BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Date: April 22, 2021 – 7:30 p.m. – Location: Zoom virtual meeting

CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR LEE

FLAG SALUTE: LEAD BY MAYOR

ROLL CALL

Councilman Columbus	present	Councilwoman Moore	present	Mayor Lee	present
Councilwoman Ferry	present	Councilman Schwartz	present		
Councilwoman Hughes	present	Councilman Strange	present		

Also present were Attorney Barry Goodman, Administrator Bonnie Fleming, Clerk Adam Young and eighteen members of the public and press.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

A. Louis Bay Scholarship - Mayor Lee announced the Louis Bay scholarship submission winner Elizabeth Curtin. Mayor and Council congratulated her on her achievement.

PROCLAMATIONS:

A. Proclamation 001-2021 – Arbor Day – Mayor Lee read the Proclamation.
B. Proclamation 002-2021 – Earth Day – Mayor Lee read the Proclamation.
C. Proclamation 003-2021 – Recognizing High Bridge Students for Fundraising Effort – Mayor Lee read Proclamation 003-2021 recognizing High Bridge students for fundraising efforts and their donation for raising funds to replace the swing set at Union Forge Park. Mayor and Council thanked the students for a job well done.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: APRIL 8, 2021

Motion to dispense with the reading of the April 8, 2021, 2021 regular minutes: Hughes / Strange
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Moore, yes ; Schwartz, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes
Motion to approve the April 8, 2021 regular minutes: Hughes / Moore
Roll call vote: Columbus, abstain ; Ferry, yes ; Moore, yes ; Schwartz, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ;
Motion passes: 5 yes

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON: NONE

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. **Ordinance 2021-015:** Parking Kiosk
Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2021-015: Moore / Columbus
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Moore, yes ; Schwartz, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes
Mayor Lee spoke about the intent of the Ordinance, the history of parking in High Bridge.
Councilman Schwartz asked about how the kiosk will be utilized and if it will have any use in other places around the town, if the Borough has done a cost to revenue analysis, asked about the annual cost to run the machine and if the data connection is included, if the kiosk is needed to have the application work, how resident passes will work, what the annual expected revenue may be. Mayor Lee stated that the kiosk will be for the Commons parking area, that an analysis had been done using numbers from a Memorial Day week and that traffic in the area is high. Administrator Bonnie Fleming did a calculation of six months' worth of usage and the income will still cover the cost, stated that $10,000 is budgeted, it is $7,000 for the equipment with $4,000 annual running cost. Mayor Lee stated that the application that comes with this system will also be useful to handle parking in other areas of the Borough, that the kiosk is needed, and this system can generate revenue, spoke about other zones of parking in the Borough, and how different areas of the Borough may utilize this system for safely parking during high volume times and in high volume areas. Councilman Strange and Councilman Schwartz asked how resident passes would work. Chief Brett Bartman explained how the system can be utilized in different zones including Main Street, that residents will not have a cost but will need to register with the system, how the kiosk can accept

card payments, and other points of the utilizing the system including the use of license plates as an identification method. Attorney Goodman stated that zones should be utilized appropriately. Councilman Columbus asked about parking costs at the Commons. Mayor Lee stated the fees for the Commons. Councilman Strange stated the value of the system is also in having data for future projects, having a system which can lead to safety by maintaining proper access to areas, and stressed making sure that zones are done in an appropriate way to not create more issues. Discussion ensued of how more of the lots in the Borough may be utilized and how the appropriation process can work for the kiosk. Councilman Columbus spoke about planning of painting spots on Main Street to best utilize the area.
Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2021-015: Moore / Schwartz
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Moore, yes ; Schwartz, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes
Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-015: Hughes / Moore
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Moore, yes ; Schwartz, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

B. **Ordinance 2021-016:** Amend Borough Code, Chapter 261 Parks and Playgrounds
Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2021-016: Strange / Ferry
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Moore, yes ; Schwartz, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes
Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2021-016: Strange / Ferry
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Moore, yes ; Schwartz, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes
Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-016: Hughes / Ferry
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Moore, yes ; Schwartz, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

DISCUSSION ITEMS: NONE

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

A. **Ordinance 2021-017**: East Main and Highland Ave Phase 1 - Drainage
Motion to introduce Ordinance 2021-017: Strange / Schwartz
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Moore, yes ; Schwartz, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes
Mayor Lee states that the Ordinance 2021-017 shall be published in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of May 13, 2021.
B. **Ordinance 2021-018**: East Main and Highland Ave Phase 1 - Road Improvements
Motion to introduce Ordinance 2021-018: Schwartz / Strange
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Moore, yes ; Schwartz, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes
Mayor Lee states that the Ordinance 2021-018 shall be published in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of May 13, 2021.
C. **Ordinance 2021-019**: Fire House Air Conditioning Unit
Motion to introduce Ordinance 2021-019: Strange / Schwartz
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Moore, yes ; Schwartz, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes
Mayor Lee states that the Ordinance 2021-019 shall be published in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of May 13, 2021.
D. **Ordinance 2021-020**: Chapter 185 – Parking Meters and Pay Machines
Motion to introduce Ordinance 2021-020: Strange / Ferry
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Moore, yes ; Schwartz, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes
Mayor Lee states that the Ordinance 2021-020 shall be published in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of May 13, 2021.
E. **Ordinance 2021-021**: Sewer Pump House Renovations
Motion to introduce Ordinance 2021-021: Schwartz / Strange
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Moore, yes ; Schwartz, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

Mayor Lee states that the Ordinance 2021-021 shall be published in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of May 13, 2021.

F. **Ordinance 2021-022**: Valves and Piping for Well 8

Motion to introduce Ordinance 2021-022: Schwartz / Strange
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Moore, yes ; Schwartz, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes
Mayor Lee states that the Ordinance 2021-022 shall be published in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of May 13, 2021.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION #	TITLE
Resolution - 136 - 2021	Application for NJ Historic Trust Grant
Resolution - 137 - 2021	Approval of Fireman - Adrian Vannatta
Resolution - 138 - 2021	Authorization to Pay Electronic Check Processing Fee
Resolution - 139 - 2021	Body Cameras – Emergency Appropriation
Resolution - 140 - 2021	Body Cameras – Apply for Body Camera Grant
Resolution - 141 - 2021	Body Cameras – Award of Contract
Resolution - 142 - 2021	Borough Event Update – Town Wide Garage Sale
Resolution - 143 - 2021	Cancel Uncashed Checks
Resolution - 144 - 2021	Hydrant Testing Personnel Appointments
Resolution - 145 - 2021	Lien Redemption
Resolution - 146 - 2021	Tax Appeal
Resolution - 147 - 2021	Updated Planning Board and Board of Adjustment Fees for 2021

Motion to approve the consent agenda: Hughes / Moore
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Moore, yes ; Schwartz, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Columbus – Golf

Spoke about the Golf Committee focusing on golf experience and capital projects coming up, projects such as the control panel repair, path repair is about two-thirds complete, altering tee times, pond bubbler is ordered and scheduled to be installed, March statistics are strong, the best starting season in at least the last ten years, the demand for play remains strong, read the golf statistics, April numbers are strong, the Opener event kicked off well, High Bridge Hills Classic will be hosted, Section Championship will be held. Also, Comcast is upgrading their head end for faster speeds.

Councilwoman Ferry - Website / Newsletter / Historical / Events

Spoke about the Historical Committee working at Solitude House with painting and decorating, good Facebook page feedback, thanked the Committee members for their work, doing oral histories with residents, working with archiving items, spoke about a display for the Taylor family, lead paint and asbestos remediation, cable and Wi-Fi coming to Solitude House, pictorial history books available for purchase, unveiling the new Committee logo, reopening Solitude House to the town, driveway repairs needed, Springside Farm Action Committee worked to clean up Springside Farm, thanked those who donated tarps, trees have been acquired for planting, applied for the 2021 ANJEC grant, projects include wildlife tracking, tree nursey creation. Events Committee Soap Box has been rescheduled to September 4th, Pooch Parade has moved to June 5th, concert and movie dates will be coming, thanked sponsors for their support.

Councilwoman Moore – Finance

Spoke about the adjusted homestead tax bills with the homestead benefit credits were mailed to eligible recipients this month. If you did not receive an adjusted bill, you are not eligible. Utility bills will be going out the first week of May. A new option to pay your utility bill online at the High Bridge website waves the $1.50 convenience fee.

Councilman Schwartz - Department of Public Works / Engineering

Spoke about the Department of Public Works filling potholes, patched the Cregar Road transit bridge, moved earth from the Commons, bags available for residents, mowing, installing new water meters (380 installed to date), exercising valves as required, clearing a clog in a sewer pump, and sewer pump number two needs replacement. A message from the Director: Please use caution in the street where Department of Public Works employees are working. Also, April 12 is the start of the first round of brush pickup. You can call DPW for a water meter replacement. Leaf bags are free to residents of High Bridge. Spoke about Engineering projects such

as Washington Ave River Road Water Main project which has been completed. New project will be paving Route 513 and there will be traffic reductions during this paving time, met with NJ Transit about the status of the Cregar Road bridge. The design will be complete as of June with a start date to the work by March 2022 and a finish date of September 2022. Colliers, the Borough's Engineering firm, is designing phase 1 of the sewer station renovations. Met with Suez about the Borough's water tanks and their condition, their recommendation for upgrading them to meet current standards, recoating of one tank, and the coating of another tank possibly in the next two to four years.

Councilman Strange - Emergency Services / Economic Development Committee

Spoke about the Fire Department Report, read the statistics, read a note from Chief Smith about campfires in the Borough and how to obtain a permit. Read parts of the Police Annual 2020 report including statistics, hiring, staffing, investigations, and patrolling. Spoke about the Economic Development Committee meeting of the Committee on April 6th focusing on the QR code signs and their implementation, discussing grants for tails around town, looking at updating the welcome packet, spoke about usage of the Springside trails and getting information out about usage of the trails.

Councilwoman Hughes - Public Health / Environmental / Solid Waste / Recycling / Open Space / Recreation

Thanked Girl Scout Troop 80222 for maintaining the gardens around the gazebo. A reminder; no flushing of wipes should be done in the Borough to avoid issues with the sewer system. Electronics Recycling Event is this weekend at Union Forge.

Administrator Bonnie Fleming - Administrator's Report

Spoke about working on coordinating the Historical Grant applications and timing of proposed Historical Committee projects, looking for grant opportunities, reviewing the capital budget, looking into long term maintenance of the water tanks, parking in the Borough and plans for Lake Solitude, and plastic recycling box at Borough Hall.

Mayor Michele Lee - Executive Services

Spoke about having a more organized Borough than last year to help everyone through the busy season and adjust as needed, looking at the use of the Springside trails with a new Trails Committee to increase communication with the area and the Borough, mentioned the flushable wipes issue, and the Mayor's Walk in High Bridge this Sunday.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 5 MINUTES PER PERSON: NONE

LEGAL ISSUES: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS

A. Monthly tax and finance reports
B. ANJEC Letter of Support

BILL LIST

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: $2,360,876.31**
Motion to approve bill list: Strange / Moore
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Moore, yes ; Schwartz, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

ADJOURNMENT: PRESIDING OFFICER ASKS IF THERE IS ANY FURTHER BUSINESS

Motion to adjourn: Moore / Schwartz
Roll call vote: Columbus, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Moore, yes ; Schwartz, yes ; Strange, yes ; Hughes, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

Next Council Meeting: May 13, 2021 - 7:30 pm – Zoom virtual meeting

ATTEST:

Adam Young
Municipal Clerk

Michele Lee
Mayor