

OPEN SESSION

Mayor Robert Patten called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. and read the Open Public Meetings Act statement which stated that adequate notice and posting of the meeting had taken place in accordance with the requirements of P.L. 1975, Chapter 231.

The invocation was led by Councilwoman Nancy Walker-Laudenberger

The flag salute was led by Councilman Quattrone and was followed by the roll call.

ROLL CALL

	PRESENT	ABSENT
<i>Mayor Patten</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Holtzclaw</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Laudenberger</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Quattrone</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Schneider</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Sikorski</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Thompson</i>	✓	

Also in attendance: Candace Gallagher, Borough Clerk/Administrator; Leona Baylor, Deputy Borough Clerk; and Frederick Raffetto, Esq., Borough Attorney.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The meeting agenda was moved by Councilman Sikorski, seconded by Councilwoman Holtzclaw and unanimously approved as submitted.

SWEARING-IN OF ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS

COUNCILMAN WALTER SIKORSKI

Mayor Patten swore in Councilman Walter Sikorski to a new, three-year term. Councilman Sikorski was attended by his sister for the event. Following his swearing-in, Mr. Sikorski paid tribute to his father, who immigrated to the U.S. from Poland in 1912, and he thanked his mother for her emotional support, adding that he wished they both could be present at this meeting. He went on to say that he has learned a great deal in the time he has been on Council. He commended Council President Quattrone for his "courage during the past year in raising the issue of workforce reduction in the Borough" and thanked Councilwoman Laudenberger for her "gentle nudging at the Mayor during prolonged meetings." In closing, Councilman Sikorski thanked Hightstown's citizens for their support and expressed hope that he will help make Hightstown "a better place in 2005."

COUNCILMAN PATRICK THOMPSON

Mayor Patten swore in Councilman Patrick Thompson to a new, three-year term. Councilman Thompson was attended by his wife and two children. Following the swearing-in, Mr. Thompson thanked Hightstown's residents for their trust, and said that he was happy to be able to share that moment with his family.

RECOGNITION OF DIGNITARIES

Mayor Patten noted the presence of the following dignitaries at this meeting: Mercer County Freeholders Keith Hamilton and Tony Mack, East Windsor Mayor Janice Mironov, East Windsor Councilman Walter Daniels, former Hightstown Mayor Harold "Skip" Cox, and former Councilmembers Torry Watkins, Jane Cox, Eugene Sarafin, Mike Vanderbeck and Richard Harlan Pratt. He thanked them all for attending.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Patten opened the floor for Public Comment.

Phyllis Deal, 305 Stockton Street, thanked the governing body for their "efforts and hard work during the past year," and their "dedication to making Hightstown a great place to live."

Eugene Sarafin, 600-628 S. Main Street, noted that this event marks the 40th reorganization meeting (dubbed by him as "coronation") that he has attended. He said that "things haven't really changed," adding that we still have a President from Texas and the war in Vietnam has been replaced with the war in Iraq. He spoke of the tragedy of 150,000 people dying during the recent tsunami in the Indian Ocean, and of the deaths of 1,300 Americans and 15,000 Iraqis in Iraq. "We're repeating history with the same pointless wars," he said. "There is nothing gained in the slaughter of human beings." Mr. Sarafin closed his comments with a reading from H. L. Mencken.

No one else came forward and the floor was closed.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 2005-01: ELECTING COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOR 2005

2004 Council President Lawrence D. Quattrone thanked Council for a "great year." "We talk issues over, beat them up, iron them out, get the word to the public, and they come out," he said. "When a leader sees things going well, he doesn't interfere," he went on. "When they're not going well, he must step forward. I never had that problem." He said that he enjoyed it and learned a lot, and thanked his wife, Judy, for her generosity.

Mr. Quattrone then nominated **Councilman David Schneider** as Council President for 2005, noting that Mr. Schneider is "good at contract negotiations and cares about Hightstown." The nomination was seconded by Councilwoman Laudenberger. No other nominations were offered, and the roll was called on Resolution 2005-01.

Roll Call: Councilmembers Holtzclaw, Laudenberger, Quattrone, Schneider, Sikorski and Thompson voted yes.

Resolution adopted, 6-0.

RESOLUTION 2005-01**ELECTING COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOR 2005**

WHEREAS, there exists a need to fill the position of Council President for 2005; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Borough Council to elect Councilmember David Schneider to fill that position;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that David Schneider is hereby elected Council President for the year 2005.

Council President Schneider stated that he has learned a lot by watching the Borough's former Council Presidents in action. When Mayor Patten served as Council President, he said, "he was quick to jump in when there was an error." Councilwoman Laudenberger "was the epitome of grace and poise in that position, and handled it with class and a great attitude." And lastly, Councilman Quattrone always "looked out for the best interest of Hightstown, even when his own popularity was on the line." He said that he was honored to have been selected, and will "try to be the best I can and draw on the examples set."

2005 APPOINTMENTS

Resolutions 2005-02, 03, 04, and 05 were moved by Councilman Sikorski and seconded by Councilwoman Laudenberger.

Roll Call: Councilmembers Holtzclaw, Laudenberger, Quattrone, Schneider, Sikorski and Thompson voted yes.

Resolutions adopted, 6-0.

RESOLUTION 2005-02**RESOLUTION RATIFYING AND CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS FOR 2005 - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

WHEREAS, in accordance with the *Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown*, Mayor Robert Patten has proposed the following appointments, subject to the advice and consent of Council:

		Term	Term expiration
Municipal Attorney:	Frederick Raffetto, Esq. Ansell Zaro Grimm & Aaron 1500 Lawrence Avenue, CN 7807 Ocean, New Jersey 07712	1 year	December 31, 2005
Special Labor Counsel:	Richard J. Shaklee, Esq. McLaughlin Gelson, LLC 1305 Campus Parkway, Suite 200 Neptune, New Jersey 07753	1 year	December 31, 2005
Municipal Engineer:	Carmela Santaniello, P.E. Roberts & Reymann Engineering, LLC 1670 Whitehorse-Hamilton Square Road Suite C-2 Hamilton, NJ 08690	1 year	December 31, 2005
Municipal Auditor:	William E. Antonides, CPA, RMA William E. Antonides and Company 2807 Hurley Pond Road, Suite 200 P.O. Box 1137 Wall, New Jersey 07719	1 year	December 31, 2005
Bond Counsel:	Edward J. McManimon, III McManimon & Scotland, LLC One Riverfront Plaza, Fourth Floor Newark, New Jersey 07102	1 year	December 31, 2005

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hightstown Borough Council does hereby consent to the Mayor's appointments as listed herein, and said appointments are ratified and confirmed effective this date, January 1, 2005.

**RESOLUTION 2005-03 RESOLUTION MAKING AND CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS FOR 2005 -
BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES**

BE IT RESOLVED that the following appointments are hereby made and confirmed by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown:

Planning Board

Walter Sikorski, Councilmember	1 yr.	December 31, 2005
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Environmental Commission

Charles "Cappy" Stults	3 yrs.	December 31, 2007
David Zaiser	3 yrs.	December 31, 2007
Robert Ohle	3 yrs.	December 31, 2007
Barbara Jones, Alternate #1	2 yrs.	December 31, 2006

Board of Health

Katherine Zaiser	3 yrs.	December 31, 2007
Jan Rotolo	3 yrs.	December 31, 2007
Sandra Brown - Alternate #1	2 yrs.	December 31, 2006
Rob Thibault – Alternate #2	ux 2 yrs.	December 31, 2005

RESOLUTION 2005-04 RESOLUTION MAKING AND CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS FOR 2005 - BOROUGH OFFICIALS

BE IT RESOLVED that the following appointments are hereby made and confirmed by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown:

Deputy Borough Clerk

Leona Baylor	1 yr.	December 31, 2005
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Joint Insurance Fund Commissioner

Candace B. Gallagher	1 yr.	December 31, 2005
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Alternate Joint Insurance Fund Commissioner

James M. Eufemia	1 yr.	December 31, 2005
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Assessment Search Officer

Candace B. Gallagher	1 yr.	December 31, 2005
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Public Agency Compliance Officer (P.A.C.O.)

Leona Baylor	1 yr.	December 31, 2005
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Tax Search Officer

Nancy Martin	1 yr.	December 31, 2005
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Water-Sewer Collector

Nancy Martin	1 yr.	December 31, 2005
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<u>Deputy Tax/Water/Sewer Collector</u>		
Arlene O'Rourke	1 yr.	December 31, 2005
<u>Public Defenders</u>		
Craig Cox (evening)	1 yr.	December 31, 2005
Gus Siggelakis (daytime)	1 yr.	December 31, 2005
<u>Alternate Prosecutors</u>		
#1 – Ashley Hutchinson, Esq.	1 yr.	December 31, 2005
#2 - Kevin Nerwinski, Esq.	1 yr.	December 31, 2005
#3 – Marc Citron, Esq.	1 yr.	December 31, 2005
<u>Zoning Officer</u>		
Harry Wetterskog	1 yr.	December 31, 2005
<u>Building Inspector</u>		
Harry Wetterskog	1 yr.	December 31, 2005
<u>Housing Inspectors</u>		
Harry Wetterskog	1 yr.	December 31, 2005
Thomas Murray	1 yr.	December 31, 2005
<u>Fire Inspector (UCC)</u>		
Harry Wetterskog	1 yr.	December 31, 2005
<u>Recreation Director</u>		
Larry Gunnell	1 yr.	December 31, 2005
<u>Borough Historian</u>		
Clark Hutchinson	1 yr.	December 31, 2005
<u>Community Health Nurse</u>		
Sharon Lane	1 yr.	December 31, 2005
<u>School Crossing Guards</u>		
James Coleman	1 yr.	December 31, 2005
Edward E. Hayes	1 yr.	December 31, 2005
Maria Sterns	1 yr.	December 31, 2005

RESOLUTION 2005-05 APPOINTING COUNCIL LIAISONS

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the following Council liaisons are hereby confirmed:

SUSAN HOLTZCLAW

Fire Department
Water and Sewer Departments

LAWRENCE D. QUATTRONE

First Aid Squad
Public Works
Parks and Recreation Commission

NANCY WALKER-LAUDENBERGER

Police Department
Historic Preservation Commission

PATRICK THOMPSON

Finance & Administration
Environmental Commission

WALTER SIKORSKI

Construction/Housing/Fire Code Enforcement
Board of Health

DAVID SCHNEIDER

Municipal Court
Borough-owned properties

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS

The following Mayoral appointments were listed in the meeting packets:

	<u>Planning Board</u>	
Bill Searing, Class II member	1 yr.	December 31, 2005
Jim Jurgens	4 yr.	December 31, 2008
Richard Harlan Pratt	4 yr.	December 31, 2008
Paul Byrne, Alternate #2	2 yr.	December 31, 2006

	<u>Parks and Recreation Commission</u>	
Anne Blake	5 yr.	December 31, 2009
Chris Field, Alternate #1	ux. 5 yr.	December 31, 2008
Harry Alexander, Alternate #2	ux. 5 yr.	December 31, 2007

	<u>Housing Authority</u>	
Robert Hung	5 yr.	December 31, 2009

	<u>Historic Preservation Commission</u>	
Amy Aughenbaugh	4 yr.	December 31, 2008
Christian Kirkpatrick, Alternate #2	2 yr.	December 31, 2006

In addition, the Mayor will be making appointments early in 2005 to the following committees:

Water and Sewer Committee

Community Celebration Committee
(Councilwoman Nancy Walker-Laudenberger, Chair)

Solid Waste Committee

Animal Welfare Committee

Downtown Improvement Committee

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolutions 2005-06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 19, and 20 were moved by Councilman Sikorski and seconded by Councilman Quattrone.

Roll Call: Councilmembers Holtzclaw, Laudenberger, Quattrone, Schneider, Sikorski and Thompson voted yes.

Resolutions adopted, 6-0.

RESOLUTION 2005-06 DESIGNATING OFFICIAL BOROUGH NEWSPAPERS

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the *Hightstown Gazette*, the *Trenton Times* and the *Windsor-Hights Herald* are hereby designated as the official newspapers of the municipality for the year 2005.

RESOLUTION 2005-07 ESTABLISHING 2005 SCHEDULE OF HOLIDAYS AND BOROUGH BUSINESS HOURS

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the following will be considered the official holidays for the year 2005 and the first week of 2006:

January 3	New Years' Day observed (Monday)
January 17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Monday)
February 21	Presidents Day (Monday)
March 25	Good Friday
May 30	Memorial Day observed (Monday)
July 4	Independence Day (Monday)
September 5	Labor Day (Monday)
October 10	Columbus Day observed (Monday)
November 11	Veterans Day (Friday)
November 24	Thanksgiving Day (Thursday)
November 25	Day After Thanksgiving (Friday)
December 26	Christmas Day observed (Monday)
January 2, 2006	New Years Day observed (Monday)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the official business hours for Borough offices will be 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

RESOLUTION 2005-08 APPROVING THE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE YEAR 2005

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the meetings of the Mayor and Borough Council for the remainder of 2005 and for the first two meetings in 2006, will be held at **7:00 p.m.**, unless otherwise noted, at the Municipal Building at 148 North Main Street, Hightstown, on the following dates:

2005 SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING DATES

TUESDAY	January 4
TUESDAY (Monday holiday)	January 18
MONDAY	February 7
TUESDAY (Monday holiday)	February 22
MONDAY	March 7
MONDAY	March 21
MONDAY	April 4
MONDAY	April 18
MONDAY	May 2
MONDAY	May 16

MONDAY	June 6
MONDAY	June 20
TUESDAY (Monday holiday)	July 5
MONDAY	July 18
MONDAY	August 1
MONDAY	August 15
TUESDAY (Monday holiday)	September 6
MONDAY	September 19
MONDAY	October 3
MONDAY	October 17
MONDAY	November 7
MONDAY	November 21
MONDAY	December 5
MONDAY	December 19

2006 Meetings

Sunday, January 1 – Reorganization Meeting, 12 noon
 Tuesday, January 3 – Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

RESOLUTION 2005-09 DESIGNATING CERTIFYING AGENT FOR PENSION FUNDS

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of the Hightstown that, in accordance with requirements of the Public Employee's Retirement System and the Policeman's and Fireman's Retirement System, Borough Chief Financial Officer George J. Lang is hereby designated as Certifying Agent for Pension Funds, and shall be responsible for processing and submitting all documents, as required, pertaining to the aforesaid retirement systems.

RESOLUTION 2005-10 AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF INTERIM CHECKS

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that authorization be given to the Treasurer to issue checks for the purpose of payroll and/or emergency payments between Council meetings during 2005, and that these payments will appear on the bill list to be approved by the Mayor and Council at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting.

RESOLUTION 2005-11 AUTHORIZING PETTY CASH FUNDS

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the Borough Clerk, the Borough Treasurer and the Superintendent of the Wastewater Treatment Plant are authorized to be custodians of funds, as follows, for the purpose of petty cash expenditures:

Borough Clerk's Office - \$50.00
 Finance Office - \$100.00
 Water & Sewer Department - \$50.00

RESOLUTION 2005-12**AUTHORIZING 2005 TEMPORARY OPERATING BUDGET – CURRENT**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-19 provides that:

“The governing body may and, if any contracts, commitments or payments are to be made prior to the adoption of the budget, shall by resolution adopted within the first 30 days of the beginning of the fiscal year, make appropriations to provide for the period between the beginning of the fiscal year and the adoption of the budget.

The total of appropriations so made shall not exceed 26.25% of the total of the appropriations made for all purposes in the budget for the preceding fiscal year excluding in both instances, appropriations made for interest and debt redemption charges, capital improvement fund and public assistance.”

; and

WHEREAS, 26.25 percent of the total appropriations in the 2004 current budget, exclusive of appropriations for capital improvement fund, public assistance, and debt service, is \$1,159,982.54;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The 2005 Temporary Operating Budget (Current), as detailed on the annexed Schedule¹, totaling \$1,159,982.54 is hereby adopted in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-19.
2. Certified copies of this Resolution shall be provided forthwith to the Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer and Borough Auditor.

RESOLUTION 2005-13**AUTHORIZING 2005 TEMPORARY OPERATING BUDGET – WATER/SEWER**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-19 provides that:

“The governing body may and, if any contracts, commitments or payments are to be made prior to the adoption of the budget, shall by resolution adopted within the first 30 days of the beginning of the fiscal year, make appropriations to provide for the period between the beginning of the fiscal year and the adoption of the budget.

The total of appropriations so made shall not exceed 26.25% of the total of the appropriations made for all purposes in the budget for the preceding fiscal year excluding in both instances, appropriations made for interest and debt redemption charges, capital improvement fund and public assistance.”

; and

WHEREAS, 26.25 percent of the total appropriations in the 2004 water-sewer utility budget, exclusive of appropriations for capital improvement fund, public assistance, and debt service, is \$524,816.25;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The 2005 Temporary Operating Budget (Water/Sewer), as detailed on the annexed Schedule², totaling \$524,816.25 is hereby adopted in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-19.
2. Certified copies of this Resolution shall be provided forthwith to the Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer and Borough Auditor.

¹ Included at end of these 1/1/05 minutes.

² Included at end of these 1/1/05 minutes.

RESOLUTION 2005-14**ESTABLISHING THE RATE OF INTEREST CHARGED ON DELINQUENT TAXES**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:4-67 permits the Borough to establish by resolution the rate of interest to be charged for the non-payment of taxes or assessments on any installment which is not made within the tenth (10th) calendar day following the date upon which the same became due and payable; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 75, P.L. 1991, permits the Mayor and Council to establish a penalty to be charged to a taxpayer with a delinquency in excess of \$10,000.00 who fails to pay that delinquency prior the end of the calendar year; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council wish to continue the policies currently in effect with respect to delinquent taxes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown as follows:

1. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54-4:-67, the Mayor and Council hereby reaffirm that the following interest shall be charged for the non-payment of taxes or assessments on any installment which is not made before or within the tenth (10th) calendar day following the date upon which same become payable: Eight (8%) percent annum on the first \$1,500.00 of the delinquency, and eighteen (18%) percent per annum on any amount in excess of \$1,500.00, to be calculated from the date the tax was payable and until the date of actual payment. The term "delinquent" as used herein shall mean the sum of all taxes and municipal charges due on a given parcel of property covering any number of quarters or years.

2. In accordance with Chapter 75 of the Laws of 1991, any taxpayers with a delinquency in excess of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars who fails to pay that delinquency prior to the end of any calendar year, shall be assessed a penalty for that year of six (6%) percent of the amount of the delinquency, in addition to the interest provided for in Paragraph 1.

3. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 herein shall remain in effect unless and until superseded by Borough resolution or ordinance.

RESOLUTION 2005-15**ADOPTING CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer, in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 40A:5-14, has prepared a Cash Management Plan ("the Plan") for the year 2005 which designates the depositories for Borough funds, outlines procedures for the handling thereof, and details other responsibilities with regard to Borough funds; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Mayor and Council to formally adopt the Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the Cash Management Plan for the year 2005 which is attached hereto and made a part hereof³ is hereby adopted.

RESOLUTION 2005-16**AUTHORIZING DEPOSITORIES AND SIGNATURES FOR BOROUGH ACCOUNTS**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the banks designated as depositories of monies of the Borough of Hightstown are hereby established in accordance with the Cash Management Plan adopted by the Borough on January 1, 2005; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following officers of the Borough of Hightstown be hereby authorized to sign checks for the payment of money from the accounts of the Borough of Hightstown and that **all notes and drafts** of the Borough of Hightstown be signed in like manner by any two of said same officers:

Robert F. Patten, Mayor
Arlene O'Rourke, Treasurer or Brooke Venet, Assistant Treasurer
George J. Lang, CFO
Candace B. Gallagher, Borough Clerk/Administrator

³ Plan is on permanent file in the Borough Clerk's office with original signed Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following officers of the Borough of Hightstown be hereby authorized to sign checks for the **payment of salaries and wages** from the accounts of the Borough of Hightstown:

Robert F. Patten, Mayor
Arlene O'Rourke, Treasurer *or* Brooke Venet, Assistant Treasurer
George J. Lang, CFO
Candace B. Gallagher, Borough Clerk/Administrator

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following officers of the Borough of Hightstown be hereby authorized to sign checks for the payment of money from the **Animal Control Account**:

Robert F. Patten, Mayor
Arlene O'Rourke, Treasurer *or* Brooke Venet, Assistant Treasurer
George J. Lang, Chief Financial Officer
Candace B. Gallagher, Borough Clerk/Administrator

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following officers of the Borough of Hightstown be hereby authorized to sign checks for the payment of money from the **Water & Sewer Operating Account**:

Robert F. Patten, Mayor
Arlene O'Rourke, Treasurer *or* Brooke Venet, Assistant Treasurer
George J. Lang, Chief Financial Officer
Candace B. Gallagher, Borough Clerk/Administrator

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following officers of the Borough of Hightstown be hereby authorized to sign checks for payment of money from the **Trust Account**:

Robert F. Patten, Mayor
Arlene O'Rourke, Treasurer *or* Brooke Venet, Assistant Treasurer
George J. Lang, Chief Financial Officer
Candace B. Gallagher, Borough Clerk/Administrator

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following officers of the Borough of Hightstown be hereby authorized to sign checks for payment of money from the **Unemployment Trust Fund**:

Robert F. Patten, Mayor
Arlene O'Rourke, Treasurer *or* Brooke Venet, Assistant Treasurer
George J. Lang, Chief Financial Officer
Candace B. Gallagher, Borough Clerk/Administrator

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following officers of the Borough of Hightstown be hereby authorized to sign checks for payment of money from the **Public Defender Account**:

Robert F. Patten, Mayor
Arlene O'Rourke, Treasurer *or* Brooke Venet, Assistant Treasurer
George J. Lang, Chief Financial Officer
Candace B. Gallagher, Borough Clerk/Administrator

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following officers of the Borough of Hightstown be hereby authorized to sign checks for payment of money from the **Current Account**:

Robert F. Patten, Mayor
Arlene O'Rourke, Treasurer or Brooke Venet, Assistant Treasurer
George J. Lang, Chief Financial Officer
Candace B. Gallagher, Borough Clerk/Administrator

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following officers of the Borough of Hightstown be hereby authorized to sign checks for the payment of money from the **Capital Funds** of the Borough of Hightstown:

Robert F. Patten, Mayor
Arlene O'Rourke, Treasurer or Brooke Venet, Assistant Treasurer
George J. Lang, Chief Financial Officer
Candace B. Gallagher, Borough Clerk/Administrator

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following officers of the Borough of Hightstown be hereby authorized to sign checks for payment of money from the **Uniform Construction Trust Account**:

Robert F. Patten, Mayor
Arlene O'Rourke, Treasurer or Brooke Venet, Assistant Treasurer
George J. Lang, Chief Financial Officer
Candace B. Gallagher, Borough Clerk/Administrator

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following officers of the Borough of Hightstown be hereby authorized to sign checks for payment of money from the **Grant Account**:

Robert F. Patten, Mayor
Arlene O'Rourke, Treasurer or Brooke Venet, Assistant Treasurer
George J. Lang, Chief Financial Officer
Candace B. Gallagher, Borough Clerk/Administrator

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following officers of the Borough of Hightstown be hereby authorized to sign checks for payment of money from the **Law Enforcement Trust Account**:

Robert F. Patten, Mayor
Arlene O'Rourke, Treasurer or Brooke Venet, Assistant Treasurer
George J. Lang, Chief Financial Officer
Candace B. Gallagher, Borough Clerk/Administrator

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following officers of the Borough of Hightstown be hereby authorized to sign checks for payment of money from the **Escrow Accounts (Subdivision Site Plan)**:

Robert F. Patten, Mayor
Arlene O'Rourke, Treasurer or Brooke Venet, Assistant Treasurer
George J. Lang, Chief Financial Officer
Candace B. Gallagher, Borough Clerk/Administrator

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Borough Clerk/Administrator, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer, Tax Collector, and the Municipal Court Administrator shall not be held liable for any loss of public money deposited by them with the aforesaid banks when such loss is occasioned by the failure of such banks faithfully to account for and pay over such money on legal demand.

RESOLUTION 2005-17 GRANTING AUTHORITY FOR APPROVAL OF CERTAIN PURCHASES

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 *et seq.*, the governing body may delegate the power to award purchases, contracts and/or agreements which total less than the bidding threshold; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of streamlining Borough operations and improving efficiency, it is the desire of the Mayor and Council to authorize the Borough Administrator to approve purchases, contracts and agreements up to \$2,500.00, subject to provisions and requirements of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, it is the further desire of the Mayor and Council to authorize the Borough Administrator and Chief Financial Officer to jointly approve purchases, contracts and agreements which total between \$2,500.01 and \$7,500.00, subject to provisions and requirements of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 *et seq.*;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown as follows:

1. The Borough Administrator is hereby authorized to approve any purchases, contracts and/or agreements which total up to \$2,500.00 without further action from Council, provided that funds are available to cover the expenditure.
2. The Borough Administrator and Chief Financial Officer are hereby authorized to jointly approve any purchases, contracts and/or agreements which total between \$2,500.01 and \$7,500.00 without further action from Council, provided that funds are available to cover the expenditure. Any such expenditure must be approved by both the Borough Administrator and the Chief Financial Officer.
3. Purchase approvals made by the Borough Administrator and/or Chief Financial Officer by virtue of the adoption of this Resolution shall be subject to the provisions and requirements of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 *et seq.*

RESOLUTION 2005-18 ADOPTING ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that, in any question concerning the organization, proceedings or decorum in connection with meetings of the Borough Council, which question is not otherwise covered by Resolution of Council or general law, Robert's Rules of Order shall govern, and that the Borough Attorney shall serve as *ex officio* parliamentarian, and shall be prepared, at the request of any member of Council, to render his opinion on any question of procedure.

RESOLUTION 2005-19 AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF TAXICAB DRIVER'S LICENSE - JAIME MORA

WHEREAS, an application for issuance of a taxicab driver's license, which application complies with Section 4-21.5 of the *Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown*, has been submitted by Jaime Eduardo Mora, 118 Manlove Avenue, Hightstown, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police has reviewed the application and has approved issuance of the license;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized to issue a 2005 taxicab driver's license to Jaime Eduardo Mora, 118 Manlove Avenue, Hightstown, New Jersey.

RESOLUTION 2005-20 AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF TAXICAB DRIVER'S LICENSE - JOAQUIN MORA

WHEREAS, an application for issuance of a taxicab driver's license, which application complies with Section 4-21.5 of the *Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown*, has been submitted by Joaquin Mora, 114 Manlove Avenue, Hightstown, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police has reviewed the application and has approved issuance of the license;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized to issue a 2005 taxicab driver's license to Joaquin Mora, 114 Manlove Avenue, Hightstown, New Jersey.

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

At this time, Mayor Robert Patten presented his January 1, 2005 address, the full text of which follows:

Happy New Year, everyone! I wish you all much peace and success in 2005. Wishes, hopes, dreams, prayers—whatever word I use for my message to you for peace, happiness, and goodwill—it translates into a vision for and actions on behalf of our town. Here are my wishes for Hightstown's new year:

- ❑ *Prayers from our community for the victims of the horrendous tsunami in the Indian Ocean. Undoubtedly, the world's worst natural disaster effecting humanity, it will be an extremely long and difficult journey to recovery. With the hopes and dreams of so many people washed away, some routes will never be traveled on again by the survivors and the families and friends of the victims. This tragedy is not just an Asian one. It is a worldly one with Hightstown sharing in the sorrow and the recovery....because we live in a global community. My message is clear: help with your prayers, money, and in any other way to bring back a peaceful way of life for that part of the world. It will never be the same, but global togetherness will be greater.*
- ❑ *I hope for relief from the oppressive property taxes that distinguish Hightstown's tax rate as one of the highest in New Jersey. But, there is light at the end of the tunnel, if a state constitutional amendment is made to reform property taxes. May it come soon enough for us to retain our senior citizens and to attract new residents and businesses, as well.*
- ❑ *I dream of a continued economic growth for our Hightstown businesses with the Mill's redevelopment plan and the extension of our downtown's streetscape up Mercer Street, we will be getting there! Evidence of economic prosperity is seen now through:*
 - > New specialty shops like The Sugar Jar and Kisura.*
 - > Plan approvals for a new upscale Italian cuisine restaurant on Mercer Street. Look for a spring grand opening.*
 - > All spaces rented at 120 Main Street, The Peddie School's successful economic venture in rehabilitating the former Hights Theater building.*
 - > All five new homes at the North Preserve development are sold, even before they are completed.*
 - > And last week's groundbreaking of the 78 homes for the active-adult community called "Enchantment at Hightstown" at the Wyckoff's Mill Road area.*
- ❑ *I hope that you will take a walk around our tree-lined streets and feel the heartbeat of New Jersey. Hightstown is alive and thriving.....and the beats go on!*
- ❑ *I hope for the ability of our town to meet its affordable housing responsibilities in cooperation with New Jersey's Council on Affordable Housing regulations, making it possible for more of our borough-wide residents to live in or near the town where they work.*
- ❑ *I wish that all our residents, including those who happen to be immigrants, feel secure, respected, and wanted in their town so that no one should fear pre-dawn raids or be afraid to contact our local police for fear of detention or deportation. All our residents and visitors must enjoy equal justice.*
- ❑ *I dream of an educational system that is able to fully fund all the state mandates and is able to provide the same level of quality to its students as that provided in Cranbury, West Windsor Township, and Princeton. That, too, could come with a constitutional convention.*
- ❑ *Also, I dream that the redevelopment of the former Hightstown Rug Company property, which was established 100 years ago, will fly smoothly with a tail wind and with the only "pilot" being the Council as the Redevelopment Agency.*
- ❑ *My vision of unity in our community is clear with non-profit organizations like the Community Action Service Center and Better Beginnings offering much needed human services. It is our townspeople's responsibility to ensure that these services are properly funded and supported. Hightstown is blessed with civic groups and*

individuals who give much to our town, volunteering unselfishly to make Hightstown a model community. They all offer hope and dreams for a perfect town! They are the fabric of unity in our community.....and I am very proud of them.

- ☐ *I wish our municipal employees continued success in providing the extraordinary services to the public at most reasonable expenditures during economically tough times. More importantly, I hope that Hightstonians recognize that our borough employees are dedicated to this town's continued prosperity. They are the best.....and I am very proud of them, too!*
- ☐ *I have wonderful dreams of trees bordering our Main Street, a sculptured fountain with water cascading into a pool filled with pennies for good luck.....and, perhaps, a new source of revenue to help stabilize our property taxes.*
- ☐ *I hope that our local government can continue to partner with other municipalities to share services and resources in order to help keep spending from escalating. Kudos and more kudos go out to East Windsor Township, Roosevelt, Cranbury, West Windsor Township, and others for teaming with Hightstown to establish a regional cooperative spirit.*
- ☐ *I wish continued success to Miss Nancy and her fabulous fair committee in providing the area with another spectacular community fair. The purpose of this annual event of bringing people together to celebrate community proves that food, music, and art are the basic ingredients for developing a working society. So, let our celebration continue on October 8th!*
- ☐ *Another priority wish is for the sale of Coca Cola's Minute Maid property to a developer who must be creative enough to address the needs and dreams of both Hightstown and East Windsor Township.*
- ☐ *And.....I hope that there will always be Hightstonians like Maurie Hageman, who had a dream that vacant lands in the Wyckoff's Mill Road area would transform into an enchantment,and Jeff Bond, who believes in Hightstown's present and future by investing his money, time, labor,and spirit to preserve and maintain our town's past,and Mike Vanderbeck, Charlie and Mike Theokas, Chris Mays, and all the other small business owners who have realized their dreams of establishing very successful businesses.....and The Peddie School who continues to help build the dreams in our town..... which has once again become a destination. Yes,.....the beats go on!*
- ☐ *I will always wish for more matrimonial bliss in Hightstown with me officiating weddings—59 in 2003 and 56 in 2004. Undoubtedly, the best part of being mayor! Everyone actually agrees with me with nodding heads and words of "I do!" It's great!*
- ☐ *I truly hope for peaceful council meetings with more lavish praise from Gene Sarafin and Tory Watkins.....and broad bipartisan cooperation and caring of our town among the council members. As Ben Franklin said, "We are all in this together....."*
- ☐ *I dream every day that the cats of Hightstown will be content, contained, and cared for. That would be in a puuurfect world for them!*
- ☐ *I wish for much financial success for all participants in our town's 6th annual town-wide yard sale on May 7th. I hope that all the items are sold so that our borough won't have to pay to haul away the leftovers.*
- ☐ *And lastly, although my wish list keeps growing, I envision emergency medical services responding to 9-1-1 calls within a few minutes. Public health and well-being are the highest priorities.*

So, these are my wishes for Hightstown in 2005. But, what about long term visions? It has been said that the moral test of government is how it cares for all its people, especially those least able to care for themselves. How will Hightstown be viewed in the decades to come? Have we risen to the occasion to provide for those among us who need the most support? I hope the answer will be "Yes!".....and for that, I count my blessings!

The forecast for our town is sunny days and starry nights. Please join with me to wish for continued bright days, like today, and a brilliant future.

Thank you all for being a very important part of Hightstown's present.....and future. God bless our town and God bless the United States of America.

The benediction was offered by Councilwoman Nancy Walker-Laudenberger.

Adjournment was moved by Councilman Sikorski, seconded by Councilwoman Holtzclaw and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Candace B. Gallagher, RMC
Borough Clerk