

**MINUTES
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING,
BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG,
HELD AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 111 RIVER STYX ROAD
HOPATCONG, NEW JERSEY
MARCH 14, 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.

AUCTION OF MUNICIPAL PROPERTY:

Councilman Schindelar made a motion to open the auctions for the following two properties. Seconded by Councilman Hoferkamp. All were in favor.

Sale of Municipal Property – Block 40320, Lot 1, 8 Upsala Trail – (Non-conforming Min. Bid \$3,450)

Mr. Rich Chiarella offered the minimum bid of \$3,450. There were no other bids.

Sale of Municipal Property – Block 40320, Lots 3 and 5, 4 Upsala Trail/11 Swathmore Trail – (Conforming-Min. Bid \$8,600)

Mr. Rich Chiarella offered the minimum bid of \$8,600. There were no other bids.

Councilman Young made a motion to take a five minute recess. Seconded by Councilman Bunce. All were in favor.

Councilman Young made a motion to return to the regular order of business. Seconded by Councilman Bunce. All were in favor.

PRESENTATIONS:

At this time Mayor Francis presented the Arrow of Light Awards - Justin Dannecker, Nicholas Quinn and Alex Sakkos.

INTRODUCTION OF 2018 MUNICIPAL BUDGET:

Introduction Ordinance #05-2018 – Exceed Budget Appropriation Limits and To Establish a Cap Bank

Councilman Bunce made a motion to introduce an ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2018". Seconded by Councilman Padula.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

FINAL READING: APRIL 11, 2018

Resolution #2018-58 – Introduction of 2018 Budget

Councilman Padula made a motion to adopt a resolution introducing the 2018 Budget for the Borough of Hopatcong. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

BUDGET HEARING: APRIL 11, 2018 OR SOON THEREAFTER

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Councilwoman Galate stated that the Farmer's Market is coming along – the invitation letters are in the process of being mailed out. She stated that this year there will Baking Contest at the market.

Councilman Hoferkamp stated that the schools are offering a “pre-play” event for the seniors. The play this year is Cinderella and the Substitute Fairy Godmother. He also stated that the Environmental Commission informed him that the tree giveaway needs to be cancelled because the State ran out of trees.

Councilman Schindelar asked the Council to vote in favor of the introduction of the ordinance to auction off two pieces of property and to adopt the Meuse Road vacation ordinance. He also stated that he attended the MSA meeting.

Councilman Young stated that the Recreation Commission discussed the possibility of rescheduling the Easter Egg Hunt to the High School gym in case of inclement weather. He also stated that the Summer Recreation schedule needs to be adjusted, as well as the fees, because of the bad weather. There will be a resolution on for consideration at the next meeting. He also stated that they discussed policy changes regarding use of electronics at Summer Recreation. They decided not to make any changes. He also stated that the Street Hockey program will be starting shortly. He congratulated the DPW on a job well done with the snow.

Councilman Bunce stated that the DPW is working on the trucks after the recent storm. He also commented that the Finance Committee has done a great job with the budget.

Councilman Padula stated that the Redevelopment Committee will be meeting with John Ruschke to discuss the Street-Scaping Project and the Seton Hall Project.

Mayor Francis stated that the Borough has instituted a new Emergency Alert System called Nixle. If you want to be a part of it you have to text the word Hopatcong to 888777. It is a powerful tool to help the municipality get out important information. Residents can also respond with a tip.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: At this time, Borough Administrator, Ron Tappan, presented his report for the meeting of March 14, 2018. He also reported on the new Nixle Emergency Alert System. He also reported that there is a resolution on for consideration this evening to approve a shared service with the schools to allow for a police officer in the schools.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Councilman Bunce 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 Young. All were in favor.

Terry Walker addressed the Council regarding the Borough's reputation and the outsourcing of services. She said that it sends a poor message about the Borough and that she wants us to be exposed in a much better light.

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Young made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 21, 2018. Seconded by Councilwoman Galate.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Galate, Hoferkamp, Padula, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Bunce, Schindelar

CONSENT AGENDA: 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.

Councilwoman Galate asked to remove Resolution #2018-65 and that it be voted on separately.

CORRESPONDENCE (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING ONLY OF THE FOLLOWING):

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Zoning Department Report: February 2018.

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Resolution # 2018-55: Outside Lien Redemption, Blk: 10803 Lt: 4.
2. Resolution # 2018-56: Outside Lien Redemption, Blk: 11103 Lt: 18.
3. Resolution # 2018-57: Outside Lien Redemption, Blk: 30105 Lt: 19.
4. Resolution # 2018-60: Waive interest, Blk: 31605 Lt: 12.
5. Resolution # 2018-63: Outside Lien Redemption, Blk: 30704 Lt: 15.
6. Resolution # 2018-64: Outside Lien Redemption, Blk: 11305 Lt: 11.
7. Resolution # 2018-65: Outside Lien Redemption, Blk: 40105 Lt: 11.

After all persons have had an opportunity to review the consent agenda and offer requests for changes, Councilman Bunce made a motion to approve the consent agenda, removing Resolution #2018-65. 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 adopt resolution #2018-65. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Hoferkamp, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Galate

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

Introduction Ordinance #06-2018 – Parks and Recreation Areas

Councilman Bunce made a motion to introduce an ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 163 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG, SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY REGARDING PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS". Seconded by Councilman Young.

Councilman Young stated that he had some questions regarding the closing times for the fields that have lights on them. He stated that he doesn't think that this ordinance addresses those fields.

After discussion, Councilman Bunce made a motion to table this ordinance until more research is done. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

FINAL READING: APRIL 4, 2018

Introduction Ordinance #07-2018 – Sale of Municipal Property – Block 40217, Lot 16, 30 Jefferson Trail

Councilman Schindelar made a motion to introduce an ordinance entitled “AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NJ AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY THE BOROUGH AND NOT REQUIRED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES AND MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS 30 JEFFERSON TRAIL, BLOCK 40217, LOT 16”. Seconded by Councilman Hoferkamp.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

FINAL READING: APRIL 4, 2018

AUCTION: APRIL 11, 2018

Introduction Ordinance #08-2018 – Sale of Municipal Property

Councilman Young made a motion to introduce an ordinance entitled “AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NJ AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY THE BOROUGH AND NOT REQUIRED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES AND MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS 302 SANTA FE TRAIL, BLOCK 30102, LOT 12”. Seconded by Councilman Schindelar.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

FINAL READING: APRIL 4, 2018

AUCTION: APRIL 11, 2018

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:

Adoption Ordinance #04-2018 – Vacation of a Portion of Meuse Road

Councilman Schindelar made a motion to adopt an ordinance entitled “AN ORDINANCE PARTIALLY VACATING A PORTION OF MEUSE ROAD”. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Before final roll call, Mayor Francis opened the meeting to the public for any comments or questions regarding Ordinance #04-2018.

There being no one from the public who wished to address the Governing Body regarding Ordinance #04-2018, Councilman Young made a motion to close the meeting to the public and return to the regular of business. Seconded by Councilman Schindelar. All were in favor.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Hoferkamp, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Galate

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #2018-59 – Payment of Bills

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the payment of bills for the meeting of March 14, 2018, pulling check numbers 17-00234, 18-00049, 00060, 00200, 00210, 00213, 00223, 00347, 00349, and 00412. 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 approve the payment of invoice numbers 17-00234, 18-00049, 00060, 00200, 00210, 00213, 00223, 00347, 00349, and 00412. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Hoferkamp, Padula, Schindelar, Young

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Galate

Resolution #2018-61 – Humane Law Enforcement Officer

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adopt a resolution approving the duties, responsibilities, and compensation for the Municipal Humane Law Enforcement Officer. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2018-62 – Shared Service Agreement – Police Services

Councilman Schindelar made a motion to adopt a resolution entitled "AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG TO ENTER INTO A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE PROVISION OF PROVIDING POLICE SERVICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 ET SEQ. AND N.J.S.A. 40A:11-10 ET SEQ." Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Acceptance of Easement – 26 Shore Road, Block 10810, Lot 62

Councilman Young made a motion to authorize the acceptance of an easement for 26 Shore Road, Block 10810, Lot 62 as recommended by the Borough Engineer. Seconded by Councilman Bunce.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Discussion – Request to Waive Late Fees and Interest – 6 North River Styx Rd

Mayor Francis stated that the check from this resident was not received because of a bank error.

Councilman Bunce made a motion to approve the request from the owner of 6 North River Styx Road to waive the fees for their sewer bills and their taxes. Seconded by Councilman Young.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Councilman Padula asked if the Council wanted to discuss the letter from Greentree regarding abatements and Mayor Francis stated that it should be addressed by the Redevelopment Committee first to see if they meet the criteria. If they do, then it can be brought before the Council.

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.

Cassie Prisco, owner of OSCAR, addressed the Council regarding the proposed shooting range which is less than ½ a mile from the animal rescue. She stated that she expects that the issue be brought before the Planning Board for a full review. She wants to make sure that noise issues are addressed as well as consideration of financial costs, emotional costs etc. She stated that she has worked very hard to save them money to purchase this property for the rescue and believes that it will be detrimental to the dogs that she is trying to rescue.

Terry Walker, Staten Trail, stated that she would like the town to consider for next year that the taxes and utility bills not be due on a weekend. Councilman Bunce stated that the payments can be dropped off in the box and that the date will be honored.

Jeff Guttenberger, 16 Beacon, stated that he loves to hike in the woods and doesn't like the fact that the plans are being done in secret.

Diana Mario, 119 Bergen, stated that she hopes that the Council can insure the safety of the residents wondering by.

Mayor Francis stated that nothing will happen on that property until all of the studies are done. He said that we need to meet a certain criteria for a Police Training facility as well as a tactical training facility.

Councilman Young stated that it will be built according to NRA specifications.

Michelle Guttenberger, 16 Beacon Road, addressed the Council regarding the previous range, stating that the Council did not do the right thing. She read an article published in the NJ Herald regarding the range. She stated that the range will affect peoples' property values.

John Kowalchuk, Sparta, addressed the Council regarding the shelter. He stated that he volunteers at OSCAR and is not satisfied with the response that the Council will update the public when they can. He stated that they are a hardworking group and can't believe that a decent person would vote to hurt animals.

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.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adjourn the meeting of March 14, 2018. Seconded by Councilman Young. All were in favor.

Councilman Young made a motion to reopen the meeting to the public for additional comments. Seconded by Councilman Padula. All were in favor.

Anna Heirich stated that she wanted to impress upon the Council the value of volunteers and that she rescued a dog from OSCAR.

Linda Muirhead, 107 Bergen Trail, stated that animals are everything to her and she likes them more than people. She asked the Council to reconsider because she doesn't think that we need a shooting range.

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adjourn the meeting of March 14, 2018. Seconded by Councilman Young. All were in favor.