

**MINUTES
FOR THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING,
BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG,
HELD AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 111 RIVER STYX ROAD
HOPATCONG, NEW JERSEY
DECEMBER 1, 2016
OPEN PUBLIC MEETING 7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER: Announce Quorum

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT: Council President Padula 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." (Council President noted fire exits)

ROLL CALL: The Clerk called the roll and the following members were present: Councilman Bunce (on conference call), Councilman Francis, Councilwoman Galate, Councilman Schindelar, Councilman Young and Council President Padula.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Council President Padula 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 Councilwoman Galate. All were in favor.

David Hughes asked about the procedures regarding paying the public defender. Mr. Ursin stated that the Council would not know that information. Mr. Hughes stated that he OPRA'ed the information and he didn't get what he was looking for. He stated that he would come see the Clerk tomorrow.

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 Schindelar. All were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion and Appointment of Mayor

At this time, the Governing Body discussed the names of the three nominees, Michael Francis, Richard Schindelar and Frank Padula, submitted to the Council from the Hopatcong Republican County Committee for the selection of a successor to fill the vacancy of Mayor.

Councilman Young made a motion to appoint Michael Francis as the Mayor of the Borough of Hopatcong. Seconded by Councilman Schindelar.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Bunce, Galate, Schindelar, Young, Padula

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Francis

Councilman Francis thanked his wife Sandy, his friends and his fellow Councilmen for their support and stated that he will do his best to do what is right for the Borough and its residents.

OATH OF OFFICE:

1. Catherine Schultz, Borough Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Michael Francis to fill the unexpired term until the next General Election to be held in November, 2017.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution #2016-237 – Hiring of Water/Sewer Employee

Council President Padula made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the hiring of Kenneth Barry as a Full Time Water/Sewer heavy Equipment /Truck Driver at a rate of \$20.00 per hour. Seconded by Councilman Young.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Contract Approval – Business Administrator

Council President Padula stated that the Council interviewed 10 highly qualified candidates and that they chose Mr. Marotta out of them all. He stated that he and the Council are looking forward to having Mr. Marotta on board and working with him.

Councilman Young made a motion to authorize the hiring of Victor Marotta as the new Business Administrator for the Borough of Hopatcong, effective December 12, 2016. Seconded by Councilwoman Galate.

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

RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilwoman Galate made a motion to adopt a resolution to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss personnel (appointment of Municipal Judge), and litigation. Seconded by Councilman Padula.

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

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 Councilman Padula.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Bunce made a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting of December 1, 2016. Seconded by Councilman Young. All were in favor.

Michael Francis, Mayor

Catherine Schultz, Clerk