BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 8, 2025 – 7:30 p.m. – Location: Fire House, 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge NJ

CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR LEE

FLAG SALUTE: LEAD BY MAYOR OR PRESIDING OFFICER

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 six members of the public and press. Councilwoman Ferry attended via Zoom audio visual platform.

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

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES: 04/24/2025

Motion to approve the April 24, 2025 regular minutes: Nowell / Doyle
Roll call vote: Conroy, yes ; Doyle, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hamlin, yes ; Matos, yes ; Nowell, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

VISITORS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 3 MINUTES PER PERSON

Mary Murdock asked about website calendar postings, gazebo estimates, Police Officer benefits amount, costs for gas line installation. Administrator Bartman spoke about researching gazebo replacements, benefit amount currently being unknown, and the gas lines being at no cost to the Borough. Clerk Young spoke about Borough events being posted on the Borough calendar. Jonathan Duff asked about the intent of Resolution 147-2025. Administrator Bartman spoke about the intent of the Resolution. Sally Ward wished everyone a happy spring and support for the 1 Main Street easement. Ildiko Meijer spoke about difficulties with the sale of properties due to high taxes and varying assessments. Mayor Lee and Councilwoman Hamlin spoke about the Governing Body not having any control over the tax assessments. Administrator Bartman and Attorney Quiroga spoke about reaching out to the Tax Assessor or the County about the issue.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. **Ordinance 2025-008:** Ordinance To Exceed The Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits Providing for a 3.5% "cap" For The 2025 Budget And To Establish A Cap Bank Pursuant to N.J.S.A 40A:4-45.14

Motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2025-008: Nowell / Doyle
Roll call vote: Conroy, yes ; Doyle, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hamlin, yes ; Matos, yes ; Nowell, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes
Administrator Bartman spoke about the intent of the Ordinance. Mary Murdock asked if this will affect the taxes. Administrator Bartman spoke about the Ordinance's purpose and getting more information from the Corporate Finance Officer.
Motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2025-008: 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 2025-008: Nowell / Doyle
Roll call vote: Conroy, yes ; Doyle, yes ; Ferry, yes ; Hamlin, yes ; Matos, yes ; Nowell, yes ;
Motion passes: 6 yes

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

A. April Administrator's Report
B. April Tax Collector's Report
C. April Zoning Report
D. Recycling Tonnage Comparison Report

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Consent Agenda

RESOLUTION #	TITLE
Resolution - 146 - 2025	Appointment of Temporary Probationary Police Officer
Resolution - 147 - 2025	Approval of Design Consultant for Safe Routes to School FY24 Design Assistance Program
Resolution - 148 - 2025	Approval of Elizabethtown Gas Gas Extension Contract - High Bridge Hills Golf Course
Resolution - 149 - 2025	Authorization of Client Services For The FY26 Municipal Aid Grant For The Transit Village application
Resolution - 150 - 2025	Authorization of Social Affairs Permit - High Bridge Fire Dept. - Summer Bash
Resolution - 151 - 2025	Authorization to Execute the Easement Agreement For 1 Main Street
Resolution - 152 - 2025	Lien Redemption
Resolution - 153 - 2025	Shared Service Agreement - High Bridge Board of Education
Resolution - 154 - 2025	Updated Boards and Committees
Resolution - 155 - 2025	Veteran Tax Exemption - McCarthy
Resolution - 156 - 2025	Veteran Tax Exemption - Torres

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: NONE

COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT REPORTS: NONE

LEGAL ISSUES: NONE

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST:

Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List. **Total Amount: $1,033,182.05**
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

Mary Murdock asked about safe routes signage. Mayor Lee and Administrator Bartman spoke about working on this task in a separate grant and what the current Safe Routes Resolution covers. Mayor Lee spoke about the intent of the public comments section.

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: May 22, 2025 - 7:30 pm – Fire House, 7 Maryland Ave., High Bridge, NJ

ATTEST:

Adam Young
Municipal Clerk

Michele Lee
Mayor