

**MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING,
BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG,
HELD AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 111 RIVER STYX ROAD
HOPATCONG, NEW JERSEY
FEBRUARY 20, 2019
OPEN PUBLIC MEETING 7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER: Announce Quorum

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT: Mayor Francis stated “that this meeting is held in accordance with the 1975 Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-6 et seq., annual notice 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 secretary called the roll and the following members were present: Councilman Hoferkamp, Councilman Padula, Councilwoman Roberts, Councilman Schindelar, Councilman Smith, Councilman Young, and Mayor Francis.

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.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Mayor Francis said there will not be Committee Reports tonight.

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 Hoferkamp. All were in favor.

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 Councilman Hoferkamp. All were in favor.

ADMINISTRATOR’S UPDATE:

Mr. Tappan said the Hopatcong Resource Center is very close; utilities, IT, etc. are next. He also said the Administration Office is in the middle of being remodeled, please pardon the appearance.

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, Councilman Young made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Councilman Padula.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Hoferkamp, Padula, Roberts, Schindelar, Smith, Young

Nays: None Absent: Abstentions: None

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:

1. Adoption Ordinance #02-2019 – LATE FEES WATER & SEWER ACCOUNTS

Mr. Ursin said there is a typo that is just a clerical error, it will be fixed.

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt an ordinance entitled “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTERS 51 AND 186 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG, SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY REGARDING LATE FEES ON WATER AND SEWER ACCOUNTS”. Seconded by Councilman Schindelar.

Before final roll call, Mayor Frances asked if anyone from the public would like to ask any questions or make a comment on this Ordinance.

Beth Stellar said she was forced to get sewers, does not understand why people who are not paying are not getting penalized.

Lynn Ritchie, Staten Trail, is questioning the due dates for sewer bills, and says the verbiage is misleading.

There being no one else from the public who wished to address the Governing Body regarding Ordinance #02-2019, Councilman Young made a motion to close the meeting to the public and return to the regular order of business. Seconded by Councilman Padula. All were in favor.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Hoferkamp, Padula, Roberts, Schindelar, Smith, Young

Nays: None Absent: Abstentions: None

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution #2019-48 – Temporary Capital Budget

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution to constitute the 2019 Temporary Capital Budget by inserting therein the Nariticong Field Netting Project. Seconded by Councilman Padula.

Councilman Padula verified this resolution was increasing the budget to include funding for the Nariticong Field Netting Project.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Hoferkamp, Padula, Roberts, Schindelar, Smith, Young

Nays: None Absent: Abstentions: None

2. Resolution #2019-49 – Support for the Sustainable Jersey Grant Application

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the submittal of the Sustainable Jersey Grant Application. Seconded by Councilman Hoferkamp.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Hoferkamp, Padula, Roberts, Schindelar, Smith, Young

Nays: None Absent: Abstentions: None

3. Resolution #2019-50 – Youth Art Month Proclamation

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution declaring March 2019 as Youth Art Month in the Borough of Hopatcong. Seconded by Councilman Padula.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Hoferkamp, Padula, Roberts, Schindelar, Smith, Young

Nays: None Absent: Abstentions: None

4. Resolution #2019-51 – Payment of Bills

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the payment of bills for the meeting of February 20, 2019. Seconded by Councilman Hoferkamp.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Hoferkamp, Padula, Roberts, Schindelar, Smith, Young

Nays: None Absent: 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 Schindelar. All were in favor.

Heather Fiore asked about the Rate Study progress and the number of sewer hookup fees for the condominiums. She also asked about the progress on the Hopatcong Pound.

Jen Johnson asked about an email she sent concerning pulling copies of permits, as well as changing the Commercial Ordinance.

Mayor Francis said the audit and rate study will answer a lot of these questions.

Ms. Johnson also asked about a bond from 2015 and the adoption of an ordinance concerning that bond. She then asked about unfunded balances for sewer bonds. Ms. Johnson went on to comment on the 2016 bond with deferred payments and wanted to know if that will be refinanced in 2022; and would the Council consider a Master Ordinance canceling all unfunded balances all sewer ordinances.

Mayor Francis said he is looking into this and will consult the Bond Attorney when the rate study is completed. He suggested Ms. Johnson speak to our CFO or Bond Agent.

Mara Modes wanted to welcome the new BBQ restaurant. She asked about missing minutes from December, and the Wellness Center. Ms. Modes wanted to know who will be using the Wellness Center.

Mayor Francis said there is a calendar in the Borough Hall and there are already some organizations signed up. They have not advertised; all has been done through word of mouth.

Heather Fiore asked about refinancing the 2016 bond.

Mayor Francis said he would talk to the accounting firm and bonding agent, but he did not have an answer.

After giving all persons present an opportunity to address the Governing Body, Councilman Hoferkamp 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.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Young made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilman Hoferkamp. All were in favor.

Danielle Rennie
Secretary