

**MINUTES
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING,
BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG,
HELD AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 111 RIVER STYX ROAD
HOPATCONG, NEW JERSEY
MARCH 2, 2016
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, Councilman Padula, Councilman Schindelar, 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.

INTRODUCTION OF 2016 MUNICIPAL BUDGET:

At this time, Mayor Petillo introduced Paul Ralph Picone, the Borough auditors who presented to the Governing Body and the public the 2016 Municipal budget. A copy of the budget presentation is attached. The proposed budget will increase \$22.00 for an average residential home valued at \$214,256. The breakdown is as follows: 28 cents goes to municipal budget, 54 cents goes to the school and 18 cents goes to the County. The County and School amounts are approximate numbers because they haven't introduced their budgets as of yet. They are based on a 2% increase.

Introduction Ordinance #07-2016 – Exceed Budget Appropriation Limits and To Establish a Cap Bank

Councilman Bunce made a motion to introduce an ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2016". Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

FINAL READING: APRIL 6, 2016

Resolution #2016-63 – Introduction of 2016 Budget

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution introducing the 2016 Budget for the Borough of Hopatcong. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

BUDGET HEARING: APRIL 6, 2016 OR SOON THEREAFTER

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

Councilwoman Galate stated that the senior meetings are going well and very well attended. She also reported that the Farmers Market planning is underway and that the committee is reaching out to vendors.

Councilman Francis reported on last night's Land Use meeting. He stated that there were 4 routine applications on the agenda for residents doing home improvements.

Councilman Young reported that the Environmental Commission is working on obtaining grants for trails. He stated that they have scheduled the tree give-away for April 23rd and are planning their Arbor Day celebrations and the Lake Hopatcong Block Party. Councilman Young also stated that the Recreation Commission has scheduled the Easter Egg Hunt for March 20th with a rain-date of April 10th. He stated that the Street Hockey Program will be starting soon as well as all of the spring sports.

Councilman Young stated that the Range Committee has begun their research but that they have nothing to report at this time.

Mayor Petillo stated that the Lake Hopatcong Foundation has received a \$20,000 grant to be used on trails in Hopatcong Borough.

Councilman Bunce stated that we held a bid opening for the DPW Wash Bay and that all of the bids we probably be rejected because the amounts were too high. He also stated that the Ambulance Squad is beginning the process for their building expansion. He reported that the Armed Forces Relief will be holding their spring event on May 22, 2016.

Councilman Padula reported that the newly formed Redevelopment Committee met in February and that they are working on their charter. The next meeting will be on April 5, 2016.

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).

David Harris asked if the Borough will be saving money by the refunding of the bonds and Mr. Elia reported that we will be saving approximated 2.6 million over the next 15 years. He stated that this was the first opportunity for the Borough to refund these bonds.

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 Young made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 17, 2016. Seconded by Councilman Young. All were in favor except for Councilman Schindelar who abstained.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: At this time Robert Elia, Borough Administrator, presented his report for the meeting of March 2, 2016.

Mr. Elia reported that there is a resolution on this evening to enter into an agreement with Max Span Reality Group to market Borough owned properties. They will get a 10% commission but the buyer will pay it.

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.

CORRESPONDENCE (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING ONLY OF THE FOLLOWING):

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Tax Collector Monthly Report: January 2016.
2. Construction Dept. Monthly Report: January 2016.

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Social Affair Permit: Boy Scouts of America, Hudson Farm Club. May 24, 2016.

RESOLUTIONS: (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Resolution # 2016-60 – Outside Lien Redemption, Blk: 11111 Lt: 28.
2. Resolution # 2016-61 – Outside Lien Redemption, Blk: 11010 Lt: 10, Blk: 40204 Lt: 26.
3. Resolution # 2016-62 – Outside Lien Redemption, Blk: 10408 Lt: 1, Blk: 11019 Lt: 8,
Blk: 30209 Lt: 6.

Councilman Young made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for the meeting of March 2, 2016. Seconded by Councilman Bunce. All were in favor.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

Introduction Ordinance #06-2016- Auction of Municipal Property, Portion of Block 30306, Lot 20.

Councilman Bunce made a motion to introduce an ordinance entitled “AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN PROERTY OWNED BY THE BOROUGH AND NOT REQUIRED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES AND MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS A PORTION OF BLOCK 30306, Lot 20”. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

FINAL READING: MARCH 16, 2016

Introduction Ordinance #08-2016- Auction of Municipal Property, Portion of Block 31603, Lot 19.

Councilman Young made a motion to introduce an ordinance entitled “AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN PROERTY OWNED BY THE BOROUGH AND NOT REQUIRED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES AND MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS 4 KISLING AVENUE, BLOCK 31603, LOT 19”. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

FINAL READING: MARCH 16, 2016

Introduction Ordinance #09-2016 – Refunding Bond Ordinance

Councilman Bunce made a motion to introduce an ordinance entitled “REFUNDING BOND ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY (THE “BOROUGH”) PROVIDING FOR (i) THE REFUNDING OF CERTAIN OUTSTANDING GENERAL REFUNDING BONDS OF 2006 AND SEWER REFUNDING BONDS OF 2006 OF THE BOROUGH DATED SETPEMBER 1, 2006 TO PROVIDE DEBT SERVICE SAVINGS, AND (ii) AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS OF THE BOROUGH TO EFFECT SUCH REFUNDING AND APPROPRIATING THE PROCEEDS THEREFOR”. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

FINAL READING: MARCH 16, 2016

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:

Adoption of Ordinance #04-2016 – Farmers Market Fees

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt an ordinance entitled “AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 108 TO DELETE FARMERS MARKET FEES”. Seconded by Councilman Francis.

Before final roll call, Mayor Petillo will open the meeting to the public for any questions or comments that they may have regarding Ordinance #04-2016.

There being no one from the public who wished to address the Governing Body regarding Ordinance #04-2016, Councilman Francis 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.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: Galate Absent: None Abstentions: None

Adoption Ordinance #05-2016 – Partially Vacating a Portion of Squaw Trail Right-of-Way

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt an ordinance entitled “AN ORDINANCE PARTIALLY VACATING A PORTION OF SQUAW TRAIL RIGHT-OF-WAY IN THE BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY”. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Before final roll call, Mayor Petillo will open the meeting to the public for any questions or comments that they may have regarding Ordinance #05-2016.

There being no one from the public who wished to address the Governing Body regarding Ordinance #05-2016, 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.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #2016-64 – Payment of Bills

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the payment of bills for the meeting of March 2, 2016, pulling check numbers 3706, 37057 and 37063. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Councilman Bunce made a motion to approve the payment of check numbers 3706, 37057 and 37063. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Galate

Resolution #2016-65 – Child Abuse Prevention Month

Councilman Francis made a motion to adopt a resolution proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention month in the Borough of Hopatcong. Seconded by Councilman Young. All were in favor.

Resolution #2016-66 – Real Estate Broker Services

Councilman Francis made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to execute an agreement with Max Spann Real Estate & Auction Company as the Real Estate Broker for the Borough of Hopatcong. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2016-67 – Dedication by Rider

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution requesting permission for the Dedication By Rider for Hopatcong Creative Arts Council required by NJSA 40A:5-29. Seconded by Councilman Francis.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2016-68 – Creative Arts Council

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution recognizing the Hopatcong Creative Arts Council as the Creative Team. Seconded by Councilman Padula.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Roadway Fund Drive Collection Request – Knights of Columbus

Councilman Francis made a motion to approve a request from the St. Jude's Knights of Columbus to conduct a fund drive on Saturday, March 12, 2016 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm on Hopatchung Road. Seconded by Councilwoman Galate. All were in favor.

Discussion – Task Force for Property Maintenance and Abandoned Properties

At this time a discussion took place regarding the formation of a Task Force for Property Maintenance and Abandoned Properties. Mayor Petillo appointed Councilman Francis as the chairman and Councilwoman Galate volunteered to help. Councilman Francis stated that this is becoming a huge problem in our town and needs to be addressed.

Open Space Committee Appointments

Councilman Young made a motion to approve the following appointment - Jule Girman, Mayor Appointment (replacing Joan Reilly) - to the Open Space Committee with term expiring December 31, 2016. Seconded by Councilman Bunce. All were in favor.

Recreation Commission Appointment – Darrin DiNapoli

Councilman Young made a motion to approve the following appointment to the Recreation Commission - Darrin DiNapoli – filling unexpired term – 12/31/20. Seconded by Councilman Bunce. All were in favor.

Mayor Petillo stated that she has appointed Henry Schmidt and Diana Scotto to the Senior Advisory Committee

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. All were in favor.

David Hughes addressed the Governing Body regarding Public Defender fees and wanted to know why the town paid them \$400 on this bill list.

Mr. Elia stated that the town pays a part and the applicant pays a portion. The courts make the rules when it comes to public defenders.

Elaine Vigliotti, 6 Maple Place, once again addressed the Governing Body regarding the proposal to put a firing range near her home. She stated that there was a gate installed on the roadway going in to the property which makes it difficult for people to get to the trails. She also stated that she has found other properties in town that may be more suitable than that location. She wanted to know when the committee will be giving a report.

Councilman Bunce stated that many of her questions were answered by the Mayor at the last meeting.

Councilman Francis stated that the committee will be gathering information and that after their review they will make a recommendation to the Council.

Alice Stolarz stated that even though this Governing Body may make a decision regarding the firing range that politicians change.

Mara Modes asked about the locked gate and Mayor Petillo stated that it needs to be kept locked because people go up there and dump illegally.

Mrs. Grove also addressed the range and wanted to know why all of the towns and the County don't build a range that can be used by all of the police departments. Then it could be used in shared service agreements.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adjourn the meeting of March 2, 2016. Seconded by Councilman Young. All were in favor.

Sylvia Petillo, Mayor

Catherine Schultz, RMC