# BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE
# REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 24, 2024 – 7:30 p.m. – Location: Fire House, 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge NJ

## CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR LEE

## FLAG SALUTE: LEAD BY MAYOR LEE

## ROLL CALL

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

Also present were Attorney Brett Bartman, Clerk Adam Young and seventeen members of the public and press. Attorney Barry Goodman attended via audio visual platform.

## READING OF PRIOR MINUTES: 04/11/2024

Motion to dispense with the reading of the April 11, 2024 regular minutes: Silvestri / Graham
Roll call vote: Doyle, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Graham, yes ; Matos, yes ; Silvestri, yes ; Nowell, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

## APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES: 04/11/2024

Motion to approve the April 11, 2024 regular minutes: Silvestri / Ferry
Roll call vote: Doyle, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Graham, yes ; Matos, yes ; Silvestri, yes ; Nowell, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

## VISITORS: NONE

## PUBLIC COMMENTS: 3 MINUTES PER PERSON

Sally Ward spoke about not supporting Resolution 099-2024 and hummingbirds in High Bridge. Kim Farrier spoke about the Town Hall / Historic Committee information meeting, concerns with future limitations within the district, and not supporting Resolution 099-2024 at this time.

## PUBLIC HEARINGS:

**A.** **Ordinance 2024-012:** Capital Improvement - Center Street and Various Road Improvements

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2024-012: Silvestri / Graham
Roll call vote: Doyle, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Graham, yes ; Matos, yes ; Silvestri, yes ; Nowell, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes
Councilman Silvestri spoke about the intent of the Ordinance. Mayor Lee spoke about the project being paid for with grant funds.
Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2024-012: Silvestri / Ferry
Roll call vote: Doyle, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Graham, yes ; Matos, yes ; Silvestri, yes ; Nowell, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes
Motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-012: Silvestri / Ferry
Roll call vote: Doyle, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Graham, yes ; Matos, yes ; Silvestri, yes ; Nowell, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

## WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

**A.** Recycling Tonnage Grant

## OLD BUSINESS:

**A.** Resolution 099-2024 - Resolution for acceptance of award from New Jersey Historic Trust Preservation Fund in the amount of $26,550.00 for the Taylor Wharton And Steel Company Historic District Application

Motion to un-table Resolution 099-2024: Silvestri / Ferry
Roll call vote: Doyle, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Graham, yes ; Matos, yes ; Silvestri, yes ; Nowell, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes
Mayor Lee spoke about the Town Hall / Historic Committee information meeting format, impacts to Borough public property usage by Green Acres and usage within the proposed district, building safety requirements, building repair/maintenance costs, use of structures, and suggested completing the budget process prior to considering adoption of Resolution 099-2024. Councilwoman Matos spoke about the presentation and planning of the Town Hall / Historic Committee information meeting, project communications, Borough properties within the proposed boundaries, donating Council stipends to offset costs, the purpose of Resolution 099-2024 to define the bounds of the district, maintain the buildings, and to begin the grant application and research. Councilwoman Ferry spoke about further Council review being required to move the project forward, reviewing the video of the meeting, communications regarding the previous Grounds for Arts event, and support for the Grounds for Arts. Councilman Nowell spoke about concerns with increased State control of Borough property and difficulty leaving the program if needed.
Motion to approve Resolution 099-2024: Ferry / Matos
Roll call vote: Doyle, no ; Ferry, yes ; Graham, yes ; Matos, yes ; Silvestri, yes ; Nowell, no ;
Motion passes: 4 yes, 2 no

## NEW BUSINESS:

**A.** Consent Agenda

| RESOLUTION # | TITLE |
|---|---|
| Resolution - 145 - 2024 | Appointment of Lead-Safe Certification Contractor – Lew Environmental Svcs. |
| Resolution - 146 - 2024 | Authorizing High Bridge Borough To Conduct A Self-Examination Of The 2024 Budget |
| Resolution - 147 - 2024 | Award of Bid – Center Street Improvement Project |
| Resolution - 148 - 2024 | Golf Rates |
| Resolution - 149 - 2024 | Resolution Requesting NJDOT Extension For Central Ave, Union Ave & Hart St Improvement Project |
| Resolution - 150 - 2024 | Utility Rates and Fees Updated |

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

## INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES:

**A.** **Ordinance 2024-013**: Amending Borough Code Chapter 120 Animals
Motion to introduce Ordinance 2024-013: Ferry / Nowell
Roll call vote: Doyle, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Graham, yes ; Matos, yes ; Silvestri, yes ; Nowell, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes
Mayor Lee states that the Ordinance 2024-013 shall be published in the Hunterdon Review and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of May 9, 2024.

**B.** **Ordinance 2024-014**: Approving The Amendment To Chapter 275 Property Maintenance To Establish Article Iv Replacement Of Lead Service Lines In The Borough Code
Motion to introduce Ordinance 2024-014: Ferry / Nowell
Roll call vote: Doyle, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Graham, yes ; Matos, yes ; Silvestri, yes ; Nowell, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes
Mayor Lee states that the Ordinance 2024-014 shall be published in the Hunterdon Review and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of May 9, 2024.

**C.** **Ordinance 2024-015**: Ordinance Setting Construction Fees
Motion to introduce Ordinance 2024-015: Ferry / Nowell
Roll call vote: Doyle, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Graham, yes ; Matos, yes ; Silvestri, yes ; Nowell, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes
Mayor Lee states that the Ordinance 2024-015 shall be published in the Hunterdon Review and/or the Hunterdon County Democrat along with the public hearing date of May 9, 2024.

## COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:

| Official | Department |
|---|---|
| Councilman Doyle | Golf/Emergency Services/Finance |
| Councilwoman Ferry | Education |
| Councilman Graham | Open Space & Recreation |
| Councilwoman Matos | Historical |
| Councilman Nowell | Website/Newsletter/Social Media/Public Health/Environmental/Solid Waste/Recycling |
| Councilman Silvestri | Department of Public Works & Engineering |
| Administrator Bartman | Administrator's Report |
| Mayor Michele Lee | Executive Services |

## COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:

Councilman Doyle - Golf/Emergency Services/Finance

Spoke about meeting with the Golf Committee, golf statistics, golf events, Fire Department statistics, Chief Sean Smith is seeking volunteers for the Fire Department, Police Department statistics, Police Officer training, residential business security surveys are being offered by the P.D., Emergency Medical Services statistics, EMS recruiting, and the introduction of the budget.

Councilwoman Ferry - Education

Spoke about the coming Board of Education meeting for the approval of the school budget and encouraged residents to participate.

Councilman Graham – Open Space and Recreation

Spoke about meeting with the Recreation Committee, recreation events and planning, bike safety event planning, pump track and flow trails are open, Hunterdon Games planning, and completing new brochures.

Councilwoman Matos - Historical

Spoke about events planned and searching for volunteers for the Historical Committee. Contact Councilwoman Matos via email.

Councilman Nowell - Website/Newsletter/Social Media/Public Health/Environmental/Solid Waste/Recycling

Spoke about the Environmental Commission cleanup event, thanked DPW for assistance, event planning and participation, receipt of two trees for planting, Garden Club grant, and sending out the newsletter.

Councilman Silvestri - Department of Public Works & Engineering

Spoke about the DPW taking over maintenance of the dog park which is currently closed, field maintenance, recycling center and recycling service details, road project information and timeline updates, water meter replacements, and grounds maintenance.

Administrator Bartman - Administrator's Report

Spoke about the forestry management plan, grant timelines and work completed, meeting with Teamsters 469, grounds maintenance coordination, redevelopment plan and Ordinance updates, and onboarding new Borough Hall staff.

Mayor Michele Lee - Executive Services

Spoke about 1 Main Street not being owned by the Borough, further Planning Board review pending for 1 Main Street, the Soap Box Derby event organizers are stepping back and new volunteers are needed. Contact Mayor Lee with interest.

## LEGAL ISSUES: NONE

## APPROVAL OF BILL LIST:

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: $2,454,429.02**

Motion to approve bill list: Ferry / Graham

Roll call vote: Roll call vote: Doyle, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Graham, yes ; Matos, yes ; Silvestri, yes ; Nowell, yes ;

Motion passes: 6 yes

## PUBLIC COMMENTS: 1 MINUTE PER PERSON

A resident spoke about the need to pave Dennis Avenue and concerns with drainage in the area. Mayor Lee spoke about needing to review the plans. Jonathan Duff spoke about needing more communication about road repair delays. Councilman Silvestri spoke about timeframes being longer for State and Federal projects. Leah Epstein spoke about appreciating the communication from Council. Karyn Gove thanked Council for the work

on the softball fields. Ed Szaliga spoke about Council's role with the development of projects and their financial impact.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION: NONE

## ADJOURNMENT:

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

**Next Council Meeting:** May 9, 2024 - 7:30 pm – Fire House, 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge, NJ

**ATTEST:**

Adam Young
Municipal Clerk

Michele Lee
Mayor