

Meeting Minutes
Hightstown Borough Council
Regular Meeting
September 19, 2011
6:30 pm

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kirson at 6:35 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 sent to the *Trenton Times* and the *Windsor-Hights Herald*, and is posted in the Borough Clerk's office."

The Mayor called for a Roll Call.

ROLL CALL

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

Also in attendance: Debra Sopronyi, Borough Clerk; Michael Theokas, Borough Administrator and Frederick Raffetto, Borough Attorney.

Frederick Raffetto, Borough Attorney asked Council to amend resolution 2011-223 to include Contract Negotiations regarding the Americana Diner. Council President Quattrone motioned to amend resolution 2011-223 accordingly; Councilmember McGinty seconded. All ayes, resolution amended.

The Mayor then read the amended resolution aloud.

Resolution 2011-223

Council President Quattrone moved resolution 2011-223 as amended. Councilmember Woods seconded.

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

Resolution adopted, 5-0

Resolution 2011-223

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 September 19, 2011 at approximately 6:30 pm at the First Aid building on Bank Street 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:

Litigation Update - Baylor

Contract Negotiations –Lucas Electric Property and Americana Diner

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: December 19, 2011, or when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

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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 7:30 pm.

The public meeting was called to order by Mayor Kirson at 7:34 pm and he again read the Open Public Meetings Act statement.

The Flag Salute followed roll call which has remained the same. George Lang, Chief Financial Officer also joined the public meeting.

Councilmember McGinty requested that the agenda be amended by removing the minutes listed for approval and the Americana Diner Lease discussion item from the agenda.

Council President Quattrone moved the agenda as amended, Councilmember McGinty seconded. The Mayor called for a roll call vote for the amended agenda.

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

Agenda approved as amended, 5-0

Presentation

Ryan Lamphear, a resident and candidate for Eagle Scout, gave a presentation for a community service project for Troop 59, which he would direct as part of his Eagle Scout requirements. His idea for a project is to build a gazebo in Association Park; he noted that this project would encourage more use of the park and the gazebo would be multi-purpose and general landscaping would be included in the project.

Council was supportive of the project and Mayor Kirson instructed Ryan to work with the Parks and Recreation and Environmental Commissions for guidance and approval. The Mayor thanked Ryan for a great project.

Resolution 2011-224 Authorizing Payment #6 for S. Batata Construction, Inc. – Stockton Street Historic Infrastructure Project

Council President Quattrone moved resolution 2011-224, Councilmember Vanderbeck seconded.

Mr. Theokas advised that this is not the final payment and that a punch list has been given to the contractor. He also noted that this project has been submitted for the Engineering Project of the Year.

Resolution adopted, 5-0.

Resolution 2011-224

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

AUTHORIZING PAYMENT # 6 – S. BATATA CONSTRUCTION, INC. (STOCKTON STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT STREETScape INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT)

WHEREAS, on June 21, 2010, the Borough Council awarded a contract for the Stockton Street Historic District Streetscape Infrastructure Project to S. Batata Construction, Inc. of South River, New Jersey in the amount of \$791,506.00; and,

WHEREAS, the contractor has submitted Payment Request #6 for work done in the total amount of \$104,624.64; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer has recommended approval of this payment request; and

WHEREAS, the Treasurer has certified that said funds are available for this purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown Payment Request No. 6 from S. Batata Construction, Inc. of South River, New Jersey in the amount of \$104,624.64, as detailed herein, is hereby approved, and the Treasurer is authorized to issue same.

Resolution 2011-225 Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for Improvements to Grape Run Road and Pershing Avenue

Councilmember Woods moved resolution 2011-225, Councilmember Bibens seconded.

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

Resolution adopted, 5-0.

Resolution 2011-225

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

APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO GRAPE RUN ROAD AND PERSHING AVENUE

WHEREAS, the Hightstown Borough Council formally approves the grant application for improvements to Grape Run Road and Pershing Avenue.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hightstown Borough Council formally approves the grant application for improvements to Grape Run Road and Pershing Avenue, and the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as MA-2012-HightstownBorough-00373 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Borough of Hightstown.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Borough of Hightstown and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

Resolution 2011-226 Authorizing Receipt of Bids for Various Roads Milling and Paving Program – Mechanic Street, Wilson Avenue, Chamberlin Street, Reed Street, Rev. Powell Drive and Purdy Street

Council President Quattrone moved resolution 2011-226, Councilmember Woods seconded.

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

Resolution adopted, 5-0.

Resolution 2011-226

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

AUTHORIZING RECEIPT OF BIDS FOR THE VARIOUS ROADS MILLING AND PAVING PROGRAM – MECHANIC STREET, WILSON AVENUE, CHAMBERLIN STREET, REED STREET, REV. POWELL DRIVE AND PURDY STREET

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Transportation has authorized the advertising and receipt of bids for the Various Roads Milling and Paving Program to include Mechanic Street, Wilson Avenue, Chamberlin Street, Reed Street, Rev. Powell Drive and Purdy Street Project.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the Borough Engineer is hereby authorized to prepare specifications and advertise for bids for the Various Roads Milling and Paving Program, and that the Borough is authorized to receive same after proper advertisement.

Mayor Kirson opened the Public Comment Period and the following individuals spoke during the period:

Phyllis Deal, 305 Stockton Street – inquired as to the status of the proposed 4-way stop sign at Center and Morrison Streets and stated that a speed limit sign is missing on Stockton Street.

Walter Sikorski, 326 N. Main Street – commented regarding ethics and transparency.

Sandra Kerr, 229 Wilson Avenue – requested the fee for bulk pick-up stickers and permits for hurricane recovery be waived.

Eugene Sarafin, 628 S. Main Street – commented regarding Borough Hall damages from the hurricane.

Beverly Asselstine, 326 Franklin Street – stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission is excited about the gazebo project proposed by Ryan Lamphear.

Mark Petry, 326 Franklin Street –thanked the Mayor and Council for their attention regarding recovery from the flood.

Walter Sullivan, 205 Glenbrook Place – commended the Mayor and Council for their prompt attention regarding recovery from the flood.

Herbert Smith, 150 S. Main Street – commended the Mayor and Council for their prompt attention regarding recovery from the flood.

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

Resolution 2011-163 Establishing Salaries of Certain Officers and Employees of the Borough of Hightstown for the Year 2011

Councilmember Woods moved resolution 2011-163, Councilmember Bibens seconded.

Mr. Theokas reviewed the raises in union agreements and there was discussion.

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

Resolution adopted, 5-0.

Resolution 2011-163

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

**ESTABLISHING SALARIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE
BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN FOR THE YEAR 2011**

WHEREAS, Section 2-9.8(b) of the *Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown* provides that salaries of Department Heads shall be set by the Mayor and Council and that the salaries of other non-union employees shall be set by the Borough Administrator within the range provided by Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Mayor and Council to set 2011 salaries for non-union employees to provide a two percent increase, consistent with that received by members of the P.B.A. and Local 32 unions for 2011.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the salary for the titles below shall be effective January 1, 2011:

Position/Title	2011 Salary
ANNUAL PAY:	
Mayor	4,800.00
Councilmember	3,600.00
Chief Financial Officer	45,900.00
Borough Clerk	66,200.00
Tax Collector	25,500.00
Municipal Court Administrator	56,100.00
Municipal Court Administrator - on call stipend	1,000.00

Municipal Magistrate	35,715.00
Tax Assessor	12,750.00
Superintendent of Public Works	74,640.00
Water Plant Operator	65,838.00
Superintendent of AWWTP	76,258.00
Registrar of Vital Statistics	3,601.00
Construction Code Official	19,003.00
Technical Assistant	38,428.00
Building Subcode Official	3,695.00
Building Inspector	3,695.00
Public Health Nurse	65,939.00
Maintenance Foreman	43,603.00
Laboratory Manager	56,706.00

HOURLY PAY:

Fire Official	25.00
Fire Inspector	17.00
Fire Protection Inspector	30.00
Zoning Officer	27.03

PER SESSION PAY:

Acting Judge	250.00
Public Defender	150.00

Resolution 2011-227 Authorizing the Payment of Bills

Council President Quattrone moved resolution 2011-227, Councilmember Woods seconded.

Councilmember McGinty requested that the entire bills list be placed in the public packets in the future, the remainder of Council agreed.

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

Resolution adopted, 5-0.

Resolution 2011-227

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 \$ 258,496.66 from the following accounts

Current	\$ 84,768.58
W/S Operating	50,250.39
General Capital	115,401.85
Water/Sewer Capital	8,062.50
Grant	-
Trust	-
Housing Trust	-
Animal Control	-
Law Enforcement Trust	-
Housing Rehab Loans	-
Unemployment Trust	-
Escrow	13.34
Total	<u>\$ 258,496.66</u>

Mr. Theokas reviewed ordinance 2011-11, which approves the purchases for resolutions 2011-228 through 2011-231; he then suggested that these resolutions be moved as a consent agenda.

Resolutions 2011-228, 2011-229, 2011-230 and 2011-231

Councilmember Vanderbeck moved resolutions 2011-228, 2011-229, 2011-230 and 2011-231 as a consent agenda, Councilmember Bibens seconded.

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

Consent Agenda adopted, 5-0.

Resolution 2011-228

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

**AUTHORIZING A STATE CONTRACT PURCHASE FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT -
TRUCKS**

WHEREAS, there is a need for a pick-up truck and utility truck for use by the Hightstown Department of Public Works; and

WHEREAS, the Hightstown Borough Council has authorized the purchase of these vehicles with the adoption of Ordinance 2011-11; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Superintendent has found pricing and availability for a 4WD Regular Cab Utility vehicle and an Extended Cab 2WD Pickup Truck as needed under New Jersey State Contract A78847/T2754; and

WHEREAS, the Purchasing Agent has reviewed the findings of the Public Works Superintendent; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and Public Works Superintendent that these vehicles be purchased from Flemington Chevy Buick GMA Cadillac, LLC under state contract for an amount not to exceed \$38,905.00; and

WHEREAS, the treasurer has certified that funds are available for this purchase.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the Purchasing Agent
September 19, 2011

is hereby authorized to purchase a 4WD Regular Cab Utility vehicle and an Extended Cab 2WD Pickup Truck from Flemington Chevy Buick GMA Cadillac, LLC under New Jersey State Contract A78847/T2754 for an amount not to exceed \$38,905.00.

Resolution 2011-229

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

**AUTHORIZING A STATE CONTRACT PURCHASE FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT –
INTERNATIONAL DUMP CHASSIS**

WHEREAS, there is a need for a Dump Truck for use by the Hightstown Department of Public Works; and

WHEREAS, the Hightstown Borough Council has authorized the purchase of this vehicle with the adoption of Ordinance 2011-11; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Superintendent has found pricing and availability for an International Dump Truck Chassis under New Jersey State Contract A9123/T2787; and

WHEREAS, the Purchasing Agent has reviewed the findings of the Public Works Superintendent; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and Public Works Superintendent that this dump body chassis be purchased from Bucks County International under state contract for an amount not to exceed \$69,063.00; and

WHEREAS, the Treasurer has certified that funds are available for this purchase.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the Purchasing Agent is hereby authorized to purchase a dump truck chassis from Bucks County International under New Jersey State Contract A9123/T2787 for an amount not to exceed \$69,063.00.

Resolution 2011-230

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

AUTHORIZING A PURCHASE FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT – DUMP TRUCK BODY

WHEREAS, there is a need for a dump truck for use by the Hightstown Department of Public Works; and

WHEREAS, the Hightstown Borough Council has authorized the purchase of this vehicle with the adoption of Ordinance 2011-11; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Superintendent has solicited quotations for a dump truck body; and

WHEREAS, the Purchasing Agent has reviewed the quotations as presented by the Public Works Superintendent; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and Public Works Superintendent that the dump truck body be purchased from Norcia Corporation for an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Treasurer has certified that funds are available for this purchase.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the Purchasing Agent is hereby authorized to purchase a dump truck body from Norcia Corporation for an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00.

Resolution 2011-231

*BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN
COUNTY OF MERCER*

AUTHORIZING A PURCHASE FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT – HYDRAULIC HAMMER

WHEREAS, there is a need for a Hydraulic Hammer for use by the Hightstown Department of Public Works; and

WHEREAS, the Hightstown Borough Council has authorized the purchase of this equipment with the adoption of Ordinance 2011-11; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Superintendent has solicited quotations for a Hydraulic Hammer; and

WHEREAS, the Purchasing Agent has reviewed the quotations as presented by the Public Works Superintendent; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and Public Works Superintendent that the Hydraulic Hammer be purchased from Harter Equipment for an amount not to exceed \$20,425.00; and

WHEREAS, the Treasurer has certified that funds are available for this purchase.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the Purchasing Agent is hereby authorized to purchase a hydraulic hammer from Harter Equipment for an amount not to exceed \$20,425.00.

Resolution 2011-232 Confirming Review of the Best Practices Inventory for 2011

Council President Quattrone moved resolution 2011-232, Councilmember Woods seconded.

There was discussion regarding the Best Practices Inventory as submitted to the Department of Community Affairs, and how to implement changes to our policies to improve best practices in the Borough.

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

Resolution adopted, 5-0.

Resolution 2011-232

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

CONFIRMING REVIEW OF THE BEST PRACTICES INVENTORY FOR 2011

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs requires the filing of a Best Practices Inventory; and

WHEREAS, the Hightstown Borough Council is required to review the completed Best Practices Inventory at a public meeting, as submitted and certified by George Lang, Chief Finance Officer; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Clerk is required to certify that the Borough Council has reviewed the completed Best Practices Inventory at a public meeting.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized to certify that the Borough Council has reviewed the completed Best Practices Inventory at a public meeting as required.

Resolution 2011-233 Appointing JIF Coordinator for the Remainder of 2011

Councilmember McGinty moved resolution 2011-233, Council President Quattrone seconded.

The Borough Clerk explained that the prior Police Chief had this position and due to his retirement it was necessary to appoint his successor, and Mr. Theokas has agreed to assume the position.

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

Resolution adopted, 5-0.

Resolution 2011-233

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

APPOINTING A JIF COORDINATOR FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2011

WHEREAS, as a member it is required that Hightstown Borough appoint a Mid-Jersey Joint Insurance Fund Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, resolution 2011-26 appointed Chief James Eufemia as the JIF Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, due to the retirement of Chief James Eufemia effective September 1, 2011 it is required that the Borough appoint a replacement for the remainder of 2011; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Borough Council to appoint Michael Theokas, Borough Administrator as the JIF coordinator for the remainder of 2011.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that Michael Theokas, Borough Administrator, is hereby appointed as the JIF Coordinator for the remainder of 2011.

Resolution 2011-234 Amending resolution 2011-13

Councilmember Vanderbeck moved resolution 2011-234, Councilmember McGinty seconded.

The Borough Clerk explained that this resolution replaces Mr. Massa with Mr. Theokas as a signer on the bank accounts of the Borough.

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

Resolution adopted, 5-0.

Resolution 2011-234

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

AMENDING RESOLUTION 2011-13

WHEREAS, Hightstown Borough resolution 2011-13 authorized Herbert C. Massa, then Borough Administrator, to sign checks for the payment of money from the accounts of the Borough of Hightstown; and

WHEREAS, effective September 7, 2011 Michael Theokas is the Borough Administrator pursuant to resolution 2011-217; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend resolution 2011-13 by replacing the name of Herbert C. Massa with Michael Theokas.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that resolution 2011-13 shall be amended by replacing the name of Herbert C. Massa with the name Michael Theokas effective September 7, 2011.

Resolution 2011-235

Councilmember McGinty moved resolution 2011-235, Councilmember Bibens seconded.

The Borough Administrator explained that the Construction Official will decide if the permit fees are waived on a case by case basis, as this only waives the fees for permits associated with hurricane recovery.

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

Resolutions adopted, 5-0.

Resolution 2011-235

*BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN
COUNTY OF MERCER*

WAIVING PERMIT FEES FOR FLOOD DAMAGE DUE TO HURRICANE IRENE

WHEREAS, Hurricane Irene has caused substantial damage to residences and businesses of Hightstown Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council wishes to offer relief to the residents and business owners of the Borough who must have work done as a result of this event by waiving permit fees for said work; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.19(b)5, if a municipality waives permit fees for work done as a result of this event, the State of New Jersey shall also waive the permit surcharge fee; and

WHEREAS, all other requirements for the issuance of permits for this work shall remain in effect and required of all applicants.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Hightstown, that permit fees for work done as a result of Hurricane Irene shall be waived for residents and business owners of Hightstown Borough with all other requirements for the issuance of permits for this work shall remain in effect and required of applicants.

Resolution 2011-236

Councilmember Woods moved resolution 2011-236, Council President Quattrone seconded.

The Mayor gave an explanation of the need for this resolution.

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

Resolutions adopted, 5-0.

Resolution 2011-236

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

ADOPTING THE MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY ALL-HAZARDS PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PLAN

WHEREAS, Hightstown Borough is vulnerable to damages from hazard events which pose a threat to public health and safety and could result in property loss and economic hardship; and;

WHEREAS, a Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazards Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan (the Plan) has been developed through the work of the Mercer County Hazard Mitigation Working Group, and interested parties within the Borough of Hightstown; and;

WHEREAS, the Plan recommends hazard mitigation actions that will protect people and property affected by hazards occurring within the Borough of Hightstown, that will reduce future public, private, community and personal costs of disaster response and recovery; and that will reinforce the Borough of Hightstown's leadership in emergency preparedness efforts; and,

WHEREAS, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-390) (DMA 2000) and associated Federal regulations published under 44 CFR Part 201 require the Borough of Hightstown to formally adopt a Hazard Mitigation Plan subject to the approval of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to be eligible for federal funds for hazard mitigation projects and activities;

WHEREAS, public meetings were held to receive comment on the Plan as required by DMA 2000;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that:

1. Hightstown Borough adopts the Mercer County, New Jersey Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan, dated July 2011 as this jurisdiction's official Hazard Mitigation Plan, and resolves to execute the actions in the Plan.
2. The Hightstown Borough officials identified in the Mitigation Action Plan (Section 6) are hereby directed to implement the recommended actions assigned to them. These officials will report quarterly on their activities, accomplishments, and progress to the Hightstown Borough Office of Emergency Management and Hightstown Borough Administration.

3. The Hightstown Borough Office of Emergency Management will provide annual progress reports on the status of implementation of the Plan to the Hightstown Borough Council. This report shall be submitted to the Council by December 31st of each year.
4. The Hightstown Borough Office of Emergency Management will undertake periodic updates of the Plan in concert with the Mercer County Office of Emergency Management as indicated in the Plan Maintenance Program (Section 7) but no less frequent than every five years.

Mayor Kirson opened Public Comment Period II and the following individuals spoke:

Eugene Sarafin, 628 S. Main Street – stated that the Borough Administrator was a fine choice and commented regarding FEMA and Chris Smith.

George Serrano, 4 Westerlea Avenue – thanked Council and the Fire Department for their attention during the hurricane recovery effort.

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

Police Director Search Committee

The Mayor advised that resumes for the Police Director position were due last Friday, with approximately 55 resumes being received. He stated that Mr. Theokas, Borough Administrator; Council President Quattrone, Police Commissioner; Councilmember Bibens; and maybe a retired Police Chief, will make up the review committee for these resumes. The committee will then make recommendations to the Borough Council to fill this position.

Taxi Review Committee

Mayor Kirson advised that, as previously discussed by Council, there is a need to review and revise the taxi ordinance; and new legislation has also contributed to the need. Councilmember Woods, Mr. Theokas and Mayor Kirson will take up the task of making recommendations to the Borough Council regarding revisions to the ordinance.

Administrator's Update on Hurricane Recovery

Mr. Theokas stated that operations are almost at 100% at the AWWTP and everything is being processed; the Police Department is located at the Lucas property on Mercer Street and while there is a lot to be done, services continued; Public Works is moving forward with picking up trash and bulk and it is recommended that the waiving of fees for bulk pick-up be continued. Mitigation is a long process and he is working with FEMA and the insurance to evaluate the Municipal Building and cost for remediation. He thanked East Windsor, West Windsor, Robbinsville, and Peddie School for their assistance with the re-location of Borough offices and the clean-up. There was discussion regarding extending the waiver of the requirement that residents purchase bulk stickers for pick-up; the Council unanimously approved an extension of the waiver until October 3, 2011.

Code Enforcement Update

Mr. Theokas gave an update on code enforcement and noted that resident issues are being addressed.

Mayor/Council/Administrative Comments

Council President Quattrone – stated that DPW is working all hours to get things cleaned up and running in the Borough and noted that the paving project on Mercer Street is almost completed. He went on to thank East Windsor, West Windsor and Robbinsville for their assistance.

Councilmember McGinty – noted that the OEM Plan needs to be reviewed and updated; she thanked East Windsor and Peddie School for their water and sewer assistance. She continued that the Police Department Rules and Regulations need to be reviewed by Council.

Councilmember Bibens – commented that things are getting somewhat back to normal in the Borough and thanked everyone for their help. She reminded the residents that the Triathlon is this weekend and they need volunteers and the Harvest Fair is on October 1st. She noted that the Fire Department 9/11 Service was very nice and stated that the Fire
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Department has agreed to allow the use of their facility for the various committees on Tuesday evenings. Councilmember Bibens then thanked the Mayor for appointing her to the Police Director Search Committee.

Councilmember Vanderbeck – reminded the public that the four-way stop sign issue on Morrison was left with the residents in the area to advise Council of their decision on the matter. He then noted that the recovery effort was great and thanked everyone.

Councilmember Vanderbeck– acknowledged the East Windsor Governing Body for their assistance in getting water to the Borough residents.

Councilmember Woods– apologized to the businesses in town for their loss of income on Friday night due to NJDOT closing the roadway; she appreciates the businesses and wants to support them. Councilmember Woods then thanked Councilmember Vanderbeck for all his hard work with re-locating the Police Department and requested that monthly updates be given to the public, by the Borough Attorney, for the Minute Maid and Mill property litigations.

Mayor Kirson – thanked all the volunteers who donated their time and talent for the recovery of Hurricane Irene and Dave Babcock for all his work on the Harvest Fair; there are great people in Hightstown. The people of Hightstown really give of themselves.

Councilmember Woods moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM and Councilmember Vanderbeck seconded; the motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra L. Sopronyi
Borough Clerk