

**MINUTES
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING,
BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG,
HELD AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 111 RIVER STYX ROAD
HOPATCONG, NEW JERSEY
JUNE 17, 2015
OPEN PUBLIC MEETING 7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER: Announce Quorum

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT: Council President Galate 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 Schindelar, Councilman Young.

Absent: Councilman Padula and Mayor Petillo

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

AUCTION OF MUNICIPAL PROPERTY:

Councilman Young made a motion to open the auctions. Seconded by Councilman Bunce, All were in favor.

Block 40402, Lot 7 – 3 Michigan Trail (Conforming – Minimum Bid \$11,700)

There being no one from the public who wished to bid on Block 40402, Lot 7, Councilman Young made a motion to close the auction and return to the regular order of business. Seconded by Councilman Bunce. All were in favor.

Block 50601, Lot 10 – 501 Lakeside Ave. (Conforming – Minimum Bid \$79,900)

There being no one from the public who wished to bid on Block 50601, Lot 10, Councilman Young made a motion to close the auction and return to the regular order of business. Seconded by Councilman Bunce. All were in favor.

Council President Galate explained that normally we put up property for auction when we are approached by someone who is interested in purchasing it. Sometimes though, through the process they change their minds and don't follow through on the purchase.

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

Councilman Bunce reported that there was a Firemen's Parade meeting last week and that the plans are moving along. The parade will be here in Hopatcong on October 3, 2015.

Councilman Young reported that the Environment Commission is planning a Hazardous Waste Day here in the Borough. At their meeting they reviewed their participation at the Lake Hopatcong Block Party and also at Sussex County Day. The Commission is setting up a Facebook page to advertise their events and accomplishments. One of their accomplishments was submitting the paperwork to Sustainable Jersey for the Bronze designation.

Councilman Young also reported that the Recreation Commission has 95 registrations for the full time summer recreation program. He anticipates that there will be even more campers registering before it begins. Ryan has done a wonderful job with the program which is self-sufficient. The movie in the park was cancelled last Friday due to potential of thunderstorms and has been rescheduled for this coming Friday.

Councilman Francis reported that the Farmers Market starts this Sunday and encouraged everyone to come out. This year we will have many demonstrations including a Civil War reenactment. Councilman Francis also reported that the Deer Management Task Force, with input from the State will be recommending to the Council shortly, areas in the Borough where hunting will be allowed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Council President Galate 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 June 3, 2015. Seconded by Councilman Schindelar.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Galate, Schindelar

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: Young

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

At this time Robert Elia, Borough Administrator, presented his report for the meeting of June 17, 2015. He reported that there is a resolution on tonight to authorize submittal of another Housing Rehabilitation grant. We have received money from the program 2 of the last 3 years. Mr. Elia also stated that we received \$36,000 for a Clean Communities grant and that there is a resolution that needs to be adopted to put the money into the 2015 budget. He also congratulated the Environment Commission on their submittal to Sustainable NJ for the bronze level designation. They have held many events such as the Farmer's Market, the tree giveaway, vehicle inventory and energy saving programs. This will allow them to apply for grant monies.

CONSENT AGENDA: Council President Galate 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, Council President Galate requested a motion to approve the consent agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING ONLY OF THE FOLLOWING):

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Zoning Department Report for May, 2015

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. NJ State Firemen's Association Membership Application – Joe Marino
2. NJ State Firemen's Association Membership Application – Scott Inglis (transfer)
3. NJ State Firemen's Association Membership Application – Carmelo LoPorto
4. NJ State Firemen's Association Membership Application – Lisa Marino
5. Social Affair Permit – Garden State Philharmonic
6. Blue Light Permit – Scott Inglis
7. Blue Light Permit – Kevin Schneider

RESOLUTIONS: (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Resolution #2015-174A – Refund Tax Overpayment, Block 40409, Lot 15
2. Resolution #2015-175A – Cancel/Credit Portion of 2013 and 2014 Taxes, Bl 30501, L68
3. Resolution #2015-178 – Outside Lien Redempiton, US Bank/Tower for Ebury
4. Resolution #215-182 – Outside Lien Redemption, Changsheng Lu

Councilman Bunce made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for the meeting of June 17, 2015. Seconded by Councilman Young. All were in favor.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

Introduction Ordinance #24-2015 – Sale of Municipal Property, Block 41204, Lot 2 – 450 Maxim Drive

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 PROPERTY OWNED BY THE BOROUGH AND NOT REQUIRED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES AND MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS 450 MAXIM DRIVE. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Galate, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

FINAL READING: JULY 1, 2015

AUCTION: AUGUST 5, 2015

Introduction Ordinance #25-2015 – Vacating a Portion of Mountain Rd Right of Way

Councilman Bunce made a motion to table an ordinance entitled “AN ORDINANCE PARTIALLY VACATING A PORTION OF MOUNTAIN ROAD RIGHT OF WAY IN THE BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY”. Seconded by Councilman Young. All were in favor.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #2015-173 – Extend Grace Period for 3rd Quarter Taxes

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution to determine the extended grace period for 3rd quarter tax payments. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Galate, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

Resolution #2015-174 – Police Chief Employment Agreement

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the Police Chief Employment Agreement. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Galate, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

Resolution #2015-175 – Special Item of Revenue – Clean Communities

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution asking the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of \$36,188.64 into the budget for the Borough of Hopatcong under the caption “2015 Clean Communities Grant”. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Galate, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

Resolution #2015-176 – DPW Superintendent Employment Agreement

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution approving the DPW Superintendent Employment Agreement. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Galate, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

Resolution #2015-177 – Establishing a Green Team Advisory Committee

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution establishing a Green Team Advisory Committee in the Borough of Hopatcong. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Galate, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

Resolution #2015-179 – Housing Preservation Grant Submission

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application to the USDA Rural Development Housing Preservation Grant Program for approximately \$46,000 to carry out various necessary and emergency improvements to residential properties in the Borough of Hopatcong. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Galate, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

Resolution #2015-180 – 2015-2016 Liquor Licenses – Garden State Yacht Club

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution approving the renewal of certain 2015-2016 Liquor Licenses (Garden State Yacht Club). Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Galate, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

Resolution #2015-181 – Payment of Bills

Councilman Bunce made a motion to authorize the payment of bills for the meeting of June 17, 2015. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: Galate

Resolution #2015-183 – Modifying Sewer Allocation Agreement – Atkins/Hopatcong

Councilman Francis made a to adopt a resolution of the Governing Body of the Borough of Hopatcong modifying the sewer allocation agreement between the Borough of Hopatcong and Atkins/Hopatcong, LLC to grant an additional six month waiver of user fees due. Seconded by Councilman Schindelar.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Francis, Galate, Schindelar, Young

Nays: Bunce Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Sign in Right of Way – 12 B Lakeside Blvd.

Councilman Francis made a motion to approve a request from the owner of 12 B Lakeside Blvd, to install a sign in the right of way leading to his property. Seconded by Councilman Young.

After discussion it was determined that the sign would not impede sight distances, would not have electric and would comply with all zoning laws regarding signage.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Galate, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

Agreement with County of Sussex – Streetscape Program

Councilman Francis made a motion to enter into an agreement with the County of Sussex for a “Streetscape Program” design, construction, operations and maintenance agreement (Reflects new date of project plans submitted by John Ruschke, Borough Engineer). Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Francis, Galate, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Padula Abstentions: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Council President Galate opened the meeting to the public for any questions or comments concerning the good and welfare of the Borough. (Comments limited to 5 minutes).

David Harris, Dupont Avenue, asked about the resolution to extend the taxes. Mr. Elia responded that this is only in case the County doesn’t have their tax rate struck in time. We need to give the residents 25 days’ notice to pay their taxes.

Mr. Harris also asked about the waiver of sewer fees for the Atkins project.

Councilman Francis stated that it is no fault of the developer that the project is stalled. First it was the eagles and now they have found artifacts that have to be evaluated by the Federal government.

Lastly, Mr. Harris asked about the basketball courts and Council President Galate responded that we are redoing the entire area down there. It will have a new look and be more handicapped accessible. Ron Jobeless has worked tirelessly to get the project going and completed.

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 June 17, 2015. Seconded by Councilman Young. All were in favor.

Sylvia Petillo, Mayor

Catherine Schultz, RMC