

**MINUTES
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING,
BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG,
HELD AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 111 RIVER STYX ROAD
HOPATCONG, NEW JERSEY
JANUARY 17, 2017
EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:30 PM
OPEN PUBLIC MEETING 7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER: Announce Quorum

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT: Mayor Francis 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 role and the following members were present: Councilman Bunce, Councilwoman Galate, Councilman Padula, Councilman Schindelar, Councilman Young and Mayor Francis.

Absent: Councilman Hoferkamp

RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

Councilman Young made a motion to adjourn the meeting until 7:30 pm. Seconded by Councilman Padula. All were in favor.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT: Mayor Francis 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 role and the following members were present: Councilman Bunce, Councilwoman Galate, Councilman Padula, Councilman Schindelar, Councilman Young and Mayor Francis.

Absent: Councilman Hoferkamp

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

PRESENTATIONS:

At this time Mayor Francis presented proclamations to Shannon O'Sullivan, Emily Biller, Emily Hinczynski and Alyssa Giering from Troop 94071 and Celia Wardlow, Francisca Madalena and Kayla Irby from Troop 94201 for obtaining the Girl Scouts Silver Award.

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

Councilwoman Galate reported that the Police Committee will meet in April and that the Farmers Market Committee will be meeting next week.

Councilman Schindelar stated that the Real Estate Committee met last week and that they are considering properties to put up for auction.

Councilman Young reported that Danette Swanson was once again appointed as the Chairperson for the Recreation Commission at their Reorganization meeting. He stated that there are two resolutions on this evening to approve the Summer Recreation Fees and the Hockey Fees. The Summer Rec fees will be the same as last year, but the Hockey fees will be raised \$5.00.

Councilman Young stated that the Municipal Alliance discussed their budget and restrictions on how that money can be spent. They also discussed Kidfest, school-based programs, Project Graduation and their next movie night, which will be held on January 19th. (Despicable Me 3)

Councilman Bunce stated that the DPW and W/S Committees will be meeting later this week. He also reported that the Finance Committee is actively working on the budget with administration.

Mayor Francis stated that the Mayor's Work Program is running smoothly and that we have new clients.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: At this time, Borough Administrator, Ron Tappan, presented his report for the meeting of January 17, 2018.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Councilman Young made a motion to open 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). Seconded by Councilman Bunce. All were in favor.

Mara Modes questioned the Resolution dealing with personnel records and wondered why if it is necessary if State Statute governs such matters.

Mayor Francis stated that this would ensure the chain of custody for personnel records and protect employees' expectation of privacy.

Mr. Ursin stated that this would ensure chain of custody issues and public access.

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 Reorganization Meeting held on January 3, 2018. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Hoferkamp Abstentions: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Francis 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, Councilman Bunce made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Hoferkamp Abstentions: None

CORRESPONDENCE (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING ONLY OF THE FOLLOWING):

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Zoning Monthly Report: December 2017.
2. Construction Report: 2017.
3. Tax Collector Monthly Report: December 2017.

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Resolution # 2018-22: Outside Lien Redemption Blk: 30904 Lt: 4.
2. Resolution # 2018-23: Outside Lien Redemption Blk: 31603 Lt: 37.
3. Resolution # 2018-24: Outside Lien Redemption Blk: 40108 Lt: 6.
4. Resolution # 2018-25: Outside Lien Redemption Blk: 30510 Lt: 10.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

Introduction Ordinance #01-2018 – Vacating a Portion of Purdue Trail Right-of Way

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

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Hoferkamp Abstentions: Galate

FINAL READING: FEBRUARY 7, 2018.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #2018-21 – Payment of Bills

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the payment of bills for the meeting of January 17, 2018, pulling check numbers 17-00066, 00234, 00400, 00611, 00898, 00933, 01938, 02113, 02147, 02170, 02175, 02176, 02234, 18-00006. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Hoferkamp Abstentions: None

Councilman Bunce made a motion to authorize the payment of invoice numbers 17-00066, 00234, 00400, 00611, 00898, 00933, 01938, 02113, 02147, 02170, 02175, 02176, 02234, 18-00006. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Hoferkamp Abstentions: Galate

Resolution #2018-26 – Duties, Responsibilities and Compensation for Clerk 3 (Deborah Ryan)

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the duties, responsibilities and compensation for Clerk 3, Deborah Ryan with an increase from \$37,785.24 to \$40,335.25, effective January 1, 2018. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Hoferkamp Abstentions: None

Resolution #2018-27 – Contract Award – Two Police Vehicles and Associated Equipment

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing a contract with Beyer Ford, under state contract #88730, for the purchase of two police vehicles and all associated equipment in an amount of \$92,871.34. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Hoferkamp Abstentions: None

Resolution #2018-28 – 2018 “Camp for Kids” Fees

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the fees for the 2018 “Camp for Kids”. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Hoferkamp Abstentions: None

Resolution #2018-29 – 2018 Street Hockey Fees

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the fees for the 2018 “Street Hockey Fees”. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Hoferkamp Abstentions: None

Resolution #2018-30 – Policy Regarding Personnel Records

Councilman Schindelar made a motion to table until the next meeting a resolution creating a policy for the review of personnel records. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Hoferkamp Abstentions: Padula

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Councilman Bunce made a motion to open the meeting to the public for any questions or comments concerning the good and welfare of the Borough. (Comments limited to 5 minutes). Seconded by Councilman Young. All were in favor.

Mary Volker, 49 N. Western Way stated that she was very disturbed about the accusations being made about Cathy Millian and defended her and the job that she is doing at the Senior Center.

Sue Gorglione, Recreation Commission Member, also stated that she is very disturbed about the accusations being made about Cathy Millian and defended her character and the job she is doing on Recreation and for the Seniors. She questions how the media got a hold of her personnel records.

Mr. Ursin responded that we don't know how it occurred but that the law protects confidential personnel records. The media obtained a copy of her records, and they weren't released through an OPRA request. He stated that it could be a change of

custody issue and that the town doesn't have subpoena powers to question people further.

Joanne Langowski stated that she heard that Councilwoman Galate claimed that she threatened her and wanted the public and the Council to know that she never threatened Councilwoman Galate. She stated that the Councilwoman should be ashamed of herself for saying that and spreading such gossip. She stated that the Councilwoman should not be making false accusations and shouldn't be pulling her into the personal vendetta she has against an employee.

Roy McQueen, 136 Durban Avenue stated that he has lived in town for 49 years and thinks that Cathy is doing a great job.

Kathleen Mitchell, Papakating Road, stated that she is proud of this town and that it doesn't need any bad press. She stated that Cathy is very well respected and that she does a great job.

Jerry Laimers asked if Mr. Tappan knows the editor of the blog and Mr. Tappan responded that he didn't

Mayor Francis stated that the editor didn't speak to anyone here at Borough Hall. The Borough and its employees don't discuss personnel with internet bloggers.

Mark Smith, a resident of Lake Lackawanna, asked about the status of the proposed Firing Range.

Councilman Young responded that all of the preliminary work is done but that we have done nothing since.

David Harris, 125 Dupont Ave, stated that he spoke with the County and that they are proposing perhaps paving Lakeside Ave in the fall of 2018 or spring of 2019. He was told that the project was on the short list.

Mara Modes asked if the Clerk has reported that there were any break-ins in her office.

Mayor Francis said that there have been no reports of a break in.

Karen Jacobson stated that she believes that Cathy Millian is doing a good job.

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.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adjourn the meeting of January 17, 2018. Seconded by Councilman Young. All were in favor.