BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 26, 2025 – 7:30 p.m. – Location: EMS Building, 95 West Main Street, High Bridge NJ

CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR LEE

The Mayor asked for a moment of silence for the memory of Cheryl Okie.

FLAG SALUTE: LEAD BY MAYOR LEE

ROLL CALL

Councilwoman Conroy	present	Councilwoman Hamlin	present	Mayor Lee	present
Councilman Doyle	present	Councilwoman Matos	present		
Councilwoman Ferry	present	Councilman Nowell	present		

Also present were Attorney Wendy Quiroga, Administrator Brett Bartman, Clerk Adam Young and nine members of the public and press.

READING OF PRIOR MINUTES: NONE AS PER RESOLUTION 083-2025

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES: 03/13/2025

Motion to approve the March 13, 2025 regular minutes: Nowell / Doyle
Roll call vote: Conroy, yes ; Doyle, yes ; Ferry, abstain ; Hamlin, yes ; Matos, yes ; Nowell, yes ;
Motion passes: 5 yes, 1 abstention

VISITORS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 3 MINUTES PER PERSON: NONE

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. **Ordinance 2025-004:** Amend Chapter 2-20 Appointment

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2025-004: Nowell / Doyle
Roll call vote: Conroy, yes ; Doyle, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hamlin, yes ; Matos, yes ; Nowell, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes
Clerk Young spoke about the intent of the Ordinance.
Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2025-004: Nowell / Doyle
Roll call vote: Conroy, yes ; Doyle, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hamlin, yes ; Matos, yes ; Nowell, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes
Motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-004: Nowell / Doyle
Roll call vote: Conroy, yes ; Doyle, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hamlin, yes ; Matos, yes ; Nowell, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

B. **Ordinance 2025-005:** Amend Chapter 261 Parks and Playgrounds

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2025-005: Nowell / Doyle
Roll call vote: Conroy, yes ; Doyle, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hamlin, yes ; Matos, yes ; Nowell, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes
Councilwoman Hamlin spoke about the intent of the Ordinance.
Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2025-005: Nowell / Doyle
Roll call vote: Conroy, yes ; Doyle, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hamlin, yes ; Matos, yes ; Nowell, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes
Motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-005: Nowell / Doyle
Roll call vote: Conroy, yes ; Doyle, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hamlin, yes ; Matos, yes ; Nowell, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

C. **Ordinance 2025-006:** Amend Ch 303 - Grease traps and other appliances; curb vents and cleanouts

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2025-006: Nowell / Doyle

Roll call vote: Conroy, yes ; Doyle, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hamlin, yes ; Matos, yes ; Nowell, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes
Councilman Nowell, Councilwoman Hamlin, and Mayor Lee spoke about the intent of the Ordinance as it pertains to grease traps and illicit connections, inspections, and the cost decrease to residents over time.
Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2025-006: Nowell / Doyle
Roll call vote: Conroy, yes ; Doyle, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hamlin, yes ; Matos, yes ; Nowell, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes
Motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-006: Nowell / Doyle
Roll call vote: Conroy, yes ; Doyle, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hamlin, yes ; Matos, yes ; Nowell, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Resignation of Tax Reassessment Officer
B. Police Department Annual Report

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Consent Agenda

RESOLUTION #	TITLE
Resolution - 119 - 2025	Accept Resignation of Gary Mills
Resolution - 120 - 2025	Approve Resolution For Governor's Council On Substance Use Disorder - Fiscal Grant Cycle October 2020 - June 2026
Resolution - 121 - 2025	Authorize Colliers for I-Bank Application
Resolution - 122 - 2025	Authorizing the Appointment of Aaron Wilson as Annual Assessment Program Officer
Resolution - 123 - 2025	Award of Contract - Galvanized Water Service Line Replacement
Resolution - 124 - 2025	Award of Contract - Golf Equipment
Resolution - 125 - 2025	Borough Event - Environmental Commission
Resolution - 126 - 2025	LOSAP - Fire Department
Resolution - 127 - 2025	Shared Service Agreement - Califon Street Sweeping

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

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES:

A. Ordinance 2025-007: Amending Borough Code Ch. 261-5, Disorderly Conduct
Motion to introduce Ordinance 2025-007: Nowell / Doyle
Roll call vote: Conroy, yes ; Doyle, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hamlin, yes ; Matos, yes ; Nowell, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes
Mayor Lee states that the Ordinance 2025-007 shall be published in the Hunterdon Review and/or the Star Ledger along with the public hearing date of April 10, 2025.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:

Councilwoman Conroy – Green Team / Board of Health / Environmental Commission
Councilwoman Conroy spoke about Green Team trail monitoring, reminder about picking up trail garbage, a recent successful Borough event, donations of bulbs for planting, and a review of grants.
Councilman Doyle – Golf / Emergency Services
Councilman Doyle spoke about an all-female fire call, read Fire Department statistics, an invitation to join the Fire Department, read Police Department statistics, read South Branch statistics, offering community CPR training and a fundraising event.
Councilwoman Ferry – Education
Councilwoman Ferry spoke about High Bridge Youth Historians recognizing students for doing local research, school budget processes continuing, Sustainability Committee mailer, and the Board of Education meeting date.

Councilwoman Hamlin – Website / Newsletter / Social Media / Economic Development Committee / Open Space and Recreation
Councilwoman Hamlin spoke about the Film-ready program certification, providing additional information about businesses, the Criterium Race event, thanked the Recreation Committee, hiking trail updates, and the newsletter being sent.
Councilwoman Matos – Historical
Councilwoman Matos spoke about the planning of the 250th of the American Revolution and coming events, hosting the first Solitude House event for the year, and coming Historic Committee events.
Councilman Nowell – Finance / Creative Team / Department of Public Works and Engineering
Councilman Nowell spoke about coming Creative Team events, the Dewey Ave. recycling center being open daily including metal and electronics recycling, and the beginning of road projects.
Administrator Bartman – Administrator's Report
Administrator Bartman spoke about progress with the Forestry Management plan, grant updates, coordinating shared services with local municipalities, meetings for installation of fiber optic cables, attending meetings for trail maintenance, the budget process continuing, and meeting with department heads.
Mayor Lee – Executive Services
Mayor Lee spoke about the Commons Bathroom installation beginning, the budget process, speaking to the County about local tourism and Transit Village, PBA contract negotiations, and thanks for Director of DPW Brandon Metz.

LEGAL ISSUES:

Attorney Quiroga gave an update of the status of the Affordable Housing process and the possible need for a Resolution in the future.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST:

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: $650,192.14**
Motion to approve bill list: Nowell / Doyle
Roll call vote: Conroy, yes ; Doyle, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hamlin, yes ; Matos, yes ; Nowell, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 1 MINUTE PER PERSON

Melissa Gibbs spoke about the taxes, asked about reading the budget and addressing the tax rate.
Mayor Lee spoke about the posting of the budget on the Borough website. Councilwoman Hamlin and Councilwoman Conroy spoke about the breakdown of the taxes and budgets.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: NONE

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Next Council Meeting: April 10, 2025 - 7:30 pm – Fire House, 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge, NJ

ATTEST:

Adam Young
Municipal Clerk

Michele Lee
Mayor