

# BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE – COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 25, 2020 – 7:30 p.m. – Location: WebEx online Council meeting

Please note: This meeting may contain discussion of items not mentioned on the agenda and, alternatively, any items specifically listed may be omitted.

## CALL TO ORDER

Presiding Officer calls meeting to order and states: “Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting date were posted online, published in the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Easton Express times on June 18, 2020, and posted on the door at Borough Hall. Action may now be taken.”

## FLAG SALUTE: LEAD BY MAYOR OR PRESIDING OFFICER

## 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 eight members of the public and press.

## ANNOUNCEMENT FROM MAYOR LEE: HELD TO THE REPORTS SECTION

## PROCLAMATIONS: NONE

## READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: REGULAR 06/11/2020

Motion to dispense with the reading of the June 11, 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 June 11, 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

Jeff Oliver from 52 Fine Road spoke about the trails being an asset to the community, spoke about the extensive process of getting approvals to do the work which has been done on the trails, spoke about unknown people starting to build other trails without approvals and being transparent with the building of trails. Mayor Lee spoke about the addition of other trails and keeping open communication with all builders and users.

## PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- A. Ordinance 2020-017:** Ordinance appropriating \$50,000 from current Capital Improvement Fund for the purchase of a 2020 Durango Police Vehicle and equipment

Motion to re-open the public hearing for Ordinance 2020-017: Strange / Ferry

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Steve Strange spoke about the proactive budgeting process of P.D. fleet management.

Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2020-017: Hughes / Ferry

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-017: Strange / Columbus

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

- B. Ordinance 2020-018:** Ordinance appropriating \$70,000 from current Capital Improvement Fund for the purchase of a tractor with a boom mower attachment

Motion to re-open the public hearing for Ordinance 2020-018: Zappa / Ferry

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Mayor Lee spoke about the need to have a boom mower. Councilman Zappa spoke about the need being present for a long time, struggling with other types of equipment to do this work, and prioritizing this item. Councilman Columbus spoke about this being able to be used at the golf course in the colder months as well.

Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2020-018: Hughes / Columbus

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-018: Zappa / Columbus

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

**C.** **Ordinance 2020-019:** Ordinance appropriating \$35,000 from current Capital Improvement Fund for the purchase of a Public Works F350 Pickup Truck

Motion to re-open the public hearing for Ordinance 2020-019: Columbus / Zappa

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Mayor Lee spoke about the intent of the Ordinance and the need to be utilized for snow plowing.

Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2020-019: Hughes / Strange

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-019: Zappa / Columbus

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

**D.** **Ordinance 2020-031:** Amend Borough Code, Article II, Special Events Committee

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2020-031: Columbus / Ferry

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Mayor Lee spoke about the intent of the Ordinance. Councilwoman Ferry spoke about aligning the Ordinance to some other Ordinances and defining more duties for the Committee within the Ordinance.

Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2020-031: Hughes / Strange

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-031: Strange / Ferry

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

**E.** **Ordinance 2020-032:** Creation of Chapter 8, Boards, Committees, and Commissions, Article VIII, Golf Committee

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2020-032: Strange / Zappa

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Mayor Lee spoke about the intent of the Ordinance to recreate the Golf Committee.

Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2020-032: Hughes / Ferry

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-032: Strange / Ferry

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**A.** Nassau Trail - Mayor Lee spoke about an issue of disagreement over the usage of trails, blockage of paths, reopening of paths, the need for Council to take ownership of the trails to make sure all users are enjoying the trails, and that no one should be making alterations to the trails without approval, supporting the trail builders, and ensuring that changes are approved, that the Recreation Committee, the Economic Development Committee, and the Environmental Committee will be involved. Councilman Strange spoke in support of protecting the trails

the Borough has and making sure that developing recreation is done in the right way, and spoke in favor of having consistent signage. Jeff Oliver and Thatcher Simpson thanked Council for the support, spoke about working with the residents to keep the trails sustainable and of quality, and thanked Council for the support to closing the trails during Covid-19.

## INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

**A. Ordinance 2020-033:** Amend Borough Code, Chapters 261 Parks and Playgrounds, Article 1 General Provisions and Chapter 8, Article IV, Parks and Recreation Committee

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2020-033:** Strange / 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 2020-033** shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of July 16, 2020.

**B. Ordinance 2020-034:** Hydrants

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2020-034:** Strange / 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 2020-034** shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of July 16, 2020.

## CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION #	TITLE
Resolution - 146 - 2020	Amend Professional Service Contract - Maser
Resolution - 147 - 2020	Apply for Department of Transportation Grant Application
Resolution - 148 - 2020	Chapter 159 - Clean Communities
Resolution - 149 - 2020	Change Order for StreetScape
Resolution - 150 - 2020	Award of Contract - Contract for Cleaning Borough Hall
Resolution - 151 - 2020	Contract for Police Radios
Resolution - 152 - 2020	Counter Tax Appeal
Resolution - 153 - 2020	Exempt Veteran/Refund
Resolution - 154 - 2020	Fire House Policies and Procedures
Resolution - 155 - 2020	HAEC Contract
Resolution - 156 - 2020	Parking on Main Street
Resolution - 157 - 2020	Police Comp Time
Resolution - 158 - 2020	Waiving alcoholic beverage license fees for 2020

Motion to approve the consent agenda: Strange / Zappa

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

## COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Councilman Zappa - Department of Public Works / Engineering

The McDonald Street road project is completed, the County doing landscaping and last corrections to the X-6 bridge, the DPW has repaired three water main breaks, repairing street water valves, service lines, a leak at the water tank, replaced a water pump motor, repaired some fire hydrants, filled in pot holes, replaced water meters, mowing grass, putting down mulch, moving dirt from the Commons, trimming of trees, new parking spots on Main Street, Borough Hall work, spoke about the new member working out quite well, and continuing to fix pot holes.

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

Spoke about Environmental, Environmental certifications being completed, watering planters on Main Street, document shredding, a sub-committee formed for the mini-park, and electronics recycling coming up.

Councilwoman Moore - Finance

Spoke about the 2020 tax rate, note sales, estimated 3rd quarter bills being sent out, reviewing refunding of 2010 bonds this summer, and the deadline July 1 for tax appeals.

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

Spoke about the first virtual Summer Recreation being out in the first week of July, the moving of mulch piles in the Commons, Clinton Township connecting to trails in High Bridge, maps for trails becoming available, the Recreation Ordinance being introduced, getting the new maps up on the website, the Adventure Race as a virtual race, the highlights of the Fire Department statistics, the Fire Department awards for response to the Mrs. Riley's fire, spoke about the South Branch Emergency Services (combined group) agreement moving along, minor P.D. vehicle repairs, thanked all Emergency Services for the job they are doing during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Councilwoman Ferry - Website / Newsletter / Historical / Special Events

Spoke about the July 11th concert, focusing one month at a time with the Events Committee for events, a family movie event coming up, the Historical Committee still working on projects, and the new website coming along soon.

Councilman Columbus - Golf / Economic Development Committee

Spoke about the Golf Committee Ordinance being introduced, read the golf statistics, spoke about the number of people per golf cart allowed, and that tee times are about twelve minutes long right now which is positive.

Administrator Bonnie Fleming - Administrator's Report

Spoke about receiving a grant from the Highlands Council, spoke about StreetScape finishing around Labor Day as of now, a Clean Communities grant being received, continuing preparation of opening Borough Hall with improvements, bids going out for West Main Street, working with the auditors electronically, the well eight generator being approved, tracking Covid-19 expenses, and following up on Borough claims.

Mayor Michele Lee - Executive Services Report

Spoke about New Jersey entering Phase 2 of the reopening, working with local businesses to reopen and be successful, entering into a contract for a better electric rate, continuing digital meetings for now, parking on Main Street being addressed with the potential of an additional twelve spots on Main Street,

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON**

Sally Ward read a poem reflecting on the times.

#### **LEGAL ISSUES: NONE**

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

- A.** Vapor Intrusion Testing Results
- B.** Tax and Finance Monthly Reports
- C.** High Bridge Police Collective Bargaining Agreement

#### **BILL LIST**

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: \$1,066,232.37**

Motion to approve bill list: Moore / Strange

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**

Steve Strange thanked Mayor Lee for her efforts during the Covid-19 pandemic. Mayor Lee spoke about the High Bridge numbers remaining low and thanked everyone for that effort.

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:** July 16, 2020 - 7:30 pm – Fire House, 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge, NJ or Online

**ATTEST:**



Adam Young  
Municipal Clerk



Michele Lee  
Mayor