

Meeting Minutes
Hightstown Borough Council
Budget Meeting
June 30, 2010 4:30 pm

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert Patten at 4:30 pm and 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.

ROLL CALL

	PRESENT	ABSENT
<i>Councilmember Bond</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember McGinty</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Musing</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Quattrone</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Sikorski</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Theokas</i>	✓	
<i>Mayor Patten</i>	✓	

Also in attendance: Debra Sopronyi, Borough Clerk; Herbert Massa, Borough Administrator; and George Lang, Chief Finance Officer.

Council President Quattrone motioned to accept the agenda, Councilmember Sikorski seconded, all approved.

Public Comment

Mayor Patten opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals spoke during the public comment period: Janice Mastriano, 15 Leshin Lane and Rob Thibault, 504 S. Main Street.

Budget Discussion

Mr. Massa gave a review of Local Finance Notice 2010-14 regarding State Aid. Mr. Lang gave an overview of aid eligibility and requirements as well as revenues, expenditures and the tax rate. There was discussion regarding contract negotiations, health benefits and budget cuts.

Council President Quattrone motioned that they not apply for State Aid, Councilmember Bond seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Bond, McGinty, Musing, Quattrone and Theokas voted yes, Councilmember Sikorski voted no

Budget Amendment Public Hearing

The Mayor opened the public hearing on the Budget Amendment. Mr. Rob Thibault of 504 S. Main Street spoke during this public hearing.

There being no further comments, the Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

Resolution 2010-153 Adopting the 2010 Budget

Councilmember Bond moved resolution 2010-153, Councilmember Theokas seconded.

Councilmember Sikorski commented on the tax increase and cuts in the budget as well as the cuts from the State on Property Tax Rebates and Senior Citizen Freezes. He stated he would not vote for this budget.

Councilmember McGinty said she finds that Hightstown is in a disturbing situation and unsustainable. There is no choice to vote for this budget, but Hightstown needs to take steps for more shared services or total consolidation. She also commented that Council needs to have dialogue and take steps toward a five year projection.

Council President Quattrone commented that he will not vote for this budget and that he had requested lay-offs in the past.

Councilmember Musing agrees that a five year projection must be done and he will vote no for this budget.

Councilmember Bond expressed frustration that the budget process has come so far and everybody appeared to be on board at this last meeting.

Councilmember Theokas echoed Councilmember Bond's frustration.

Mayor Patten stated that these type of issues should have been brought up during the budget process, not at the time of adoption; and he will not vote to break a tie on the budget.

There was further discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Bond, McGinty and Theokas voted yes; Councilmembers Musing, Quattrone, and Sikorski voted no.

The Budget was defeated due to a tie vote 3-3.

Councilmember Bond moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 pm, Councilmember Sikorski seconded; the Motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra L. Sopronyi

Borough Clerk