

BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE – COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 10, 2020 – 7:30 p.m. – Location: Zoom 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 August 20, 2020, and posted 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, Clerk Adam Young and twenty-two members of the public and press.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: REGULAR 08/13/2020

Motion to dispense with the reading of the August 13, 2020 regular minutes: Hughes / Columbus

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Motion to approve the August 13, 2020 regular minutes: Hughes / Strange

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM MAYOR LEE: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON

Sally Ward read a statement thanking all those working so hard for their efforts.

Robert Poles spoke about Huskies Field usage and asked about practicing in certain areas which may be affected by the shutdown of Lake Solitude grounds. Council discussed the possibility of moving a sign to facilitate use of some space.

Councilman Zappa spoke about the leaf and brush pickup schedule being released soon and asked that leaves and brush not be put out quite yet.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. Ordinance 2020-042: Amending Ordinance 2014-19 to Confirm Properties Not Affected By Vacation of Portions of Streets

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2020-042: Strange / Zappa

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Administrator Fleming spoke about the intent of the Ordinance.

Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2020-042: Strange / Moore

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-042: Strange / Hughes

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Sale of Borough Property - Mayor and Council discussed how to proceed with the possible sale of Borough property near 77 Main Street and the Commons property entrance. Councilman Zappa spoke about having the property sold and getting it back to being taxable property. Discussion ensued about the location, that the sale will not affect other planned Borough projects, and that the sale will not inhibit placing of Borough signage.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

A. Ordinance 2020-043: Amend Code - Chapter 75

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2020-043:** Strange / Ferry

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 2020-043** shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of September 24, 2020.

B. Ordinance 2020-044: Refunding Bond

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2020-044:**

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 2020-044** shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of September 24, 2020.

C. Ordinance 2020-045: Sale of Borough Property and Enter Into Agreement

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2020-045:**

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 2020-045** shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of September 24, 2020.

D. Ordinance 2020-046: Amend Code - Chapter 12-11. Approval of Vouchers

Motion to introduce **Ordinance 2020-046:**

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 2020-046** shall be published in its entirety in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of September 24, 2020.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION #	TITLE
Resolution - 192 - 2020	Appointment of Floodplain Administrator - William Burr
Resolution - 193 - 2020	Appointment of Annual Assessment Program Inspector - Rick Roll
Resolution - 194 - 2020	Approval of Fireman - Joseph Starcher
Resolution - 195 - 2020	Approval of Fireman - Michael F. Etheridge
Resolution - 196 - 2020	Approve Advertising - Police Officer
Resolution - 197 - 2020	Award of Contract - Air Duct Cleaning
Resolution - 198 - 2020	Award of Contract - ETicketing
Resolution - 199 - 2020	ETicket Lease Agreement
Resolution - 200 - 2020	Extending Commons Natural Recycling Brush Drop-off Dates
Resolution - 201 - 2020	Plenary License Approval - Circa
Resolution - 202 - 2020	Plenary License Approval - Mrs. Riley's
Resolution - 203 - 2020	Procedures For Approving The Painting of Fire Hydrants
Resolution - 204 - 2020	Social Media Policy
Resolution - 205 - 2020	Updated Boards and Committees
Resolution - 206 - 2020	Utility Refund - 9 High Ct.
Resolution - 207 - 2020	Veteran's Tax Exemption Policy
Resolution - 208 - 2020	Veteran's Tax Exemption
Resolution - 209 - 2020	Authorization of Social Affair Permit - Califon Fire Department

Motion to remove Resolution 203-2020, Resolution 204-2020, and Resolution 205-2020 from the consent agenda:
Strange / Columbus

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Motion to approve the amended consent agenda: Hughes / Strange

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Resolution 203-2020: Procedures For Approving The Painting of Fire Hydrants

Councilman Zappa asked to confirm that the Creative Committee is a formally recognized entity. Discussion ensued that they are recognized from a 2019 Resolution created under the Green Team. Councilman Zappa asked that they be formally recognized by Ordinance or Resolution, whichever is more appropriate and asked the Attorney to review this. Mayor Lee stated that the group is willing to undertake this project. Councilwoman Ferry spoke to the new submission plan of a red hydrant with a white cap to address any concerns about visibility. Council discussion ensued on this. Mayor Lee asked Christina Whited to speak to gather information for the discussion. Christina Whited spoke about modifying the design to conform with what is being asked as it concerns colors and design.

Motion to approve Resolution 203-2020: Strange / Hughes

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Resolution 204-2020: Social Media Policy

Councilman Zappa spoke about some items in the proposed Resolution which are confusing and which need amending. Mayor Lee spoke that people have already started Borough Committee pages. Attorney Goodman stated that the Borough has a right to address the social media sites to help form the message from the Borough. Discussion ensued about the wording of some items.

Councilwoman Ferry asked how the current sites which have been created would be handled. Discussion ensued about how to proceed with this and what the intent is for the social media pages moving forward. Councilman Columbus stated that the policy should address the use of political views in the policy.

Motion to table Resolution 204-2020: Zappa / Ferry

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Resolution 205-2020: Updated Boards and Committees - Golf Committee Member Appointments

Councilman Columbus asked to add two more members to the already proposed three members of the draft Resolution so the Golf Committee would have a quorum; Kevin Gilighan and Isabelle Sylvestri for 2021 and 2022 seats. Mayor Lee spoke that she is not ready to appoint more members as she was not present at the last meeting, that she would like to get to some meetings and get to know members. Discussion ensued about how to move forward and about some of the credentials of those proposed to these seats.

Councilman Columbus made a motion with Councilman Strange seconding the motion to add the additional names and discussion ensued with Council deciding to table the Resolution for further discussion and review.

Motion to table Resolution 205-2020 to the next meeting: Ferry / Hughes

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

Sally Ward read and ode to everybody titled One Mother (Mother meaning Earth).

Michele Schwartz asked about paving on Thomas Street, if there was an update from the gas company, if they are going to do more paving on Thomas, congratulated Councilman Zappa on StreetScape work being done, and asked about the work being done on the Commons entrance. Councilman Zappa stated he will follow up on this and thanked Michele and explained the perception of the paved entrance work.

Isabel Silvestri spoke to having one Borough Facebook page with all Committees represented for ease of use, recommended no comments be allowed as policy, asked about clearing brush near stop signs for visibility and safety, says StreetScape looks good and asked about who is maintaining the previous StreetScape work, asked what the next steps to repairing the NJ transit bridge, alerted Council to a downed tree which may need to be removed for safety. Councilman Zappa stated that he will speak to the head of the Department of Public Works.

LEGAL ISSUES

Attorney Goodman spoke about a Government Records Council decision about an OPRA request in which the Borough prevailed and thanked the Records Custodians, Adam Young and Chief Brett Bartman, for their efforts.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A.** August Zoning Report
- B.** Tax and Finance Reports - July
- C.** Refunding Analysis - Bond

D. 77 Main Street Redevelopment

BILL LIST

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: \$284,150.28**

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

Motion to adjourn: Columbus / Moore

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

Motion passes: 6 yes

Next Council Meeting: September 24, 2020 - 7:30 pm – Fire House, 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge, NJ or Zoom

ATTEST:



Adam Young
Municipal Clerk



Michele Lee
Mayor