# BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE
# REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: August 17, 2023 – 7:30 p.m. – Location: Fire House, 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge NJ

## CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR LEE

## FLAG SALUTE: LEAD BY MAYOR

## ROLL CALL

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Councilman Doyle | present | Councilman Nowell | present | Mayor Lee | present |
| Councilwoman Ferry | present | Councilman Schwartz | present | | |
| Councilman Graham | present | Councilman Silvestri | present | | |

Also present were Attorney Barry Goodman, Deputy Administrator Brett Bartman, Municipal Clerk Adam Young and nine members of the public and press.

## READING OF PRIOR MINUTES: 07/20/2023 AND 08/08/2023

Motion to dispense with the reading of the July 20, 2023 regular minutes: Ferry / Nowell
Roll call vote: Doyle, yes ; Graham, yes ; Nowell, yes ; Schwartz, yes ; Silvestri, yes ; Ferry, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes
Motion to dispense with the reading of the August 8, 2023 special meeting minutes: Ferry / Silvestri
Roll call vote: Doyle, yes ; Graham, yes ; Nowell, yes ; Schwartz, yes ; Silvestri, yes ; Ferry, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

## APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES: 07/20/2023 AND 08/08/2023

Motion to approve the July 20, 2023 regular minutes: Ferry / Graham
Roll call vote: Doyle, yes ; Graham, yes ; Nowell, yes ; Schwartz, yes ; Silvestri, yes ; Ferry, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes
Motion to approve the August 8, 2023 special meeting minutes: Ferry / Nowell
Roll call vote: Doyle, yes ; Graham, yes ; Nowell, yes ; Schwartz, yes ; Silvestri, yes ; Ferry, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes
Motion to approve the August 8, 2023 special meeting executive session minutes: Ferry / Nowell
Roll call vote: Doyle, yes ; Graham, yes ; Nowell, yes ; Schwartz, yes ; Silvestri, yes ; Ferry, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

## VISITORS:

**A.** Senator Andrew Zwicker and Assemblyman Roy Fryman spoke about working in partnership with the Mayor and Council, presented the four million dollar check to assist with capital projects, and spoke about continued partnership with the Borough.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS: 3 MINUTES PER PERSON

Sally Ward spoke about Sen. Zwicker's comments of working together with Assemblyman Freiman, their positive work on the senior freeze program and the anchor program, and thanked them for their work.

## PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE

## WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

**A.** July Zoning Report

## OLD BUSINESS:

**A.** Engineering Updates - Councilman Silvestri spoke about ongoing updates with the work and repairs for the Bunnvale well project, Department of Public Works hiring initiatives, the Stormwater Engineers retained by the Borough, the Center Street/Hart Street water main replacement bids, Safe Routes to School project updates, working with the State requirements about lead and galvanized pipe replacement including service lines to homes, engineering costs being addressed, receiving permits to open the Dewey Avenue recycling center along with dates and compliance items, and the name updates to a contractor doing paving projects.

## NEW BUSINESS:

**A.** Consent Agenda

| RESOLUTION # | TITLE |
|---|---|
| Resolution - 218 - 2023 | Acceptance of 2022 Audit |
| Resolution - 219 - 2023 | Appointment of DPW Laborer - 1 |
| Resolution - 220 - 2023 | Appointment of DPW Laborer - 2 |
| Resolution - 221 - 2023 | Approve Proposal for Professional Planning Services - Redevelopment Plan for 1 Main Street |
| Resolution - 222 - 2023 | Approve Proposal for Professional Planning Services - Stormwater Mapping Proposal and Highlands Request |
| Resolution - 223 - 2023 | Authorization of Social Affairs Permit - High Bridge Fire Department |
| Resolution - 224 - 2023 | Award of Bid - Center Street and Hart Street Water Main Replacement |
| Resolution - 225 - 2023 | Borough Event Exemptions to Provisions of Chapter 268, Article 1 |
| Resolution - 226 - 2023 | Contract Clarification - Nassau Paving Contractor Name Change |
| Resolution - 227 - 2023 | Contract Clarification - Sunset Mary Jo Hoffman Sylvan Jane and Mine Paving Contractor Name Change |
| Resolution - 228 - 2023 | Emergency Appropriation - Current Fund - River Road and Penn Bower |
| Resolution - 229 - 2023 | Emergency Appropriation - Sewer - Engineering |
| Resolution - 230 - 2023 | Emergency Appropriation - Water - Engineering |
| Resolution - 231 - 2023 | Recycling Center Hours |
| Resolution - 232 - 2023 | Veteran's Tax Exemption - Dezellem |

Motion to approve the consent agenda: Ferry / Nowell
Roll call vote: Doyle, yes ; Graham, yes ; Nowell, yes ; Schwartz, yes ; Silvestri, yes ; Ferry, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

## INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES:

**A.** **Ordinance 2023-026**: Drive-through Facilities Ordinance
Motion to introduce Ordinance 2023-026: Nowell / Graham
Roll call vote: Doyle, yes ; Graham, yes ; Nowell, yes ; Schwartz, yes ; Silvestri, yes ; Ferry, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes
Mayor Lee states that the Ordinance 2023-026 shall be published in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of September 28, 2023.

**B.** **Ordinance 2023-027**: Off-street Parking and Loading Ordinance and Conditional Use Updates
Motion to introduce Ordinance 2023-027: Ferry / Nowell
Roll call vote: Doyle, yes ; Graham, yes ; Nowell, yes ; Schwartz, yes ; Silvestri, yes ; Ferry, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes
Mayor Lee states that the Ordinance 2023-027 shall be published in the Express Times and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of September 28, 2023.

## LEGAL ISSUES:

Attorney Goodman spoke about an OPRA request filing with the GRC concerning a special service charge with possible mediation and about the purpose of having an executive session pertaining to 100 West Main Street.

## APPROVAL OF BILL LIST:

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: $1,937,457.25**
Motion to approve bill list: Ferry / Nowell
Roll call vote: Doyle, yes ; Graham, yes ; Nowell, yes ; Schwartz, yes ; Silvestri, yes ; Ferry, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

## PUBLIC COMMENTS: 1 MINUTE PER PERSON

Sally Ward stated that the Borough is lucky to have Barry Goodman and praised his work.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION: LEGAL ADVICE CONCERNING LITIGATION WITH THE ESTATE OF PETER VAIDA AND 100 WEST MAIN STREET

**Resolution 233-2023** - Motion to move into executive session: Ferry / Nowell
Roll call vote: Doyle, yes ; Graham, yes ; Nowell, yes ; Schwartz, yes ; Silvestri, yes ; Ferry, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes - Action may now be taken.
Motion to return to open session: Graham / Nowell
Roll call vote: Doyle, yes ; Graham, yes ; Nowell, yes ; Schwartz, yes ; Silvestri, yes ; Ferry, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

## ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn: Nowell / Silvestri
Roll call vote: Doyle, yes ; Graham, yes ; Nowell, yes ; Schwartz, yes ; Silvestri, yes ; Ferry, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

**Next Council Meeting:** September 14, 2023 - 7:30 pm – Fire House, 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge, NJ

**ATTEST:**

Adam Young
Municipal Clerk

Michele Lee
Mayor