

**MINUTES  
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING,  
BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG,  
HELD AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 111 RIVER STYX ROAD  
HOPATCONG, NEW JERSEY  
FEBRUARY 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: Councilwoman Galate, Councilman Hoferkamp, Councilman Padula, Councilman Schindelar, Councilman Young and Mayor Francis.

Absent: Councilman Bunce

**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 awards to the following Webelos who have moved up to Boy Scouts:

Bobby Rehe Jr.  
Brian Rauchbach  
Aiden Poland  
Cole Ferrer  
Connor Pepe  
Frank Lepore  
Gabriel Simpson  
Gabriel Wecht  
Gregory Smith  
Jack Kallok  
James Stowe  
John Mabb  
Steven George  
Thomas Joyce  
Xander Syto

Councilman Schindelar made a motion to take a ten minute recess. Seconded by Councilman Young. All were in favor.

Councilman Young made a motion to return to the regular order of business. Seconded by Councilman Schindelar. All were in favor.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

Councilwoman Galate stated that she accompanied Ron Jobeless during the last snowstorm and she thanked the DPW for doing such a great job. She reported that the senior group's next meeting will be on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30. She also reported that there was a police committee meeting and that their 2016 statistics were released. Last year there were 14 motor vehicle accidents cause by deer, which is up by 4 from the previous year. She reported that the police also did 190 more traffic stops in 2016 than in 2015.

Councilman Hoferkamp thanked Councilwoman Galate for taking him to the last senior meeting and also thanked the Chief of Police for giving him a tour of the police department.

Councilman Padula reported that the DPW did a great job during the last snowstorm. He stated that there is a DPW/Sewer Committee meeting scheduled for March 7<sup>th</sup> and a Finance Committee meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Padula stated that the letter went out to the property owners in the proposed redevelopment zone and that he has met with a few of the owners, as has the Administrator. He stated that the Redevelopment Committee is in the process of reviewing the plan.

Mayor Francis stated that the Redevelopment plan is crucial and is probably the most significant change in the Borough in 50 years. He stated that the process for developers will be much smoother and will speed up the process.

Mayor Francis thanked the OEM for their great work in getting the oil spill contained quickly and commended the OEM Coordinator Wade Crowley. He also thanked them for all of their help during the power outages created by the recent storms. He commended the Fire Department for helping residents who needed to find other places to stay while the power was out. He recommended that all residents sign up for the Honeywell alerts so that they can be aware of any emergency issues that occur in town.

**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 Councilwoman Galate. All were in favor.

Pete Frechtling, 443 River Styx Road, asked if he should submit his objections to the redevelopment plan again and he was told that he should resubmit it to the Redevelopment Committee.

Mara Modes asked about the proposed area that was being considered in the Redevelopment Plan and Councilman Padula responded that there is a list of block and lots that are included in the plan. He stated that if they were to want to increase the area, then the process would have to start all over again.

After giving all persons present an opportunity to address the Governing Body, Councilwoman Galate 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 1, 2017. Seconded by Councilman Padula.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Galate, Hoferkamp, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Bunce Abstentions: None

#### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

At this time, Borough Administrator, Victor J. Marotta presented his report for the meeting of February 15, 2017. Mr. Marotta reported that he and the CFO have met with all the Department Heads regarding their budgets and that a Finance Meeting is scheduled for March 8<sup>th</sup> to review. Shortly after, the budget should be ready to give to the Mayor for his review and then given to the entire Governing Body for consideration.

**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.

Councilwoman Galate asked if the zoning office has begun to send violations to the banks that aren't maintaining the properties that have been foreclosed on. She asked if that is what is reflected in the zoning report.

Mayor Francis stated that the court has begun to send out violations and reiterated that the Borough is very serious about getting these properties cleaned up and maintained.

After all persons have had an opportunity to review the consent agenda and offer requests for changes, Councilman Young made a motion to approve the consent agenda for the meeting of February 15, 2016. Seconded by Councilman Padula.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Galate, Hoferkamp, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Bunce Abstentions: None

**CORRESPONDENCE** (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING ONLY OF THE FOLLOWING):

**REPORTS** (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Zoning Department Monthly Report: January 2017.
2. Construction Department Monthly Report: January 2017.

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

1. Blue Light Applications:
  - a: Robert Auer
  - b: Gary Beaugrand
  - c: Charles DeFranza

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

1. Resolution # 2017-41 - Outside Lien Redemption: Blk: 30314 Lt: 1.
2. Resolution # 2017-42 - Outside Lien Redemption: Blk: 10702 Lt: 1.
3. Resolution # 2017-43 - Outside Lien Redemption: Blk: 11012 Lt: 10.
4. Resolution # 2017- 44 -Outside Lien Redemption: Blk: 40102 Lt: 14.
5. Resolution # 2017-45 - Outside Lien Redemption: Blk: 41005 Lt: 2.
6. Resolution # 2017-46 - Outside Lien Redemption: Blk: 20103 Lt: 1.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Resolution #2017-47 – Agreement to Enter Into A Shared Service with Sussex County – Certified Recycling Professional Services**

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the execution of a Shared Services Agreement with Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority Board of Commissioners for the provision of Certified Recycling Professional Services to certify and submit the 2016 Recycling Tonnage Report to NJDEP. Seconded by Councilman Hoferkamp.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Galate, Hoferkamp, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Bunce Abstentions: None

**Resolution #2017-48 – Payment of Bills**

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the payment of bills for the meeting of February 15, 2017, pulling check numbers 1700184 and 1700218. Seconded by Councilman Padula.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Galate, Hoferkamp, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Bunce Abstentions: None

Councilman Young made a motion to approve the payment of check numbers 1700184 and 1700218. Seconded by Councilman Padula.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Hoferkamp, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Bunce Abstentions: Galate

## Resolution #2017-49 – Appointment of Recreation Director

Councilman Padula made a motion to adopt a resolution appointing Catherine Millian as the Recreation Director for the Borough of Hopatcong. Seconded by Councilman Young.

At this time a discussion took place regarding creating a new title of “Recreation Director”.

Councilman Padula asked what the procedure would be through Civil Service for creating this new position and wanted to know what the remediation plan will be moving forward.

Mr. Marotta informed the Council that currently we don’t have a Recreation Coordinator because the person that was hired did not have the qualifications and that he is supervising the department. If we were to change the title to “Director” it would be an “unclassified” position and as such would not follow the same hiring procedures as a “classified” position. There would be no need for the Borough to check the Civil Service list and no announcement would be made. No approval would be needed from Civil Service and that we would just have to notify them of the change in title.

Councilman Young stated that he didn’t think that the Borough should change the title to Director as that position requires more certifications and would demand a higher salary. He stated that we advertised for a Coordinator and that we should hire someone for that position.

Mr. McBriar stated that the Council needed to keep the discussion to the creation of a new title, and not to discuss individual employees.

Councilman Padula stated that he would like to work on the job description and discuss any certifications that may be necessary to fulfill the job requirements.

Councilwoman Galate agreed that work needed to be done on the job description to address her concerns regarding chain of command, department head status, issues that relate not only to Recreation but the Senior Center, eligibility to sit on the Recreation Commission etc.

Mr. Marotta stated that he would recommend that the resolution be tabled until all of these questions could be answered but stated that it should be expedited so that we can resolve the present situation.

Councilman Padula made a motion to table the resolution. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Galate, Hoferkamp, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Bunce Abstentions: None

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **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 Padula. All were in favor.

David Harris addressed the Council regarding the deer population, the BOH ordinance regarding pot-bellied pigs, and the animal control vehicle. He also thanked the Mayor for sending out the Honeywell alerts.

Mara Modes asked if the Coordinator was responsible for the teams because she thought that the coaches were volunteers.

Mayor Francis stated that the employees that the Recreation Coordinator are in charge of are the three people who work in the kitchen. The coaches are all volunteers.

After giving all persons present an opportunity to address the Governing Body, Councilman Young made a motion to close the meeting to the public and return to the regular order of business. Seconded by Councilwoman Galate. All were in favor.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilman Young made a motion to adjourn the meeting of February 15, 2017. Seconded by Councilman Schindelar. All were in favor.

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Michael Francis, Mayor

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Catherine Schultz, RMC