getting the Solitude House on the Historical Register and Solitude Repairs in the future.

Councilman Columbus - Golf / Economic Development Committee

Councilman Columbus spoke about getting new golf carts coming into the course and old carts being taken away, the course being closed at this time, and the drainage cleanout project by hole 15 being done.

Bonnie Fleming - Administrator

Administrator Bonnie Fleming spoke about investigating funding and loan options which may have a positive outcome for Borough projects, having a note sale soon, the newsletter is being prepared to go out in June, an application pending for the Town of Clinton for installation of a generator pad, a StreetScape meeting happening soon, interviews electronically for Department of Public Works laborer positions, Covid-19 expenses being tracked, and a thank you to Borough Hall staff.

Mayor Michele Lee - Executive Services

Mayor Lee spoke about a new web portal for contacting the Department of Labor directly, myunemployment.nj.gov, which is a contact resource, spoke about a job portal with job opportunities, jobs.covid19.nj.gov, spoke about signing a letter of support for Hunterdon County to receive funding in the next round of support, urged Councilmembers to work together to get support from legislators, spoke about the support phone number for seniors (908) 437-8039, the Hunterdon Help line which is (908) 782-4357 for all types of support, funding for low income housing at UnitedWay.nj.org, spoke about supporting local businesses, and receiving feedback that the online meetings are convenient.

LEGAL ISSUES: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS

- A.** Monthly Tax and Finance reports
- B.** Losap reports
- C.** Trail signs

BILL LIST

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: \$227,576.76**

Motion to approve bill list: Zappa / Moore

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

Motion carries: 6 yes

ADJOURNMENT: PRESIDING OFFICER ASKS IF THERE IS ANY FURTHER BUSINESS

Motion to adjourn: Zappa / Strange

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

Motion carries: 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