

Meeting Minutes
Hightstown Borough Council
Special Executive Meeting
November 14, 2012
7:00 pm

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kirson at 7:05 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 flag salute followed Roll Call.

	PRESENT	ABSENT
<i>Councilmember Bibens</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Bluth</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Doran</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Quattrone</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Thibault</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Woods</i>	✓	
<i>Mayor Kirson</i>	✓	

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

There was brief discussion regarding the posting of this meeting on the Borough website.

Councilmember Doran moved the agenda for approval, Councilmember Thibault seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bibens, Bluth, Doran, Quattrone, Thibault and Woods voted yes.

Agenda approved as amended.

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

Eugene Sarafin, 628 S. Main Street – inquired as to who called this meeting; Council members Doran and Woods responded that they requested it. Councilmember Woods clarified that she requested the meeting and asked Council to inform the Mayor or Council President if they wish to hold the meeting. Mr. Sarafin then noted that he wants to know so when he files a lawsuit about this meeting he will know who is responsible.

The Borough Attorney clarified the process for Council to call a meeting and assured Mr. Sarafin that the proper process was followed.

Mr. Sarafin then accused Council of collusion to which the Borough Attorney replied that there absolutely was no collusion. Mr. Sarafin then inquired as to whom the four Council members were that called the meeting, to which the Borough Attorney replied that a majority of Council called the meeting.

Mr. Sarafin again asked who the four Council members were that called the meeting and proceeded to comment that this meeting is to fire Mr. Theokas, who is very competent; and if you fire him there will be a recall of Council.

Walter Sikorski, 326 North Main Street – noted that the comments he is making are his own. He then commented on Mr. Theokas' previous experience on Borough Council, institutional experience and familiarity with Hightstown and its residents; he does not believe that public participation was expected at this meeting and it appears that Council is making a rash decision. Council should listen to the professionals and residents.

J. P. Gibbons, 602 N. Main Street – noted that it appears that people perceive this as a lynch mob meeting, however there was an executive meeting in August on the same topic to which this appears to be a follow-up; this is Council’s responsibility and their charge.

Kathleen Gravely, 40 Westerlea– noted that she does not know the basis of personnel decisions, but the public should not interfere, it is a Council responsibility.

Jeff Bond, 210 South Main Street – noted that he has not been to a Council meeting since he left office, but felt this was an important matter. This meeting was kept under wraps, and it is being held right after the election; it appears that you are trying to get rid of Mike Theokas, which is a shame. He commented that Mike is doing a good job, this is very political and Council will pay in the long run; you are showing that Council has no direction.

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

Resolution 2012-275 Authorizing a Meeting Which Excludes the Public

Councilmember Doran moved resolution 2012-275, Councilmember Woods seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bibens, Bluth, Doran, Quattrone, Thibault and Woods voted yes.

Resolution adopted, 6-0

Resolution 2012-275
*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 November 14, 2012 at approximately 7:00 pm in the Historical Society Building located at 164 North Main Street, Hightstown 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 – Borough Administrator

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: February 14, 2013 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.

Mayor Kirson announced that action may be taken following executive session and excused the public from the meeting.

Council re-convened into public session at 8:55pm and the public, along with Mr. Theokas were invited back into the meeting.

Councilmember Thibault moved to adjourn at 8:57 pm, Councilmember Bibens seconded. All ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra L. Sopronyi, RMC
Borough Clerk

November 14, 2012 Special