

**Meeting Minutes  
Hightstown Borough Council  
Regular Meeting  
March 21, 2011 6:00 pm**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kirson at 6:02 pm and he read the Open Public Meetings Act statement which stated, "Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, pursuant to Public Law 1975, Chapter 231. Said notice was advertised in the *Trenton Times* and the *Windsor-Hights Herald*, and is posted in the Borough Clerk's office."

ROLL CALL

	PRESENT	ABSENT
<i>Councilmember Bibens</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Gilmartin</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember McGinty</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Musing</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Quattrone</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Woods</i>	✓	
<i>Mayor Kirson</i>	✓	

Also in attendance: Debra Sopronyi, Borough Clerk; Herbert Massa, Borough Administrator; George Lnaag, Chief Financial Officer; and Frederick Raffetto, Borough Attorney.

**Resolution 2011-69 Executive Session**

Councilmember Quattrone moved resolution 2011-69, Councilmember Musing seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bibens, Gilmartin, McGinty, Musing, Quattrone and Woods voted yes.

Resolution adopted, 6-0

Resolution 2011-69

*BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN  
COUNTY OF MERCER  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY*

**AUTHORIZING A MEETING WHICH EXCLUDES THE PUBLIC**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that this body will hold a meeting on March 21, 2011 at approximately 6:00 pm in Council Chambers that will be limited only to consideration of an item or items with respect to which the public may be excluded pursuant to section 7b of the Open Public Meetings Act.

The general nature of the subject or subjects to be discussed:

Personnel – Chief of Police, Acting Court Administrator, Acting Treasurer & Waiver of Benefits

Attorney – Client Privilege

Stated as precisely as presently possible the following is the time when and the circumstances under which the discussion conducted at said meeting can be disclosed to the public: June 21, 2011, or when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

The public is excluded from said meeting, and further notice is dispensed with, all in accordance with sections 8 and 4a of the Open Public Meetings Act.

Council re-convened into open session at 7:20 pm.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kirson at 7:33 pm and he again read the Open Public Meetings Act statement which stated, "Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, pursuant to Public Law 1975, Chapter 231. Said notice was advertised in the *Trenton Times* and the *Windsor-Hights Herald*, and is posted in the Borough Clerk's office."

The Flag Salute was followed by Roll call which had remained the same; Police Chief James Eufemia had also joined the public meeting at this time.

Council President McGinty requested that the agenda be amended to remove the minutes to be approved and resolutions 2011-74 through 2011-87 for taxi licenses, as well as to move the gang survey presentation to be the first presentation heard. Councilmember Musing moved the agenda as amended, Councilmember Gilmartin seconded. The Mayor called for a roll call vote to approve the agenda as amended.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bibens, Gilmartin, McGinty, Musing, Quattrone and Woods voted yes.

Agenda approved as amended, 6-0.

Chief Eufemia then began his gang survey presentation by explaining the purpose of the survey; he then introduced Major Wilson and Captain Silver of the New Jersey State Police Intelligence Division to give the remainder of the presentation on the gang survey. Major Wilson also introduced Dean Barata and Pete Lynch, analysts with the New Jersey State Police. Major Wilson gave an overview of the survey and expressed that it is perception based; Captain Silver explained the origin of the survey, process taken and reason for the survey. The two Analysts then stated that there is no significant difference in the results of the 2007 and the 2010 surveys, but there was a change in methodology used. They went on to state that 60% of the gangs reported were transient and that Hightstown's drug trafficking and violent crime rate is below the state average; gang presence does not mean there is gang activity. They went on to recommend that Council read the entire report as it addresses the concerns expressed by the Borough and advised that the report does not give a snapshot of individual municipalities. Mr. Lynch advised that they are planning on doing a County Prosecutor survey in the near future for their perspective on gang activity and that this survey will be cross referenced with the municipalities to gain further insight. A questions and answer period ensued between Councilmembers and the New Jersey State Police Representatives.

The Mayor opened Public Comment Period I and the following individuals spoke during the period: Phyllis Deal, 305 Stockton Street; George Serrano, 4 Westerlea Avenue; Jim Douglas, 35 Barton Drive; Linda Caffrey, 60 One Mile Road East Windsor; Rob Thibault, 504 S. Main Street; Gail Doran, 201 Hutchinson Street; Frank Rivera, 110 Broad Street; Eugene Sarafin, 628 S. Main Street; J P Gibbons, 602 N. Main Street; and Charles Stultz, 408 S. Main Street.

There being no further comments, the Mayor closed the public comment period.

Joan McGee of the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed then began her presentation with a review of the Association and advised that they assist municipalities with assessments, environmental resources, or revisions to ordinances. She went on to state that the Borough is welcome to contact them for assistance at any time.

Barbara Jones, Chairperson of the Environmental Commission opened her presentation by distributing a hand-out explaining the purpose of, and need for, a Natural Resource Inventory. She advised that once they receive Sustainable New Jersey Certification, more grants will be available to the Borough and Hightstown will be a better place to live and work. Ms. Jones commented that the Environmental Commission is very interested in a "green fleet" of vehicles for the Borough and a brief discussion ensued regarding same.

Councilmember Musing motioned that resolution 2011-88 be moved up on the agenda and acted upon at this time, Council President McGinty seconded. All approved.

**Resolution 2011-88 Authorizing the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Hightstown to Apply for a 2011 Sustainable Land Use Planning Grant from the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC)**

Council President McGinty moved that resolution 2011-88, Councilmember Gilmartin seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bibens, Gilmartin, McGinty, Musing, Quattrone and Woods voted yes.

Resolution adopted, 6-0.

Resolution 2011-88

*BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN  
COUNTY OF MERCER  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY*

**AUTHORIZING THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN  
TO APPLY FOR A 2011 SUSTAINABLE LAND USE PLANNING GRANT FROM THE ASSOCIATION  
OF NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSIONS (ANJEC)**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council of the Borough of Hightstown strives to save tax dollars, assure clean air and water, improve working and living environments to build a community that is sustainable economically, environmentally and socially, and which would thrive well into the new century and beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hightstown Borough Council, together with the Planning Board, and in consultation with the Environmental Commission, is taking steps to accomplish the Reexamination of its Master Plan, as required by the New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law, with that Reexamination process underway and expected to be completed during 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hightstown Borough Council recognizes and endorses the duty of the Environmental Commission -- as codified by state statute and the Borough Code -- to address issues relating to its natural resources and the environment, as the Borough undergoes that Reexamination; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hightstown Borough Council supports the work of the Environmental Commission in seeing that Hightstown has in place a current Environmental Resource Inventory, to be used in the Reexamination, as well as to serve as an essential element of Hightstown Borough's application for Sustainable Jersey certification, which will benefit the Borough environmentally and financially, and ensure the vitality and sustainability of the Borough for future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hightstown Borough Council has embraced the recommendations and goals of the Hightstown Borough Municipal Assessment, prepared in June 2010 by the Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association (the "Watershed Ass'n"), which includes a blueprint of recommendations on the environmental front as the Borough undertakes the Reexamination of the Master Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council recognizes the need for the Environmental Resource Inventory, which has been spelled out in that Municipal Assessment by the Watershed Ass'n, and which should be included as part of the Reexamination, with specific issues to be addressed to include:

- preserving of riparian corridors, existing greenway and wildlife habitat;
- updating the Master Plan to include the adoption of Borough-wide contextual design standards;
- strengthening stormwater control by ordinance and enforcement;
- revamping zoning ordinances for mixed-use development in the downtown area;
- adopting better protections for natural and human-made resources;
- identifying, adopting and implementing sustainable practices; and
- pursuing a regional approach to traffic management and air quality;

and

**WHEREAS**, the Hightstown Borough Council recognizes that the steps taken by the Environmental Commission to ensure the compilation of the Environmental Resource Inventory will meet specific goals identified by the Watershed Ass'n, will be vital to the Reexamination effort, and will be an essential part of the Borough's application for the Sustainable Jersey certification, towards which the Borough has worked for the past three years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hightstown Borough Council wishes to build a model of government which benefits our residents now and far into the future with green community initiatives, which are easy to replicate and affordable to implement, and the Environmental Resource Inventory is a vital step in that process; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hightstown Borough Council has sought to undertake ways and initiatives to make its operations greener and more environmentally friendly, to address effective ways to reduce energy consumption and to raise awareness of, and attentiveness to, environmental issues, with regard to Borough departments, facilities, and equipment, and in all ways touching on and impacting the lives of Hightstown residents, and our world community, and the compilation of the Environmental Resource Inventory will accommodate and advance such goals; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hightstown Borough Council recognizes that, in order to be eligible for matching funding from the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions, the Borough must acknowledge its willingness to put up the funding for the dollar value of half of the grant; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hightstown Borough Council recognizes that the Environmental Commission has received from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) a quote of \$10,500 as the cost of the preparation of an Environmental Resource Inventory, and this amount is far below the bid from a similarly-qualified environmental consultant; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hightstown Borough Council would have the Environmental Commission apply for a matching grant from ANJEC for the preparation of that Environmental Resource Inventory by the DVRPC, and would agree that the Borough would commit up to \$5,250 to make that a reality, with the Borough also affirming its willingness and ability to match with in kind services up to half of whatever amount ANJEC would award as the total grant, with the in-kind services performed on the grant project by municipal volunteers and staff;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hightstown, that we do hereby authorize the Environmental Commission and the Mayor to prepare and to submit the application for a 2011 Sustainable Land Use Planning Grant for Municipalities from ANJEC; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hightstown, that the Council agrees that the Borough will match the amount of the grant award, which would be **up to a maximum of \$5,250**, to enable the Borough to meet the costs of the DVRPC Environmental Resource Inventory, which is projected to total \$10,500, with the Borough also acknowledging its willingness to provide up to half of its 50% match through in kind services.

Steve Misiura, Chairperson of the Planning Board presented the process being taken for the Master Plan re-examination and explained that the Master Plan is a guide for community development. He gave a brief history of the development of the current Master Plan and advised that the Planning Board has engaged the Planner to lay out a work plan and develop a worksheet process for this re-examination; he requested that a joint workshop meeting with the Council and Planning Board be set up before the end of April, and that Council review the Master Plan and Watershed report that are on the website. There was discussion with Council.

Mr. Massa then opened the presentation regarding the proposed Bond Ordinance.

Ken Lewis, Public Works Superintendent then proceeded to advise Council of the capital needs of Public Works, which included replacing a 1988 dump truck (\$200,000.00), a 1990 pick-up truck and a 1983 utility truck (\$74,000.00), purchase of a jet/vacuum machine (\$50,000.00), hydraulic hammer (\$20,000.00), sewer jet machine (used - \$30,000.00), and a helping hand for the garbage truck (\$20,580.00).

Chief of Police James Eufemia then presented the Police Departments capital needs which included the purchase of two flex-fuel SUV vehicles to replace one vehicle that is at the end of its life and another that is out of service (\$85,000.00 + radio install cost); E-Ticket system which prints the tickets and enters them directly into the court computer system (\$11,000.00 after \$7,500.00 grant); dual purpose message/speed trailer which can be shared with Public Works and used for community events (\$8,500.00); replacement of a digital recorder that is not operational (\$8,500.00).

Mr. Massa then reviewed the Fire Department's request for a boat, trailer, truck and plow (\$42,100.00) to assist in water rescues.

Borough Clerk Sopronyi reviewed the grants she has received from the Direct Install Program to increase energy efficiency in Borough facilities and advised that the grant covers a portion of the updates needed; the pay-back on the Borough funds to be expended for this project is estimated to be four to five years.

The Mayor requested that a work session regarding the bond ordinance be set up and advertised.

#### **Ordinance 2011-01 An Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank**

George Lang, Chief Financial Officer, explained the need for this ordinance and recommended adoption. There was discussion.

Councilmember Quattrone moved ordinance 2011-01, Council President McGinty seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bibens, Gilmartin, McGinty, Musing, Quattrone and Woods voted yes.

Ordinance Introduced, 6-0. Public Hearing to be held on April 4, 2011.

*BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN  
COUNTY OF MERCER  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY*

**AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO  
ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

**WHEREAS**, the Local Government Cap Law, *N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq.*, provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget to 2.0% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

**WHEREAS**, *N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a* provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown in the County of Mercer finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2011 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council hereby determine that a 1.5% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$68,812.02 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council hereby determine that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown, in the County of Mercer, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2011 budget year, the final appropriations of the Borough of Hightstown shall, in accordance with this ordinance and *N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14*, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$160,561.38, and that the CY 2011 municipal budget for the Borough of Hightstown be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

**Resolution 2011-70 Introduction of 2011 Budget**

George Lang, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the budget and advised that it produced a flat tax rate and reflects cost reductions due to staffing and health benefit changes. He recommended that the budget be adopted, or amended, at the first meeting in May.

Councilmember Quattrone moved for the introduction of the 2011 budget, Councilmember Woods seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bibens, Gilmartin, McGinty, Musing, Quattrone and Woods voted yes.

2011 Budget Introduced, 6-0.

**Resolution 2011-71 Authorizing the Payment of Bills**

Councilmember Quattrone moved resolution 2011-71, Councilmember Musing seconded.

There was discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bibens, Gilmartin, McGinty, Musing, Quattrone and Woods voted yes.

Resolution adopted, 6-0.

March 21, 2011

Resolution 2011- 71

*BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN*

*COUNTY OF MERCER*

*STATE OF NEW JERSEY*

**AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS**

**WHEREAS**, certain bills are due and payable as per itemized claims listed on the following schedules, which are made a part of the minutes of this meeting as a supplemental record;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the bills be paid on audit and approval of the Mayor, the appropriate Councilmember and the Treasurer

\$  
in the amount of 858,236.76 from the following accounts

Current	\$	780,781.89
W/S Operating		51,880.36
General Capital		2,412.00
Water/Sewer Capital		
Grant		
Trust		100.00
Housing Trust		
Animal Control		335.40
Law Enforcement Trust		
Housing Rehab Loans		
Unemployment Trust		10,584.00
Escrow		12,143.11
Total	\$	<u>858,236.76</u>

**Resolution 2011-72 Authorizing Emergency Temporary Appropriations Prior to the Adoption of the 2011 Budget**

Councilmember Quattrone moved resolution 2011-72, Councilmember Gilmartin seconded.

There was discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bibens, Gilmartin, McGinty, Musing, Quattrone and Woods voted yes.

Resolution adopted, 6-0.

Resolution 2011-72

*BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN*

*COUNTY OF MERCER*

*STATE OF NEW JERSEY*

**AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS  
PRIOR TO ADOPTION OF THE 2011 BUDGET**

**WHEREAS**, an emergent condition has arisen with respect to inadequate appropriation balances remaining in some line items of the 2011 temporary budget; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20 provides for the creation of emergency appropriations for the purposes above mentioned; and  
March 21, 2011

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the Mayor and Council to create emergency temporary appropriations as set forth on Schedule "A," attached; and

**WHEREAS**, the total emergency temporary appropriations in resolutions adopted in the year 2011 pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20 (Chapter 96, P.L. 1951, as amended), including this resolution, total:

	<i><b>THIS RESOLUTION</b></i>	<i><b>PREVIOUS TOTAL</b></i>	<i><b>CUMULATIVE TOTAL</b></i>
Current	566,919.00	95,525.00	<b>662,444.00</b>
Capital Outlay – Current	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Debt Service - Current	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Water/Sewer	101,588.00	383,500.00	<b>485,088.00</b>
Capital Outlay – W/S	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Debt Service - W/S	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>668,507.00</b>	<b>479,025.00</b>	<b>1,147,532.00</b>

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hightstown (not less than two-thirds of all the members of thereof affirmatively concurring) that, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20:

1. An emergency temporary appropriation is hereby made for each item listed on the schedules that are attached hereto and made a part hereof.
2. Each emergency appropriation listed will be provided for in the 2011 budget under the same title as written herein;
3. One certified copy of this resolution will be filed with the Director of Local Government Services, and a copy provided to the Acting Treasurer.

#### **Resolution 2011-73 Authorizing a Transfer in the 2010 Budget**

Councilmember Musing moved resolution 2011-73, Councilmember Quattrone seconded.

There was discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bibens, Gilmartin, McGinty, Musing, Quattrone and Woods voted yes.

Resolution adopted, 6-0.

Resolution 2011-73

*BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN  
COUNTY OF MERCER  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY*

#### **AUTHORIZING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS IN THE 2010 BUDGET**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A 40A:4-59 provides that the governing body may authorize a transfer of funds in the budget during the first three months of the succeeding fiscal year;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the following transfers in the 2010 CURRENT BUDGET are hereby authorized:

		<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
Planning Board	Other Expenses		\$1,000.00
Fire Department	Other Expenses		\$3,000.00
Police	Other Expenses	\$4,000.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$4,000.00</b>	<b>\$4,000.00</b>

#### **Resolution 2011-89 Calling on the State Legislature and the Governor to Exempt the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes from the 2% Cap**

March 21, 2011

Council President McGinty moved resolution 2011-89 with an amendment to include the names of the Legislators instead of their titles, Councilmember Gilmartin seconded.

There was discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bibens, Gilmartin, McGinty, Musing, Quattrone and Woods voted yes.

Resolution adopted as amended, 6-0.

Resolution 2011-89

*BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN  
COUNTY OF MERCER  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY*

**RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR TO  
EXEMPT THE RESERVE FOR UNCOLLECTED TAXES FROM THE 2% CAP**

**WHEREAS**, on July 13, 2010, Governor Christie signed into law P.L. 2010, c. 44, which reduced the cap on the property tax levy from 4% to 2% and limited the number of exemptions; and

**WHEREAS**, when the property tax levy was reduced, the exemption for the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes was removed; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to collecting property taxes for its own operations, the municipality also serves as the collection agent for the county, school districts, fire districts and other special local entities; and

**WHEREAS**, the municipality must provide those entities with the full amount they deem necessary for their operations, regardless of the actual collection rate; and

**WHEREAS**, due to myriad factors beyond local control, the actual collection rate never equals the total local levy, especially during an economic downturn, when unemployment soars and property values plummet, causing an increase in tax appeals, which the municipality must defend and which subject the municipal budget to further losses, when successful; and

**WHEREAS**, to account for the shortfall and potential losses, State law requires the municipality to budget an appropriation in a line item known as the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes, which is generally determined through a formula driven calculation in which the variables change year to year; and

**WHEREAS**, without a levy cap exemption, municipalities will be forced to further cut their own operations, in order to meet the 2% tax levy cap to provide the county, school districts, fire districts and other special local entities the full amount they deem necessary for their operations; and

**WHEREAS**, those other local entities, which do not have to budget for collection rate short-falls or the impact of declining property values, have been granted levy cap exceptions to address factors beyond their control; and

**WHEREAS**, Assemblymen McKeon and Burzichelli have introduced A-3603, which excludes increases in appropriations to the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes in excess of two percent, from calculations of the municipal adjusted tax levy;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown hereby urge the swift passage and signing of A-3603;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that consideration also be given to providing a levy cap exception to account for the impact of tax appeals on local operations; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of the Resolution be forwarded to New Jersey Governor Christopher Christie, to Senate President Stephen Sweeney, to Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver, State Senator Jennifer Beck, Representatives in the General Assembly Caroline Casagrande and Declan J. O'Sanlon, Jr., and to the New Jersey League of Municipalities

**Resolution 2011-90 Recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month**

Council President McGinty moved resolution 2011-90, Councilmember Quattrone seconded.

March 21, 2011



Roll Call Vote: Council members Bibens, Gilmartin, McGinty, Musing, Quattrone and Woods voted yes.

Resolution adopted as amended, 6-0.

Resolution 2011-90

*BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN  
COUNTY OF MERCER  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY*

**RECOGNIZING APRIL AS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, Womanspace is raising awareness that April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month ; and

**WHEREAS**, their goal is to increase knowledge about sexual violence and to educate communities and individuals about prevention; and

**WHEREAS**, Womanspace is requesting that Hightstown Borough designate an evergreen tree to be decorated in teal lights and/or bows for the month of April, along with the placement of a banner they will provide, to bring awareness to the community; and

**WHEREAS**, they have requested that said tree be included in their list of lighting events during the first week of April; and

**WHEREAS**, Womanspace has been providing services to sexual assault survivors for the last eight years and services to survivors of domestic violence for the last 33 years; and

**WHEREAS**, of those survivors, Womanspace advocates met with 7 people from the greater Hightstown area in their time of crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, in partnership with the Hightstown Police Department, Womanspace volunteers respond to police headquarters to assist victims of domestic violence through the Domestic Violence Victim Response Team; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the Mayor and Council to partner with Womanspace in their efforts to bring awareness of sexual violence to the community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the evergreen tree located in front of Hightstown Engine Co. #1 be hereby designated for the purpose of recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and be included in the lighting events to be held during the first week of April.

**Resolution 2011-91 Authorizing the Issuance of an Auction License – Empire Antiques**

Councilmember Musing recused himself from discussion and vote on this resolution.

Council President McGinty moved resolution 2011-91, Councilmember Quattrone seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bibens, Gilmartin, McGinty, Quattrone and Woods voted yes; Councilmember Musing was recused.

Resolution adopted as amended, 5-0.

Resolution 2011-91

*BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN  
COUNTY OF MERCER  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY*

**AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF LICENSE FOR AUCTION -  
EMPIRE ANTIQUES**

**WHEREAS**, an application for a license to hold an auction on Saturday, March 26, 2011 (snow/rain date Saturday, April 2, 2011) at 278 Monmouth Street in the Borough of Hightstown has been submitted by Empire Antiques, together with the required fee; and

**WHEREAS**, the application has been reviewed and approved by the Chief of Police; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the Mayor and Council that a license be issued to Empire Antiques for this event;

**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 license to Empire Antiques for their auction to be held on Saturday, March 26, 2011 (snow/rain date Saturday, April 2, 2011) at 278 Monmouth Street.

Councilmember Musing returned to the dais.

Council President McGinty suggested that resolutions 2011-92 and 2011-93 be moved as a consent agenda. All approved.

**Consent Agenda – Resolutions 2011-92 and 2011-93**

Council President McGinty moved the consent agenda consisting of resolutions 2011-92 and 2011-93, Councilmember Bibens seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bibens, Gilmartin, McGinty, Musing, Quattrone and Woods voted yes.

Resolutions adopted as amended, 6-0.

Resolution 2011-92

*BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN  
COUNTY OF MERCER  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY*

**AUTHORIZING A REFUND FOR A PLUMBING PERMIT**

**WHEREAS**, Plumbing Solutions of Hightstown, New Jersey paid for permit #20110028 with check #2444 in the amount of \$70.00; and

**WHEREAS**, \$65.00 was deposited into account #1-01-08-160-600 and \$5.00 was deposited into account #1-01-08-105-612; and

**WHEREAS**, they were not hired to perform the work for which they applied for the permit; and

**WHEREAS**, the Construction Official has requested that they receive a refund of the \$70.00 paid for said permit.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the Acting Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to issue a refund in the amount of \$70.00 to Plumbing Solutions of P. O. Box 1080, Hightstown, New Jersey 08520, for a plumbing permit for which they applied, but they were not hired to perform the work associated with said permit.

Resolution 2011-93

*BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN  
COUNTY OF MERCER  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY*

**AUTHORIZING A WAIVER FOR PERMIT FEES**

**WHEREAS**, the Rise, a non-profit community-based program located at 116 North Main Street, in Hightstown Borough is applying for a sign permit for the Greater Goods Thrift Store which fronts Rogers Avenue and the Borough parking lot; and

**WHEREAS**, it has been requested that the fees associated with permits required for this sign be waived; and

**WHEREAS**, all inspections and other requirements associated with this sign shall be conducted and/or completed as required.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Hightstown, that Borough permit fees associated with applying for a sign permit for the Greater Goods Thrift Store, under the direction of Ruse, a March 21, 2011

non-profit community-based program shall be waived.

Mr. Massa informed Council that the departmental monthly reports on code enforcement will be forthcoming at the end of the month. Council President McGinty commented that she would like an update given at every meeting.

The Mayor opened Public Comment Period II and the following individuals spoke during the period: Eugene Sarafin, 628 S. Main Street; Lawrence Jones, 148 Stockton Street; Bucky Stellar, owner of Hights Electric; Valerie Martinez, 116 N. Main Street; Rob Thibault, 504 S. Main Street; Susan Bluth, 42 Dennis Court; Mike Vanderbeck, 344 Stockton Street; and Gail Doran, 201 Hutchinson Street.

There being no further comments, the Mayor closed the public comment period.

#### **Council/Mayor/Administrative Comments**

**Councilmember Woods** – stated that as the Water/Sewer Liaison she is informing Council that there are problems with the clarifier, it failed and is being temporarily repaired; the filter at the water department needs to be replaced, DEP will not accept any applications without a new filter and the wet well rose to its maximum in the recent rain.

**Councilmember Bibens** –advised that the Board of Health reviewed the Animal Welfare Committee trap and neuter program at their meeting.

**Councilmember Musing** – inquired as to the completion date for the Memorial Parking Lot. He also commented that he thought the Chief of Police would give the gang survey presentation and answer questions.

**Councilmember Gilmartin**– commented that she was also surprised that the Chief did not present the gang survey information. She commended the Fire Company and First Aid for their handling of the fire on Outcalt and informed Council that Amy Aughenbaugh has resigned from the Housing Authority. Ms. Gilmartin assured the public that the budget and capital improvements are being addressed.

**Councilmember Quattrone** – thanked everyone for their condolences for the passing of his Mother and appreciated their respect of his request that the funeral remain private. He informed Council that the Memorial Day Parade group has held their first meeting, First Aid is looking into central dispatch, and that he too was disappointed in the Chief of Police.

**Council President McGinty** – informed Council that Steve Misiura, Ken Lewis and Carmela Roberts toured the Memorial Parking Lot with her to address the issues raised by residents and have found that it has a wide access and egress, but revisions are being recommended by the Engineer. She noted that there was also discussion regarding signage and a two hour parking limit. Ms. McGinty also stated that the police presentation on the gang survey was not what she expected and she would like the data that the report was based upon, she then apologized to the public for the presentation that was given. She informed the public that the police sub-committee report is before Council and stated that she should receive agenda items in advance of them being placed on the agenda.

**Mayor Kirson** – commented that the agenda stated that the Chief would give the gang survey presentation, and he will continue to pursue the matter.

Council President McGinty moved to adjourn back into executive session at 11:25 pm, Councilmember Musing seconded; the Motion was approved unanimously.

Council re-convened into open session at 11:32 pm.

Councilmember Bibens moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 pm and Councilmember Gilmartin seconded; the Motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra L. Sopronyi

Borough Clerk