

**MINUTES  
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING,  
BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG,  
HELD AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 111 RIVER STYX ROAD  
HOPATCONG, NEW JERSEY  
DECEMBER 3, 2014  
OPEN PUBLIC MEETING 7:30 PM**

---

**CALL TO ORDER:** Announce Quorum

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT:** Mayor Petillo stated "This meeting is held in accordance with the 1975 Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-6 et seq., annual notice having been forwarded to the New Jersey Herald/New Jersey Sunday Herald, and posted on the bulletin board maintained in the Municipal Building for public announcements." (Mayor noted fire exits)

**ROLL CALL:** The Clerk called the roll and the following members were present: Councilman Bunce, Councilman Francis, Councilwoman Galate, Councilwoman Klein, Councilman Padula, Councilman Young and Mayor Petillo.

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Petillo invited all present to salute the flag and to remain standing for a moment of silence.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

At this time Mayor Petillo presented awards to the Hopatcong Warriors Super Pee Wee Football team who went undefeated this season with a record of 10-0.

At this time Mayor Petillo presented awards to participants in the "Girls on the Run" Community Impact Program.

At this time Mayor Petillo presented an award to Rita Russomanno, Ambulance Squad Member, who received the State award for 2014 Outstanding EMT.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

- a. Catherine Schultz, Municipal Clerk, read the "Statement of County Canvassers."
- b. Mayor Petillo administered the Oath of Office to Councilman-Elect Frank Padula for a two year unexpired term expiring December 31, 2016.

**OEM REPORT**

At this time, Bob Haffner, OEM Coordinator, updated the Council on the Thanksgiving snowstorm.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Mayor Petillo allowed each member of the Council, to present their respective committee reports.

Councilwoman Galate thanked Officer Haffner and Ron Jobeless for all of their hard work during the storm. She reported that the Seniors are on an Atlantic City trip today and that they have a meeting tomorrow. They are planning their trips for next year. She also congratulated Frank Padula on his election win.

Councilman Francis stated that Cathy Schultz and Christy Rehe participated in a conference call with the County this week regarding the Farmer's Market. The County is going to help streamline the application process so that there is less of a wait time for approval. He also stated that in the new year the Borough is considering putting two large pieces of municipally owned property.

Councilman Young stated that there are 88 basketball players signed up for this year's program and 37 bowlers. He stated that the Recreation Commission is busy on their end of year holiday events and discussing next year's programs. The Environmental Commission is also thinking ahead to the new year and their programs. They would like

to set up a Facebook account for the Commission. He also said that the Commission invited a beekeeper to attend their meeting and that he is very knowledgeable and will be a good resource for the Commission.

Councilman Bunce reported that the DPW was ready for the storm last week and that is why they get the trucks and machinery ready even before the winter begins. He stated that the Finance Committee is gathering all of the budget information from the departments. He congratulated Rita on her EMT award and thanked her for her dedication to the residents. He also stated that Santa will be at Firehouse #3 on Sunday after the Tree Lighting Ceremony. He reported that tomorrow the Water/Sewer Department will be working on a valve by Pavinci's on River Styx Road and that water will be shut off to the surrounding areas until the valve is replaced.

Mayor Petillo reported that the 2015 Borough calendar has been sent to the printer and she thanked the office staff for working so hard on it. All of the photos in the calendar are of the "olden" times in Hopatcong and she thinks that it is wonderful.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mayor Petillo opened the meeting to the public for any questions or comments concerning items on the agenda for which no public discussion is provided. (Comments limited to 5 minutes).

After giving all persons present an opportunity to address the Governing Body, Councilman Bunce made a motion to close the meeting to the public and return to the regular order of business. Seconded by Councilman Young. All were in favor.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Councilman Bunce made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 5, 2014. Seconded by Councilwoman Galate.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Klein, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Francis, Padula

Councilman Young made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the Special Meeting held on November 17, 2014.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Padula, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Francis, Galate, Klein

#### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

At this time Robert Elia, Borough Administrator, presented his report for the meeting of December 3, 2014. Mr. Elia stated that there is a resolution on tonight designating the Borough holidays for 2015. The offices will now be open on Election Day and closed on Christmas Eve. He also reported that there is a change order on for adoption for the Dupont Avenue project. There is a decrease of approximately \$15,000. He discussed the Bond ordinance explaining that the Borough is refinancing our sewer debt through the NJEIT program and that we need to bond \$250,000 to cover the administrative costs. It is most likely that we will not have to use the money since the sale of the premiums usually covers the cost. Mr. Elia also reported that the Borough received \$7500 for the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" grant program.

Mr. Elia requested an Executive Session to discuss matter of personnel.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Mayor Petillo requested that all persons present review the consent agenda. If any member of the Council or public wishes an item on the consent agenda to be discussed and considered separately, a motion to this effect shall so be made at this time.

After all persons have had an opportunity to review the consent agenda and offer requests for changes, Mayor Petillo requested a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Councilwoman Galate made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for December 3, 2014. Seconded by Councilman Young. All were in favor.

## **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

### **Introduction of Ordinance #37-2014 – Bond Ordinance**

Councilman Bunce made a motion to introduce an ordinance entitled “A BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING BOND ORDINANCE NUMBER 30-2005 (WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE SANITARY SEWERAGE SYSTEM (PHASE ONE AND PHASE TWO)) HERETOFORE FINALLY ADOPTED BY THE BOROUGH COMMON COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2005, TO INCREASE THE APPROPRIATION BY \$250,000 AND TO INCREASE THE AUTHORIZATION OF BONDS OR NOTES BY \$250,000”. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Galate, Klein, Padula, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

**FINAL READING: DECEMBER 17, 2014**

## **ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:**

### **RESOLUTIONS:**

#### **Resolution #2014-304 – 2015 Borough Holidays**

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the 2015 Borough Holidays. Seconded by Councilwoman Galate.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Galate, Klein, Padula, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

#### **Resolution #2014-307 – Current Fund Budget Transfers**

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing certain Current Fund Budget Transfers. Seconded by Councilwoman Galate.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Galate, Klein, Padula, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

#### **Resolution #2014-308 – Change Order #2, Dupont Avenue Drainage**

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing Change Order #2, as amended, for the Dupont Avenue Drainage Improvements for a decrease of \$14,295.88. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Galate, Klein, Padula, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

#### **Resolution #2014-310 Payment of Bills**

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the payment of bills for the meeting of December 3, 2014, pulling check numbers 1219, 34958, 34986 and 34991. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Galate, Klein, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Councilman Bunce made a motion to authorize the payment of check numbers 1219, 34958, 34986 and 34991. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Klein, Padula, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Galate

Resolution #2014-311 – Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Year End Holiday Crackdown

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution in support of the “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over 2014 Year End Holiday Crackdown” from December 5, 2014 through January 2, 2015 and pledges to increase awareness of the dangers of drinking and driving. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Galate, Klein, Padula, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2014-312 – Special Item of Revenue, Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution asking the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of \$7,500 into the budget for the Borough of Hopatcong under the caption “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over 2014 Year End Holiday Crackdown”. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Galate, Klein, Padula, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Discussion – Sponsor Signs

At this time a discussion took place regarding a recommendation from the Recreation Commission to implement a fundraiser for “sponsor signs”. The Councilpersons discussed their concerns regarding what fields would be involved, how the fees would be collected and how they would be spent, and the esthetics of how they would look. They all agreed that the monies collected would have to be used for field maintenance and not be given to any of the sports organizations directly. The Council asked the Administrator to get more information before they made a decision.

Social Affair Permit – Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club

Councilman Bunce made a motion to approve a Social Affair Permit submitted by the Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club to hold an event on January 17, 2015 from 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm at Hudson Farm. Seconded by Councilwoman Galate. All were in favor.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Mayor Petillo** opened the meeting to the public for any questions or comments concerning the good and welfare of the Borough. (Comments limited to 5 minutes).

After giving all persons present an opportunity to address the Governing Body, Councilman Bunce made a motion to close the meeting to the public and return to the regular order of business. Seconded by Councilman Young.

**RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss personnel. Seconded by Councilman Young. All were in favor.

THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT ALLOWS THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC FROM A PORTION OF A MEETING IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG THAT THE PUBLIC SHALL BE EXCLUDED FROM DISCUSSION OF MATTERS ALLOWED BY NEW JERSEY LAW.

THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES WILL BE PLACED ON FILE IN THE BOROUGH CLERK’S OFFICE, AND WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AS PROVIDED FOR BY NEW JERSEY LAW.

Be further advised this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adjourn Executive Session and return to the regular order of business. Seconded by Councilman Young. All were in favor.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adjourn the meeting of December 3, 2014. Seconded by Councilman Young. All were in favor.

---

Sylvia Petillo, Mayor

---

Catherine Schultz, RMC