

**MINUTES
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING,
BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG,
HELD AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 111 RIVER STYX ROAD
HOPATCONG, NEW JERSEY
APRIL 18, 2018
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 roll and the following members were present: Councilman Bunce, Councilwoman Galate, Councilman Hoferkamp, Councilman Schindelar, Councilman Young and Mayor Francis.

Absent: Councilman Padula

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 Frank Steinberg and Chief John Wilkerson paid tribute to the first female firefighter in Hopatcong Borough, Patricia Brooks, who recently passed away. See attached speech made by Frank Steinberg.

Mayor Francis commented that a firefighter runs in while everyone else is running out and that we should honor our people.

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

Councilwoman Galate stated that she had no updates.

Councilman Hoferkamp commented that Joanne Flexser from the Hopatcong Municipal Alliance will be hosting a senior luncheon at Pavinci's on May 10, 2018 at 11:45am. Councilman Hoferkamp thanked the Finance Committee for assisting in a Resolution on the Agenda for purchasing a new Senior Bus.

Councilman Schindelar stated that he had no updates.

Councilman Young commented that the Recreation Commission reviewed the Easter Egg Hunt which was moved to the Hopatcong High School main gym and stated that dividers were used to separate age groups. Councilman Young further stated that the field trip prices for the summer rec. program were also discussed. He stated that street hockey had begun two weeks ago and enrollment was up this year from last year as well as previous years. He informed the Council that discussions took place in regards to closing or locking facilities; and the Recreation Commission did not want to lock the facilities. Councilman Young mentioned that a field walk was done to access what needed major and minor repairs and that the fields opened on Monday.

Councilman Young reported that Municipal Alliance's Girls on the Run started with three volunteer coaches and 16 girls. The Hero Boy Run Club has 35 boys at Durban Avenue School and 15 boys at Tulsa Trail School. These programs help build self-esteem. Councilman Young mentioned that Project Graduation of the Hopatcong High School will be holding a fundraiser of Candy Bingo on April 20, 2018 at 6:30pm. Councilman Young further commented that the senior luncheon was coming up soon and would be for drug awareness.

Councilman Young mentioned that they were looking forward to the summer movies, and was hoping to be able to hold them outside; weather permitting.

Councilman Young informed the Council that there is a resolution for a Lease Agreement with Turnkey Enterprises, LLC for a clothing collection shed located at the Senior Center that would benefit the Municipal Alliance. Councilman Young mentioned that Kid Fest is scheduled for August 4, 2018; and they are trying to target several age groups. He further stated that the Municipal Alliance will be sponsoring a vaping seminar at the High School on May 22, 2018 for the High School students as well as the 8th graders; it will be open to the public at 7:00pm that same day. Councilman Young further explained some of the effects of vaping and stressed the importance of the seminar.

Councilman Young stated that the Environmental Commission's Earth Day Hike would be Saturday, April 21, 2018 at 10:00am at the Senior Center.

Councilman Bunce explained that at the DPW meeting they had various discussions regarding the Dog Pound regarding costs and how to proceed, which was discussed at the Board of Health meeting. Councilman Bunce further stated that there was nothing to update regarding the Water and Sewer departments.

Mayor Francis informed the Council that he would be going up to Candlewood Lake in Connecticut to see how they are making out with the Grass Carp. Mayor Francis further stated that the Borough now has the support from Rutgers regarding the Grass Carp.

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.

David Harris of 125 Dupont Avenue questioned the Ord. 11-2018 regarding Tax Abatements.

Mr. Ursin explained that the ordinance would permit the Borough to accept applications from projects in the Redevelopment Zone and to consider whether the projects should be rewarded a five year tax reduction.

Mr. Harris questioned the ordinances, rules, and policies in regards to recreation. He questioned who was to enforce the rules at the parks and fields. Mr. Harris further recommended that the sign at the skating rink be changed.

Councilman Young explained that there isn't necessarily an ordinance regulating what gets played at each field. Councilman Young stated that the sign is the policy. The sign for the skating rink was originally meant for the skate park.

Mr. Harris also questioned if during the walk through the cracks in Skate Park and at the Jefferson Basketball court were observed.

Councilman Young stated that they were observed.

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 Schindelar. All were in favor

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Young made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the Regular Meeting held March 14, 2018 and April 4, 2018. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula 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 Councilwoman Galate.

CORRESPONDENCE (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING ONLY OF THE FOLLOWING):

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Construction Monthly Report: March 2018.
2. Zoning Monthly Report: March 2018.
3. Tax Collector Report: March 2018.

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Resolution # 2018-83: Outside Lien Redemption Blk: 31303 Lt: 6.
2. Resolution # 2018-84: Outside Lien Redemption Blk: 40409 Lt: 17.
3. Resolution # 2018-86: Outside Lien Redemption Blk: 10501 Lt: 11.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

Introduction Ordinance #11-2018 – Eligibility of Property for Five Year Tax Abatement

Councilman Bunce made a motion to introduce an ordinance entitled “AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY ESTABLISHING THE ELIGIBILITY OF PROPERTY FOR FIVE (5) YEARS ABATEMENTS PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A.40A:21-1, ET SEQ”. Seconded by Councilman Schindelar.

Councilwoman Galate questioned if the Redevelopment Committee has discussed this ordinance and if it covers new applications moving forward or old applications as well.

Councilman Bunce stated that it has been discussed for years.

Mr. Ursin explained that this ordinance is for the application procedure and mirrors the statute. It requires the application to be made within 30 days of a C/O.

Mayor Francis stated that this is an enabling ordinance and the final step of the redevelopment plan.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

FINAL READING: MAY 2, 2018

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:

Adoption Ordinance #06-2018 – Parks and Recreation Areas

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt an ordinance entitled “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 163 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG, SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY REGARDING PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS”. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Before final roll call, Mayor Francis opened the meeting to the public for any questions or comments regarding Ordinance #06-2018.

There being no one from the public who wished to address the Governing Body regarding Ordinance #06-2018, Councilman Bunce made a motion to close the meeting to the public and return to the regular order of business. Seconded by councilman Schindelar. All were in favor.

Upon roll call vote:
Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young
Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #2018-85 – Community Development Loan – 421 River Styx Road

Councilman Bunce made a motion is in order to adopt a resolution settling the loan for 421 River Styx Road in the amount of \$7,000. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:
Ayes: Bunce, Hoferkamp, Padula, Schindelar, Young
Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: Galate

Resolution #2018-87 – Payment of Bills

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the payment of bills for the meeting of April 18, 2018, pulling purchase order numbers 18-00049, 18-00060, 18-00213 and 18-00347. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:
Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young
Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

Councilman Bunce made a motion to authorize the payment of purchase order numbers 18-00049, 18-00060, 18-00213 and 18-00347. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:
Ayes: Bunce, Hoferkmap, Schindelar, Young
Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: Galate

Resolution #2018-88 – Turnkey Enterprises Lease

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing a lease between the Borough of Hopatcong and Turnkey Enterprises for a clothing collection box at the Senior Center. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:
Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young
Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

Resolution #2018-89 – Purchase of Senior Bus

Councilman Hoferkamp made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the Business Administrator, CFO, and QPA to proceed in the purchasing of a new senior bus. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:
Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young
Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilwoman Galate questioned how many tax appeals the Borough has received.

Mr. Ursin informed the Council that he did not have a current count; but the average is lower than the past three or four years going back and he would email the clerk to pass it on.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Councilman Young 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 Bunce. All were in favor.

Lynn Owens, 14 Papoose Trail, questioned whether Councilman Bunce had received her email. Councilman Bunce stated that he had not checked his email. Ms. Owens explained that she had come before the Council last year and expressed her concern regarding the condition of her road and questioned if they could improve it. Ms. Owens also thanked the Zoning Department for fixing buildings in the area. Mayor Francis explained that the Real Estate Committee is compiling a list of vacant homes and is aggressively trying to assist in the situation.

Debbie Kowalchuk, 3 West Windy Bush Lane, Sparta stated that she is an OSCAR volunteer and voiced her concerns regarding the gun range and reiterated the questions brought up at a previous meeting concerning the noise levels and safety issues that would affect the animals as well as the volunteers. Ms. Kowalchuk explained her concern for the potential lead in the well water that they all drink. Ms. Kowalchuk also mentioned her concern for the environmental impact as well as the high caliber guns and questioned if the Council had any reports.

Councilman Bunce explained that there are no reports, and everything is going very slowly.

Mayor Francis mentioned that he and the Council received threatening emails that had been turned over to law enforcement and that this has not been a good experience. Mayor Francis mentioned that their intentions have been to obey every law and statute to help maintain the quality of life for everyone. They will continue to go to the Land Use Board. They will inform the public as they make progress.

Barbara Loring, 80 Ithanell Road explained that for the past two years she has paid to have the area in front of her garage to be blacktopped and that the plows have taken huge chunks out. Ms. Loring questioned if DPW was responsible for repairing the blacktop. Mr. Ursin informed Ms. Loring that the DPW was not responsible for repairing the blacktop. Councilman Bunce suggested that she place something there so that they don't plow there and so they can see the road.

Ms. Loring questioned how the spent shells would be collected if the Borough does proceed with the gun range project so they don't affect the ground water. Councilman Bunce stated that this was one of the first things they addressed. Mayor Francis stated that New Jersey is very strict on that issue.

Ms. Loring thanked the Council for not increasing the taxes tremendously and further questioned if the towns in the area could merge services to keep the taxes lower. Councilman Bunce informed Ms. Loring that she would need to question the County on the shared services.

Sam Zarro, 40 Mast Road explained that he had went to the sewer department to find out how much he has paid into the sewer and was unable to get the information from the Borough due to a computer issue. Mr. Tappan explained that anything prior to 2011 will not be in our computer system due to a program switch. Mr. Zarro questioned if there would be any relief for the high sewer payments. Councilman Bunce informed Mr. Zarro that paying off the debt with on hand cash will reduce the payments. The Borough re-bonded for the sewers and saved \$5 million on the infrastructure trust.

David Harris commented that he has lived here for three years and is very impressed by the work of the Council with the budget and a lot of the activities that the town operates. Mr. Harris asked if the Council could elaborate on the Board of Health's discussion regarding the pound. Mayor Francis explained that the Board of Health defined the building as a pound and they will ask the Borough Engineer to come up with a price to modernize the pound. The Engineer will look at an epoxy coating inside the building, HVAC system, and electrical upgrading. Councilman Bunce informed Mr. Harris that they will look into the pricing and work on fixing the 15 items. Mr. Harris questioned what the difference between a pound and a shelter. Councilman Young explained that the difference is the time the animal is there and how they are cared for among other things. Mr. Harris questioned what the police pistol range is in the recreation ordinances. Mr. Ursin explained that it has been closed for a long time. Mr. Harris also questioned if there are signs posted in the parks that restrict dog walking. The Council confirmed that there were signs.

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 Schindelar. All were in favor.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adjourn the meeting of April 18, 2018. Seconded by Councilman Young. All were in favor.