

**MINUTES  
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING,  
BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG,  
HELD AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 111 RIVER STYX ROAD  
HOPATCONG, NEW JERSEY  
MARCH 15, 2017  
OPEN PUBLIC MEETING 7:30 PM**

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**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 asked all for a moment of silent reflection in remembrance of Catherine Schultz's step-daughter. Mayor Francis invited all present to salute the flag.

**INTRODUCTION OF 2017 MUNICIPAL BUDGET:**

Introduction Ordinance #03-2017 – 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 2017". Seconded by Councilwoman Galate.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

**FINAL READING: APRIL 19, 2016**

Resolution #2017-64 – Introduction of 2017 Budget

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution introducing the 2017 Budget for the Borough of Hopatcong. Seconded by Councilman Young.

At this time, Mayor Francis introduced Ralph Picone, representing the Borough's Auditors who presented to the Governing Body as well as the public with the 2017 Municipal budget. A copy of the budget presentation is attached. The proposed budget will increase by \$482,538.00 or 2.8%. The proposed budget is \$1,242,316.00 below the CAP. The breakdown of where tax dollars go is as follows: 28 cents goes to municipal budget, 52 cents goes to the school and 20 cents goes to the County. The average residential home value is \$214,256.00; the municipal portion of their taxes will increase by \$17.00. Mr. Picone briefly explained the previous CAP Bank amounts and the debt services that we carry (utility debt which are serial bonds and bond anticipation notes).

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

**BUDGET HEARING: APRIL 19, 2017 OR SOON THEREAFTER**

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

Councilwoman Galate reported that the Senior Meetings are starting up again this year with the next one being April 8, 2017 at the Senior Center. There is a great list of activities for seniors this year, so Councilwoman Galate welcomed anyone 60 and above to come join them at their meeting. There were 86 people attended the last meeting. She also stated that the Farmer's Market is moving forward for the 2017 season, with three vendors inquiring with anticipation of the new season. The Police meeting will be in a few weeks.

Councilman Schindelar reported that the Real Estate committee met and discussed some properties and there is nothing new with it.

Councilman Young reported that the Recreation Committee did not get to meet due to the snowstorm, but winter sports are winding down and they are getting ready for spring sports. Councilman Young explained that the Easter Egg Hunt is April 9, 2017 with a rain date of April 15, 2017. Environmental, Open Space, and Municipal Alliance meetings will be coming up.

Councilman Bunce explained that he is the Chairman of Sussex County Crimestoppers and distributed cards for a child identification kit. Councilman Bunce left the information for the public and stated that they are free and he has access to more.

Mayor Francis thanked the Finance committee in regards to the budget.

Councilman Bunce and Mayor Francis commended the DPW and mechanics, the Police Department, and the staff at Firehouse 2 and 3 in regards to the previous snowstorm and thanked them for their work.

A discussion ensued.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Councilman Bunce 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 Schindelar. All were in favor.

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 March 1, 2017, with corrections being reflected in these minutes. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Councilwoman Galate addressed the Council regarding what she believed was inaccurate statements that were made by the former administrator regarding fire violations at the Senior Center. She explained that she spoke with the fire inspector and was told that they were not violations, that they were housekeeping issues. She also addressed the former administrator's comments with the financial reports when he said that they had been submitted timely to the State for the first time in a few years. Councilwoman Galate informed the Council that she gone back for 7 years and that nothing has been late with the State.

A discussion ensued regarding how minutes are corrected or clarified.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

**CONSENT AGENDA:** 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 Francis** 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's Monthly Report: February 2017. (put in mailboxes)

**APPLICATIONS** (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. NJ State Firemen's Application: Thomas Brown.

**RESOLUTIONS:** (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Resolution # 2017-65 – Outside Lien Redemption: Blk: 10906 Lt: 32.
2. Resolution # 2017-66 – Outside Lien Redemption: Blk: 30408 Lt: 6.
3. Resolution # 2017-67 – Outside Lien Redemption: Blk: 30306 Lt: 13, Blk: 30610 Lt: 6.

Councilman Young made a motion to approve the consent agenda for the meeting of March 15, 2017. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Resolution #2017-68 Field and Lawn Maintenance**

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution extending the contract to Pat Scanlon Landscaping for field and lawn maintenance for the year 2017. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

**Resolution #2017-69 – Liquor License Renewal**

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the renewal of liquor license #1912-33-014-005, Shital Megha Corporation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 33:1-12.39. Seconded by Councilman Schindelar.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

**Resolution #2017-70 – Child Abuse Prevention Month**

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the Borough of Hopatcong. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

**Resolution #2017-71 – Payment of Bills**

Councilwoman Galate asked that purchase order number #17-00424 be removed because she's not sure if the Council had a discussion approving someone to go to a purchasing class and that she's not sure if that was an agreement that may have been made that they weren't aware of.

Councilman Bunce made a motion to table the payment of invoice #17-00424 until further information is gathered. 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 is in order to adopt a resolution authorizing the payment of bills for the meeting of March 15, 2017, pulling check numbers 17-00066, 17-00149, 17-00234, 17-00254, and 17-00400. 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 check numbers 17-00066, 17-00149, 17-00234, 17-00254, and 17-00400. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: Galate

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Mayor Francis** questioned if the Council would consent to using an executive search firm for a new administrator.

The Council agreed but asked for more information regarding the firm first.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Councilman Bunce made a motion to open the meeting to the public for any questions or comments concerning opened 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 Schindelar. All were in favor.

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:** **Mayor Francis** requested a motion to adjourn the meeting of March 15, 2017 at 8:06pm.