

**REGULAR MINUTES
FOR THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING,
BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG,
HELD AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 111 RIVER STYX ROAD
HOPATCONG, NEW JERSEY
AUGUST 19, 2015
OPEN PUBLIC MEETING 5:00 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 notes fire exits)

ROLL CALL: The Clerk called the roll and the following members were present: Councilman Bunce, Councilwoman Galate, Councilman Padula, Councilman Schindelar, and Councilman Young.

Absent: Councilman Francis, 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.

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.

Mara Modes addressed the Council regarding the Phase II beautification project and Councilman Young responded that it will complete the project on Hopatcong road from the light down to Lakeside Blvd.

Ms. Modes also asked why the Borough sent Ann Marie Bell to the clerk's certification classes and why we would pay for her if it would allow her to use that certification with another municipality if she were to get a new job.

The Council responded that we send our employees to classes to further their career development and that it is very common to do so. Ms. Modes was informed that Ms. Bell has not yet graduated from the program and that if she were to move on to another job that she would have to repay the cost of some of the classes to the Borough.

Ms. Modes also asked if we were getting a new ACO and Council President Galate responded that the past ACO got another job and that we will be hiring a new part time ACO, Gianna Di Matteo.

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.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #2015-224 – Payment of Bills

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the payment of bills for the meeting of July 22, 2015, pulling check number 36176. Seconded by Councilman Padula.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Francis Abstentions: Galate

Councilman Bunce made a motion to approve the payment of check number 36176. Seconded by Councilman Padula.

Upon roll call vote:
Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Padula, Schindelar
Nays: None Absent: Francis Abstentions: Young

Resolution #2015-225 – Award Contract for Purchase of Vacuum Street Sweeper

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution awarding a contract to U.S. Municipal Supply Inc, Huntingdon, PA, for the purchase of a Vacuum Street Sweeper in an amount not to exceed \$254,350.00. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:
Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Padula, Schindelar, Young
Nays: None Absent: Francis Abstentions: None

Resolution #2015-226 – Award Contract For Two Police Vehicles

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution awarding a contract to Winner Ford, Cherry Hill, NJ for the purchase of two replacement police vehicles in an amount not to exceed \$57,543.00. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:
Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Padula, Schindelar, Young
Nays: None Absent: Francis Abstentions: None

Resolution #2015-227 – Part-Time Animal Control Officer

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution appointing Gianna Di Matteo as a Part-time Animal Control Officer for the Borough of Hopatcong with a stipend of \$18,000 for 20 hours per week plus emergency call outs. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Council President Galate stated that she is so excited to have Gianna aboard and that she is looking forward to working with her, Lt. Unhoch and Wendy Ciardi on forming new and innovative ways to deal with Animal Control Services. Gianna will be bringing with her a wealth of knowledge that will help the Borough move into the future.

The entire Council welcomed Gianna and wished her much luck in her career.

Upon roll call vote:
Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Padula, Schindelar, Young
Nays: None Absent: Francis Abstentions: None

Resolution #2015-228 – Federal Aid Agreement – Hopatchung Beautification Project – Phase II

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution to enter into a federal aid agreement concerning the Hopatchung Beautification Project – Phase II. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:
Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Padula, Schindelar, Young
Nays: None Absent: Francis Abstentions: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilman Young stated that he would like to discuss the current sign ordinance with regards to signage for nonprofit groups. He stated that currently the ordinance allows 4' x 8' political signs in residential neighborhoods but doesn't allow a nonprofit to erect the same size sign. Currently they can only erect signs of that size on commercial properties. He would like the Council to consider allowing them in residential areas as well.

Councilman Schindelar asked if we want those types of signs in residential areas.

Councilman Young stated that it is unlikely that they would be erected in all residential areas as they would want them in high traffic areas such as the corner at the blinking light down on Sparta-Stanhope Road. Perhaps it could be limited to those nonprofits that have 501c3 status.

Councilman Bunce stated that he would like to have the discussion while the entire Council is here so that we can get everyone's opinion before a decision is made.

The Council asked Bob McBriar if he would look to see how other towns handle signage of this type and asked him to report his findings to the Governing Body.

Councilwoman Galate asked the Council to consider waiving the fees for one of the Farmers Market vendors, Red Barn Crafts, for the rest of the season because of some issues that they have encountered during the first half of the season. She indicated that they had a letter in front of them drafted by the Administrator outlining the problem.

The Council agreed that they would waive the fees for the rest of the season for Red Barn Crafts.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting of August 19, 2015. Seconded by Councilman Schindelar. All were in favor.

Sylvia Petillo, Mayor

Catherine Schultz, RMC