

**MINUTES
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING,
BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG,
HELD AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 111 RIVER STYX ROAD
HOPATCONG, NEW JERSEY
MARCH 1, 2017
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.

PRESENTATIONS:

Lake Hopatcong Foundation

Marty Kane Chairman Board of Trustees & Donna Macalle-Holly (Acting) Executive Director provided an overview/update of the numerous Lake Hopatcong Foundation's initiatives, engage in Q & A.

Lee Moreau added some detail on the block party (number & type of vendors, crowd expected, support items required for success, opportunities to greet town leaders, engaging schools (volunteerism/civic duty or community service), Fire & EMS first aid stations, DEFENDER on the water demonstration, static display dive team and more (e.g. shuttle bus support, off-site parking , Police and public safety -Sussex County Explorers).

Lake Hopatcong Cruises – Salute to Veterans Cruise

Chelsea Cone , manager Lake Hopatcong Cruises will highlight the 2017 cruise season - especially the 1 July Salute to Veterans Cruise (s).

Captain Lee Moreau will discuss the 2016 cruise , it's success and some ideas to further improve our 2017 Miss Lotta & Lake Hopatcong Salute to Our Veterans.

--Hopatcong point of contact to identify Hopatcong 's 24 Veterans ?

--Shuttle bus service from Jefferson American Legion to boat ride & back (the more time they spend together elbow to elbow..the better day it is...a deeper sense of brotherhood).

--The CONCEPT of a post cruise BBQ --so that friends and families can be more engaged in Salute to Veterans. Will need help to survey interest, demand and helping hands.

--Rallying the Town to be "on the shore lines of Hopatcong to cheer our Vets as they cruise the lake" (90 minutes)

--Assuring we "support it two times"--it is like watching a parade twice !

Lake Hopatcong Historical Musuem

President Marty Kane provided an overview of the LHHM initiatives, the 2017 historical dinner program(s) , a very special weekend in September and an opportunity for high school students to participate in an archeological "dig" on the grounds of the Hopatcong State Park.

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

Councilwoman Galate reported that the Seniors Inc. group will meet tomorrow at 9:30 at the Senior Center. She also thanked all of volunteers who helped save the fisherman who fell through the ice last week on the lake. She stated that Officer Janosko and OEM Coordinator Crowley should be commended for their actions that day. Councilwoman Galate also reported that the Farmers Market Committee will be meeting again shortly to discuss vendors and special events for this year's market.

Councilman Schindelar reported that the Environmental Commission met and discussed the Earth Day walk scheduled for April 29th, the Flower Show on May 6th sponsored by the Creative Arts Council, the Tree Giveaway which might be held the same day and Hopatcong Days which is July 8th.

Councilman Young reported that there will be a cleanup of the Musconetcong on April 15th if anyone is interested in participating. He also reported that the basketball program is winding down and that the street hockey program will begin soon. The Recreation Commission is also working on this year's summer recreation program. Councilman Young stated that the Municipal Alliance held a meeting and discussed the CLEAR program (a program designed to help with drug addiction), the Girls on the Run Program and the Hero Boys program. He stated that the Municipal Alliance is also hoping to join with the schools to host a program regarding "Parents who Host, Lose the Most". He reported that the first movie night was a success and that two other movies are scheduled for the coming months.

Councilman Padula reported that the Redevelopment Committee and the DPW Committee will be meeting on March 7th.

Mayor Francis thanked all of the volunteers that helped in the ice rescue. He also stated how invaluable they all are to the Borough and thanked them for their service and dedication. He stated that he would like to see all of our volunteer organizations set up a table at the Farmers Market so that the residents can learn about each group. The Mayor also reported that the Borough has applied for a recycling grant from Dr. Pepper. He stated that the grant could be used for such things as trash containers or the creation of a water garden in front of the senior center. Mayor Francis also praised the CLEAR program. He stated that the drug problems in the County are devastating to families and residents and hopefully this program will help those affected.

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 Bunce. All were in favor.

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 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 February 15, 2017. Seconded by Councilwoman Galate.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Galate, Hoferkamp, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Bunce

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

At this time, Borough Administrator, Victor J. Marotta presented his report for the meeting of March 1, 2017. He reported that our new IT company Quiktechs started today and that they are saving the Borough approximately \$14,600 a year. He also stated that we will begin switching over our telephone service to AT&T beginning next week and that will provide a savings this year of \$61,000. Mr. Marotta also reported that the Fire Marshal is in the process of inspecting all municipal buildings and that any violations are being handled in a timely manner. Repairs will be coordinated with the DPW and the in-house electrician. Mr. Marotta stated that the first draft of the budget is complete and that it has been forwarded to the auditor for review. He stated that there is a Finance Committee meeting on March 8th and that if acceptable will be ready for

introduction. Mr. Marotta also stated that all financial reports have been submitted timely to the State, the first time that has been done in a few years.

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 and offer requests for changes, Councilman Young made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

CORRESPONDENCE (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING ONLY OF THE FOLLOWING):

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Tax Collector's Monthly Report: January 2017.

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. NJ State Firemen's Association Membership Applications:
 - Donald Cole
 - Alejandro Rodriguez.

RESOLUTIONS: (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Resolution # 2017-50-Outside Lien Redemption: Blk: 10808 Lt: 15, Blk: 30511 Lt: 11.
2. Resolution # 2017-51-Outside Lien Redemption: Blk: 10701 Lt: 6.
3. Resolution # 2017-52-Outside Lien Redemption: Blk: 40207 Lt: 8.
4. Resolution # 2017-53-Outside Lien Redemption: Blk: 10413 Lt: 12, Blk: 40208 Lt: 32.
5. Resolution # 2017-54-Outside Lien Redemption: Blk: 11112 Lt: 10, Blk: 30805 Lt: 5, Blk: 40107 Lt: 2.
6. Resolution # 2017-55- Outside Lien Redemption: Blk: 11105 Lt: 9.
7. Resolution # 2017-56-Outside Lien Redemption: Blk: 10901 Lt: 13.
8. Resolution # 2017-57-Outside Lien Redemption: Blk: 30104 Lt: 6.
9. Resolution # 2017-58-Outside Lien Redemption: Blk: 31403 Lt: 2.
10. Resolution # 2017-59-Outside Lien Redemption: Blk: 10810 Lt: 64.
11. Resolution # 2017-62-Outside Lien Redemption: Blk: 40105 Lt: 21.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #2017- 60 - Payment of Bills

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the payment of bills for the meeting of March 1, 2017. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Hoferkamp, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Galate

Resolution #2017-63 – Approval of Police Contract

Councilman Padula made a motion to adopt a resolution approving the contract with Local 149 for 2017-2019. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Councilman Padula stated that the contract negotiations were a very pleasant experience. There was a very open dialogue and Rich Sadowski represented the PBA

well. They, as well as the Borough, negotiated fairly but firmly. He stated that he believes that it was a win/win for everyone and that it will help us all moving forward with future negotiations.

Mayor Francis thanked Councilman Padula for all of his hard work.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilwoman Galate stated that she received the annual Tax Collector report and that she was not happy that it wasn't in the same format as in the past many years. She stated that she uses the document to help residents better understand the budget and tax collection process. She asked if the report could be redone in the same format in previous years.

Mr. Marotta responded that he spoke to the Tax Collector and that the report that was generated in previous years is very expensive to produce, not in paper products, but in the man hours that it takes to complete. He stated that the Tax Collector told him that it cost approximately \$2000 in man hours to complete.

Councilman Padula stated that if she can get him the information that he would put together the report.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Councilman Bunce 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 Young. All were in favor.

David Harris asked about the skate park and the basketball hoops and Councilman Bunce stated that the DPW will look at all of the parks in the spring to see if any repairs need to be made.

Mr. Harris asked about the Recreation Director Position duties and Mayor Francis responded that they are still being worked on.

Mara Modes asked when the budget would be available and she was told after the introduction of the budget. She asked for an explanation between an "area in need of rehabilitation" and an "area in need of redevelopment". Councilman Padula stated that there is different criteria and different tool box items that are available to use depending on which determination is used.

Jim Fitzpatrick asked about a thin blue line and was told there is one on Hopatchung Road. He asked if the Borough sends out community events or information by email and he was informed that the Borough posts them on Facebook and on our website. The Honeywell and WENS systems are only used for emergencies.

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 March 1, 2017. Seconded by Councilman Young. All were in favor.

Michael Francis, Mayor

Catherine Schultz, RMC