

**MINUTES
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING,
BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG,
HELD AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 111 RIVER STYX ROAD
HOPATCONG, NEW JERSEY
MAY 16, 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 Padula, Councilman Schindelar, 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 allowed each member of the Council, to present their respective committee reports.

Councilwoman Galate reported that right now we have 4 new vendors scheduled to come to the Farmers Market and that our anchor food vendors are all returning. She stated that when she attended the Block Party she handed out applications for the market to the vendors that were in attendance. Councilwoman Galate also reported that the Hudson Farm Hike is this coming Saturday.

Councilman Hoferkamp thanked the Municipal Alliance, and especially Joanne Flexor, for sponsoring the Senior Luncheon at Pavinci. He also reported that the Mayor's Work Program participants are working on cleaning up the pound.

Councilman Young reported that the spring sports programs are underway and that there are 130 skaters in the skate program. He stated that a family donated new nets for the program. He stated that the Recreation Commission discussed the Memorial Day Parade and Hopatcong Days. He also reported that the Municipal Alliance is still trying to do a joint program with the schools entitled "Parents who Host, Lose the Most". It could be a prerequisite to obtaining a student parking pass. He reported that the Girl on the Run/Hero Boys programs are winding down and that they will be trying to expand the program to more age groups. He stated that the summer movie schedule has come out – July 7th, July 21st and August 4, 2018. They will be held at the Hilltop Field. He stated that on May 22nd there will be a vaping seminar at the High School for the students and there will be a public session at 7:00 pm.

Councilman Young reported that Jule Girman and Georgia Shilling from the Environmental Commission attended the Block Party. He stated that there is nothing new with the Police Training Facility. We are still waiting on the Soil Erosion Permit. He also reminded everyone about the Hudson Farm Hike on Saturday and stated that in order to hike the two trails, you must register with a cell phone.

Councilman Bunce asked for the Council's support in adopting the resolution authorizing an Asset Management Plan for the Borough's water system. We are applying for a grant to cover the cost of the study.

Mayor Francis stated that the Borough has received a grant in the amount of \$220,000 for sidewalks on Durban Avenue. We have already received a grant to pave the roadway.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Councilwoman 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). Seconded by Councilman Young. All were in favor.

David Harris, 125 Dupont, asked if the bus is a replacement for the one that we have now. Mayor Francis stated that it will replace the old bus that we currently use.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Young made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 18, 2018. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Padula

Councilman Young made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for the meeting held on May 2, 2018. Seconded by Councilman Hoferkamp.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Galate, Hoferkamp, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Bunce

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.

CORRESPONDENCE (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING ONLY OF THE FOLLOWING):

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

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

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Junior Firefighter Program Application: William F. Towers Sr.
2. Junior Firefighter Program Application: Hannah Steger.
3. Water Service Application: Block: 30408 Lot: 26.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Resolution # 2018-97: Outside Lien Redemption Blk: 11210 Lt: 4.
2. Resolution # 2018-98: Outside Lien Redemption Blk: 40209 Lt: 31.
3. Resolution # 2018-99: Outside Lien Redemption Blk: 11004 Lt: 22.
4. Resolution # 2018-102: Outside Lien Redemption Blk: 11106 Lt: 29.
5. Resolution # 2018-103: Outside Lien Redemption Blk: 30609 Lt: 8.

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.

Councilman Bunce made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for the meeting of May 16, 2018. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

Introduction Ordinance #12-2018 – Capital Ordinance (Senior Bus)

Councilman Bunce made a motion to introduce an ordinance entitled “A CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A BUS FOR TRANSPORTATION BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$75,000 THEREFOR FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND TO PAY FOR THE COST THEREOF”. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

FINAL READING: JUNE 6, 2018

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #2018-100 – Payment of Bills

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the payment of bills for the meeting of May 16, 2018, pulling invoice numbers 17-00219, 17-00220, 18-00049, 18-00060, 18-00210, 18-00347, 18-00349, 18-00766, and 18-00814. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Councilman Bunce made a motion to authorize the payment of invoice numbers 17-00219, 17-00220, 18-00049, 18-00060, 18-00210, 18-00347, 18-00349, 18-00766, and 18-00814. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Hoferkamp, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Galate

Resolution #2018-101 – Hiring of Temporary Seasonal Help

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution hiring Benjamin Ellicott as Temporary Seasonal Help for the Borough of Hopatcong at an hourly rate of \$10.00 for 40 hours a week, for approximately 12 weeks, effective May 14, 2018. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Hoferkamp, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Galate

Resolution #2018-104 – Development of an Asset Management Plan for Municipal Water System

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the Borough Engineer to develop an Asset Management Plan for the Municipal Water System. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Mr. Ruschke, Borough Engineer, stated that there is a new law, the Water Accountability Act that states that a municipality has to schedule routine plans and upgrades to the municipal water system. He stated that there is an NJEIT loan that, if obtained, will pay for the plan. If we don't receive the \$100,000 grant then the Borough will do an abridged plan. The State will not hold the Borough to the plan, but does want to see some compliance. The loan provides for 100% principal forgiveness. It is for long-term planning of the maintenance of the system.

Councilman Padula stated that this will allow the Borough to be proactive instead of reactive

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2018-105 – Hiring of Special Police Officer

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution hiring Thomas Leahy as a Special Police Class II Officer, effective December 2017. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposed Solar Landfill Lease Agreement

Councilman Schindelar made a motion to approve a proposed Solar Landfill Lease Agreement between Hopatcong Borough and ACCP NJ Solar LLC. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Mr. Ursin stated that the business insurance amounts were changed but nothing changed regarding the lease amount.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Hiring an Architect for Pound Building Renovation

Councilwoman Galate made a motion to authorize the hiring of an architect to provide plans for the renovation of the Municipal Pound at a cost not to exceed \$10,000. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Hoferkamp, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

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.

Mr. Rehe, Nariticong Avenue, addressed the Council regarding the condition of the fields and said that the Recreation Commission doesn't believe that it is their responsibility.

Councilman Young stated that the Commission believes that they can recommend to the Council what needs to be done, but that they can't actually do the repairs or clean up the fields themselves.

Mr. Rehe stated that the fence is being ripped down by the trees. He said that the Commission came up with a list and wants to know why the list isn't being addressed.

Councilman Young stated that the list was given to the administrator, which was then given to the DPW.

Mr. Tappan stated that the list was given to the DPW and they are coming up with a schedule.

Mr. Rehe stated that he thinks that nothing is ever done right in this town. There is a lot of garbage in the dug outs and no one cleans them up.

Donna Kolmer, 312 West End Avenue, asked who pays for the improvements to the water system. Mayor Francis responded that the users of the system pay, but that the

asset management plan that is on the agenda this evening will be paid for with grant monies. There will be no cost to the taxpayers.

Mara Modes asked how long after we order the bus before we receive it and Mr. Tappan responded it is a 90 day build. She asked if there are any regulations regarding psychics because there is one in town. Mayor Francis stated that there is no ordinance prohibiting them. Councilman Bunce stated that if they are working out of their house then zoning approval may be necessary.

David Harris complimented the Borough on their exhibit at the Lake Hopatcong Foundation Block Party and for all of the recreation programs that the town provides. He also stated that he has changed his mind about bikes doing damage to the skate park and that there is no reason that he sees that they should be allowed there.

Councilman Young stated that the sign that is there prohibiting bicycles was moved from another location and that bikes aren't necessarily banned from the skate park.

David Speizer, Bergen Trail, stated that he has been a temporary worker for the DPW for six months and wanted to know if and when he would be hired to a permanent position.

Councilman Bunce stated that there has to be an opening. Right now we are not hiring any full-time permanent employees in the DPW.

Mr. Tappan stated that in the next few months there will be many changes at the DPW due to retirements.

Councilman Bunce stated that there may be an opportunity for Mr. Speizer at that time.

Stephanie Bick, 101 Vermont Trail, asked the Council to put more speed limit signs on Brooklyn Mountain Road because since the road was paved, many people don't obey the speed limit.

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.

RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilwoman Galate made a motion to enter into an Executive Session to discuss personnel. Seconded by Councilman Padula. All were in favor.

THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT ALLOWS THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC FROM A PORTION OF A MEETING IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG THAT THE PUBLIC SHALL BE EXCLUDED FROM DISCUSSION OF MATTERS ALLOWED BY NEW JERSEY LAW.

THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES WILL BE PLACED ON FILE IN THE BOROUGH CLERK'S OFFICE, AND WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AS PROVIDED FOR BY NEW JERSEY LAW.

Be further advised this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Councilman Young made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session and return to the regular order of business. Seconded by Councilwoman Galate. All were in favor.

Councilwoman Galate stated that she has heard rumors regarding the succession plans for the DPW Superintendent position and other supervisory positions. She asked for an update on the Borough's plans now that Ron Jobeless is retiring at the end of this month.

Councilman Padula stated that the Finance Committee, along with Administration, has been working on a succession plan for months once we learned about the retirement of Mr. Jobeless and Mr. Whittaker. He stated that once all of the financials are completed, the Finance Committee will review the plan and then make a recommendation to the Council for consideration.

Mr. Tappan stated that he has almost completed the plan and that he will present to the Finance Committee very soon.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adjourn the meeting of May 16, 2018. Seconded by Councilman Young. All were in favor.