

**MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING,
BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG,
HELD AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 111 RIVER STYX ROAD
HOPATCONG, NEW JERSEY
FEBRUARY 6, 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 Young, and Mayor Francis.

Absent: Councilman Smith

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 Roberts commented on the Chili Tasting contest sponsored by the Lake Hopatcong Elks; \$2,300 was raised for the Leap in the Lake to benefit children with special needs. She spoke about the Board of Education meeting being positive, the closing of Hudson Maxim School, and how the community came together to help. She also spoke about universal pre-school and preparedness.

Councilman Hoferkamp said the first Seniors Inc. meeting will be held at St. Jude's tomorrow, and a few of the Council members will attend various meetings. He also said on the agenda there is a vote to hire a new DPW employee and he is looking for support on that.

Councilman Schindelar said on February 4th he attended the water and sewer meeting. He said an outside firm was brought in and they found various leaks around town and fixed them. He went on to say the shop is adding equipment for maintenance and better storage. Councilman Schindelar also said John Ruschke is working on information for a GIS survey for the sewer system. He is hoping to have information soon on the rate study being done, answers are being provided to the group that has been questioning the sewers, and he hopes they continue to work well together.

Councilman Young said the Environmental Commission had their meeting. Jule Gorman is the Chairman, and new member Willa Scantlebury was welcomed. The Commission formed a committee that is looking to have an environmental workshop/seminar possibly in April. He said the Hudson Farm hike will be May 18th, Hopatcong Days will be July 13th, they will be having another poster contest for the 4th grade, a town clean-up/shred day (mid-September), and a National Trail Day on June 1st. He went on to say they are working on grants for a rain garden

and pollinator garden. Councilman Young then spoke about the Municipal Alliance saying they will be supporting Project Graduation and a program called Footprints. They are planning a Bike Rodeo in April. He said they are looking into an anti-vaping seminar for Middle School age children, Cyber Security for Middle and High School, a program for Parents Who Host Lose the Most, and a program called 15 Minutes which encourages parents to talk to their children 15 minutes every day. Hero Boys and Girls on the Run will start this spring. They are also interested in adding Anti-vaping signs to the Non-Smoking signs in the parks.

Councilman Padula commented on the hiring of a temporary DPW employee to a permanent position on the agenda. This person has had great reviews and wants the Council's support. He said our new chip and seal roads are doing well with sanding and plowing. He is looking for a resolution for the next meeting to increase the temporary funding to the DPW for the netting at Nariticong field; he would like that project completed before the season begins. He went on to speak about the Finance Committee saying he is impressed with the detail in budgets, and they are expecting a budget that is exact, good, and well-managed.

Mr. Ursin said spoke about the Mara Modes lawsuit (financial agreement) and said they should receive the judge's decision within 2 weeks.

Mayor Francis said a grant of \$10,000 was received from Sustainable New Jersey for instant hot water heaters which will save energy. He said work will be starting soon on the Solar Field.

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 Schindelar. All were in favor.

There was a question concerning the ordinance for water and sewer late fees. Mr. Ursin said it had to deal with language being changed, as the original was not clear.

Sam Zarro, Mast Road, had a question about unpaid water and sewer fees, and when a lien would be put on a property. Mr. Ursin said approximately one year.

There was a question on the due dates for water and sewer. Mr. Ursin said there was a recommendation to stagger water and sewer payments; nothing is changing yet.

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 Councilman Young. All were in favor.

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 Hoferkamp.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Hoferkamp, Padula, Roberts, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Smith Abstentions: None

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

Introduction Ordinance #02-2019 – LATE FEES WATER & SEWER ACCOUNTS

Councilman Young made a motion to introduce 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 Councilwoman Roberts

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Hoferkamp, Padula, Roberts, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Smith Abstentions: None

FINAL READING: FEBRUARY 20, 2019

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #2019-37 – Municipal Alliance 2020 Grant

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the submission of a strategic plan for the Hopatcong Municipal Alliance grant for the fiscal year 2020. Seconded by Councilman Schindelar.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Hoferkamp, Padula, Roberts, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Smith Abstentions: None

Resolution #2019-40 – Hiring of DPW Employee

Councilman Padula made a motion to adopt a resolution hiring Ronald Willis as a DPW Laborer, at an hourly rate of \$21.14, effective January 21, 2019. Seconded by Councilman Hoferkamp.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Hoferkamp, Padula, Roberts, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Smith Abstentions: None

Resolution #2019-41 – Appointing Fire Marshal

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution appointing Shaun Poland as Fire Marshal for the Borough of Hopatcong, effective January 1, 2019. Seconded by Councilman Schindelar.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Hoferkamp, Padula, Roberts, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Smith Abstentions: None

Resolution #2019-42 – Appointing Deputy Fire Marshal

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution appointing Franklin Steinberg as Deputy Fire Marshal for the Borough of Hopatcong, effective January 1, 2019. Seconded by Councilman Padula

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Hoferkamp, Padula, Roberts, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Smith Abstentions: None

Resolution #2019-43 – Payment of Bills

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the payment of bills for the meeting of February 6, 2019. Seconded by Councilman Padula.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Hoferkamp, Padula, Roberts, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Smith Abstentions: None

Resolution #2019-44 – Award of Contract – Tony's Concrete Construction

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt a resolution awarding a contract to Tony's Concrete Construction in an amount not to exceed \$314,923 for the Durban Avenue Pedestrian Safety Project. Seconded by Councilman Padula.

Mr. Tappan explained this is from a grant to reconstruct pedestrian walkways; this is a pre-requisite to a grant received from the federal government to repave Durban Avenue.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Hoferkamp, Padula, Roberts, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: Smith Abstentions: None

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Ursin spoke about the Chapter 186 changes saying the sewer dates are not changing. The water ordinance had billing references, but did not have dates. Therefore, they are adding dates and are staggering them.

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.

David Harris, Dupont Avenue, asked about street lighting on Flora Avenue and the Board of Education. Mr. Tappen said lighting was not included in this specific grant.

Danette Swanson said she wanted to agree with Councilwoman Roberts about the move of Hudson Maxim Students. She is the Recreation Commission Chairperson. She made herself available for any questions including those for salaries for the 2 directors of the Summer Rec program (Kindergarten through 8th Grade), and whether or not resolutions are needed for those. Also discussed was the chain of command, and price change (early sign-up fees were removed).

Councilman Padula asked about the first date of Little League season, he was told April 1st. Cathy Millian commented on the fields being soft during that time.

Jeff Guttenberger, Beacon Road, asked about a buffer zone for sidewalks. He was told all criteria will be met.

Jennifer Johnson and Heather Fiore approached the Board and spoke about a meeting concerning the water and sewers they had with various Council members, as well as their concerns. They provided the Board with copies of water and sewer bills, as well as additional questions, and copies of ordinances which are attached hereto.

Mayor Francis said he is happy we are working together to make this right; a rate study is in progress. He added if the ordinance needs to be changed, it will be.

Councilman Schindelar spoke about water meters and the costs associated with them, as well as the possibility of a public meeting.

Lynn Ritchie, 110 Staten Trail, asked if the rate study would be completed by the end of February. She was told that there has been no definite date given yet.

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.

ADJOURNMENT:

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