

Meeting Minutes
Hightstown Borough Council
Reorganization Meeting
January 1, 2010 12:00 noon

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert Patten at 12:00 pm and he wished everyone a Happy New Year. 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."

The Flag Salute was followed by Roll call.

ROLL CALL – 2009 COUNCIL

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

Also in attendance: Debra Sopronyi, Borough Clerk and Herbert Massa, Borough Administrator.

The Mayor then proceeded to swear in Mr. Lawrence D. Quattrone.

After being sworn in to office, Councilmember Quattrone stated that one question the residents are always asking him is how they can lower their taxes; he suggested that they volunteer with Emergency Services and make sure to recycle. Another question he gets is regarding his hair, and no he does not dye it. He thanked the voters and wished them a Happy New Year.

The Mayor then swore in Mr. Dimitri Musing.

After being sworn in to office, Councilmember Musing said that he was honored to accept the responsibility of being a member of Council and he was grateful to the voters. He spoke regarding his belief that State Aid is not going to save the Borough and how the Council will need to set short-term and long-term goals as well as a plan for implementation to attain them. He encouraged the residents of Hightstown to get involved in their community.

Fr. Pat McDonald of St. Anthony of Padua Church then gave the invocation; a prayer entitled "Teach Me to Listen".

The Mayor invited Councilmember Musing to lead in the flag salute; roll call followed.

ROLL CALL – 2010 COUNCIL

	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 and Herbert Massa, Borough Administrator.

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

Mayor Patten presented Mr. David Schneider with a proclamation of appreciation from the current Borough Council.

Mr. Schneider accepted the proclamation and stated that even though some times it was difficult or troubling, he is very proud of his time on Council and grateful to the voters. He has made many friends and has a great respect for the residents of the Borough. He said it was a pleasure to serve with the Council and he hopes that some of the work he has done will have lasting affects for Hightstown, he then wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Council President Sikorski commented that nine years is a long time to be on Council and there are many qualities that he is going to miss without David Schneider; such as his ability to listen to citizen concerns, his diligence with negotiating the public union contracts, his analysis of finances regarding Borough issues, and his character and sense of humor. He continue by stating that Mr. Schneider was very good at finding the button to turn on the recording equipment and that this will be a big adjustment for Council. On behalf of the Council, Council President Sikorski thanked Dave Schneider for all his hard work and stated that it had been a pleasure to work with him.

The Mayor then recognized the various dignitaries in the audience which included former Mayor Scott Kaster and former Councilmembers Tory Watkins, Gene Sarafin, and West Windsor Councilmember Diane Ciccone.

Public Comment I

Mayor Patten opened the floor for public comment.

Phyllis Deal – 305 Stockton St., She wished everyone a Happy New Year and hopes that 2010 is a year that Council can discuss and decide what is best for Hightstown without personalities getting in the way. She appreciated Mr. Schneider's work.

Eugene Sarafin – 628 S. Main St., he realized that this is his 9th decade and he would not like to re-live the 8th decade. He welcomed Dimitri and said good-bye and thank you to Dave Schnieder.

Kathy Patten - 135 South St., she thanked Dave Schneider for all he brought to Council and he will be missed.

There being no further comments, the Mayor closed the Public Comment period.

Resolution 2010-01 Electing Council President for 2010

Resolution 2010-01 was moved by Council President Sikorski nominating Councilmember Quattrone as Council President for 2010, seconded by Councilmember McGinty. There were no other nominations and the Mayor called for a Roll Call vote.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bond, McGinty, Musing, Quattrone and Sikorski voted yes, Councilmember Theokas abstained.

Resolution adopted with Councilmember Quattrone becoming the Council President for 2010, 5-1.

Resolution 2010-01

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

ELECTING COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOR 2010

WHEREAS, there exists a need to fill the position of Council President for 2010; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Borough Council to elect Lawrence D. Quattrone to fill that position;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that Lawrence D. Quattrone is hereby elected as Council President for the year 2010.

Council President Quattrone then thanked his wife for all the years she gave up vacation time to support his duties on the Council. He stated that the Council is a working body that must have unity. He also encouraged the public to be active and to participate in their government. Mayor Patten thanked Walter for serving as Council President for three years and for bringing the Council together on issues.

Resolution 2010-02 Appointing Professional Service Providers for 2010

Councilmember Sikorski moved resolution 2010-02 with the omission of the Borough Engineer appointment, Council President Quattrone seconded.

Councilmember McGinty clarified that Council pulled the Engineer from the resolution because they had given her a three-year appointment in 2009.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bond, McGinty, Musing, Quattrone, Sikorski and Theokas voted yes.

Resolution 2010-02 adopted, 6-0

Resolution 2010-02

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

RESOLUTION RATIFYING AND CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS FOR 2010 - 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	<i>Term expiration</i>
Municipal Attorney:	Frederick Raffetto, Esq. Ansell Zaro Grimm & Aaron 1500 Lawrence Avenue, CN 7807 Ocean, New Jersey 07712	1 year	December 31, 2010
Special Labor Counsel:	Richard J. Shaklee, Esq. McLaughlin Gelson, LLC 1305 Campus Parkway, Suite 200 Neptune, New Jersey 07753	1 year	December 31, 2010
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, 2010
Municipal Planner:	Tamara Lee Tamara Lee Consulting, LLC 156 Lindbergh Road Hopewell, New Jersey 08525	1 year	December 31, 2010
Bond Counsel:	Edward J. McManimon, III McManimon & Scotland, LLC 1037 Raymond Blvd, Ste. 400 Newark, New Jersey 07102	1 year	December 31, 2010
Municipal Prosecutor	Robert H. Yostembski 205 Cornwall Avenue Trenton, New Jersey 08618	1 year	December 31, 2010

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, 2010.

Resolution 2010-03 Appointing Boards, Commissions and Committees for 2010

Councilmember Sikorski moved resolution 2010-03 with an amendment; he would like to replace Mr. Musing with Ms. McGinty, for the Planning Board appointment. Councilmember Bond seconded.

Councilmember McGinty reviewed the Citizens Services Act. Discussion followed and Councilmember Sikorski changed his motion to amend the resolution to be 2010-03A and to include the Planning Board appointment only, naming Councilmember McGinty to that appointment, Councilmember Bond seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bond, Musing, Quattrone, Sikorski and Theokas voted yes; Councilmember McGinty abstained.

Resolution 2010-03A adopted, 5-1

Resolution 2010-03A

*BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN
COUNTY OF MERCER*

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

**RESOLUTION MAKING AND CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS FOR 2010 -
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

Isabel McGinty

1 yr.

December 31, 2010

Councilmember Sikorski moved resolution 2010-03 which is the original resolution without the Planning Board appointment, Council President Quattrone seconded.

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

Resolution 2010-03 adopted, 4-2

Resolution 2010-03

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

**RESOLUTION MAKING AND CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS FOR 2010 -
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:

Environmental Commission

Esther Velasquez

3 yrs.

December 31, 2012

Gary Grubb

3 yrs.

December 31, 2012

David Ogorzalek, Alternate #2

2 yrs.

December 31, 2011

Board of Health

Dr. John Laudenberg

3 yrs.

December 31, 2012

Mary Ann Paglione

3 yrs.

December 31, 2012

Skye Gilmartin

2 yrs.

December 31, 2011

Economic Development Committee

Dylan Ross

2 yrs.

December 31, 2011

J. Michael Vanderbeck

2 yrs.

December 31, 2011

Chris Emigholz

2 yrs.

December 31, 2011

Brent Rivenburgh

2 yrs.

December 31, 2011

Councilmember Michael Theokas, Ex Officio

1 yr.

December 31, 2010

Resolution 2010-04 Appointing Borough Officials for 2010

Councilmember Sikorski moved resolution 2010-04, Council President Quattrone seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bond, McGinty, Musing, Quattrone, Sikorski and Theokas voted yes

Resolution 2010-4 adopted, 6-0

Resolution 2010-04

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

**RESOLUTION MAKING AND CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS FOR 2010 -
BOROUGH OFFICIALS**

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

Kathleen Monzo	Tax/Water/Sewer Collector 4 yrs.	December 31, 2013
James M. Eufemia	<u>Joint Insurance Fund Commissioner</u> 1 yr.	December 31, 2010
Debra L. Sopronyi	<u>Alternate Joint Insurance Fund Commissioner</u> 1 yr.	December 31, 2010
Debra L. Sopronyi	<u>Assessment Search Officer</u> 1 yr.	December 31, 2010
Debra L. Sopronyi	<u>Public Agency Compliance Officer (P.A.C.O.)</u> 1 yr.	December 31, 2010
Richard Kelly	<u>Public Defender</u> 1 yr.	December 31, 2010
Gus Siggelakis	<u>Alternate Public Defender</u> 1 yr.	December 31, 2010
#1 - Sahbra Smook-Jacobs, Esq.	<u>Alternate Prosecutors</u> 1 yr.	December 31, 2010
#2 - Lenore N. Hannah, Esq.	1 yr.	December 31, 2010
#3 - Renee La Marre-Summers, Esq.	1 yr.	December 31, 2010
#4 - Edward Hunter, Esq.	1 yr.	December 31, 2010
#5 - Kim Augustus Otis, Esq.	1 yr.	December 31, 2010
William Schmeling	<u>Zoning Officer</u> 1 yr.	December 31, 2010
Thomas Murray	Housing Inspectors 1 yr.	December 31, 2010
George Chin	1 yr.	December 31, 2010
George Chin	Building Inspector 1 yr.	December 31, 2010
Thomas Murray	Fire Protection Inspector 1 yr.	December 31, 2010
Larry Gunnell	Summer Recreation Director 1 yr.	December 31, 2010
Dr. David Martin	Borough Historian 1 yr.	December 31, 2010
	<u>School Crossing Guards</u>	

James Coleman	1 yr.	December 31, 2010
Carl Jantz	1 yr.	December 31, 2010
Ron Shekero	1 yr.	December 31, 2010
Maria Sterns	1 yr.	December 31, 2010
James J. Silva	1 yr.	December 31, 2010
Bennie Duggins	1 yr.	December 31, 2010

Resolution 2010-05 Appointing Council Liaisons for 2010

Councilmember Sikorski moved resolution 2010-04, Council President Quattrone seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bond, McGinty, Musing, Quattrone, Sikorski and Theokas voted yes

Resolution 2010-5 adopted, 6-0

Resolution 2010-05

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

APPOINTING COUNCIL LIAISONS

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

M. JEFFREY BOND	Water and Sewer Departments Finance and Administration
ISABEL McGINTY	Environmental Commission
LAWRENCE D. QUATTRONE	Parks and Recreation Commission First Aid Squad Public Works
WALTER SIKORSKI	Municipal Court Borough-owned properties Board of Health
DIMITRI MUSING	Construction/Housing/Fire Code Enforcement Historic Preservation Commission
MICHAEL THEOKAS	Economic Development Committee Fire Department

Consent Agenda

Councilmember McGinty requested that resolutions 2010-7, 2010-13, 2010-17 and 2010-18 be pulled from the consent agenda.

Councilmember Sikorski moved the consent agenda as amended, Council President Quattrone seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bond, McGinty, Musing, Quattrone, Sikorski and Theokas voted yes

Consent Agenda adopted, 6-0

Resolution 2010-06

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

DESIGNATING OFFICIAL BOROUGH NEWSPAPERS

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the *Trenton Times* and the *Windsor-Hights Herald* are hereby designated as the official newspapers of the municipality for the year 2010.

Resolution 2010-08

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

APPROVING THE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE YEAR 2010

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 2010 and for the first two meetings in 2011, will be held at **7:30 p.m.**, unless otherwise noted, at the Municipal Building at 148 North Main Street, Hightstown, on the following dates:

2010` SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING DATES

TUESDAY (Monday holiday)	January 19
MONDAY	February 1
TUESDAY (Monday holiday)	February 16
MONDAY	March 1
MONDAY	March 15
MONDAY	April 5
MONDAY	April 19
MONDAY	May 3
MONDAY	May 17
MONDAY	June 7
MONDAY	June 21
TUESDAY (Monday holiday)	July 6
MONDAY	July 19
MONDAY	August 2
MONDAY	August 16
TUESDAY (Monday holiday)	September 7
MONDAY	September 20
MONDAY	October 4
MONDAY	October 18
MONDAY	November 1
MONDAY	November 15
MONDAY	December 6
MONDAY	December 20

2011 Meetings

SATURDAY, January 1	Reorganization Meeting, 12 noon
MONDAY, January 3	Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Resolution 2010-09

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

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 2010-10

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

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 2010, 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 2010-11

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

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 2010-12

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

AUTHORIZING 2010 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 2009 current budget, exclusive of appropriations for capital improvement fund and debt service, is \$1,461,596.64;

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 2010 Temporary Operating Budget (Current), as detailed on the annexed Schedule, totaling \$1,434,000.00 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 2010-14

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

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 2010-15

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

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 2010 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 2010 which is attached hereto and made a part hereof is hereby adopted.

Resolution 2010-16

*BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN
COUNTY OF MERCER*

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

**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, 2010; 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
George J. Lang, Chief Financial Officer
Herbert C. Massa, Business Administrator
Debra L. Sopronyi, Borough Clerk

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
George J. Lang, Chief Financial Officer
Herbert C. Massa, Business Administrator
Debra L. Sopronyi, Borough Clerk

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
George J. Lang, Chief Financial Officer
Herbert C. Massa, Business Administrator
Debra L. Sopronyi, Borough Clerk

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
George J. Lang, Chief Financial Officer
Herbert C. Massa, Business Administrator
Debra L. Sopronyi, Borough Clerk

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
George J. Lang, Chief Financial Officer
Herbert C. Massa, Business Administrator
Debra L. Sopronyi, Borough Clerk

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
George J. Lang, Chief Financial Officer
Herbert C. Massa, Business Administrator
Debra L. Sopronyi, Borough Clerk

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
George J. Lang, Chief Financial Officer
Herbert C. Massa, Business Administrator
Debra L. Sopronyi, Borough Clerk

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
George J. Lang, Chief Financial Officer
Herbert C. Massa, Business Administrator
Debra L. Sopronyi, Borough Clerk

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
George J. Lang, Chief Financial Officer
Herbert C. Massa, Business Administrator
Debra L. Sopronyi, Borough Clerk

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
George J. Lang, Chief Financial Officer
Herbert C. Massa, Business Administrator
Debra L. Sopronyi, Borough Clerk

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
George J. Lang, Chief Financial Officer
Herbert C. Massa, Business Administrator
Debra L. Sopronyi, Borough Clerk

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
George J. Lang, Chief Financial Officer
Herbert C. Massa, Business Administrator
Debra L. Sopronyi, Borough Clerk

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Borough Clerk, Business 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 2010-07 Appointing Roberts Rules of Order

Councilmember Sikorski moved resolution 2010-07, Council President Quattrone seconded. Discussion followed.

Councilmember McGinty clarified that Roberts Rules of Order recognizes the Attorney as the Parliamentarian and that there have been issues in the past with the Presider's responsibilities and participation in matters.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bond, McGinty, Musing, Quattrone, Sikorski and Theokas voted yes

Resolution 2010-7 adopted, 6-0

Resolution 2010-07

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

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 2010-13 Authorizing 2010 Temporary Operating Budget – Water/Sewer

Councilmember McGinty stated the copy of the budget was not attached and she felt they should not vote on this resolution.

Councilmember McGinty motioned that this resolution be postponed until January 19th. Councilmember Sikorski seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bond, McGinty, Musing, Quattrone, Sikorski and Theokas voted yes

Resolution 2010-13 postponed until January 19, 2010, 6-0,

Resolution 2010-17 Providing Authority for Approval of Certain Purchases

Councilmember McGinty stated there were issues regarding the payment of bills and the authority to purchase, during 2009. She does not believe they should vote on this resolution at this time.

Councilmember McGinty motioned that this resolution be postponed until January 19th. Council President Quattrone seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bond, McGinty, Musing, Quattrone, Sikorski and Theokas voted yes

Resolution 2010-17 postponed until January 19, 2010, 6-0.

Resolution 2010-18 Establishing 2010 Schedule of Holidays and Borough Business Hours

Councilmember McGinty stated she believes voting on the summer hours at this time would be premature; she thinks they should wait until the time gets closer to determine the need. She asked that the resolution be amended by removing the information regarding the summer hour schedule.

Councilmember McGinty moved resolution 2010-18 as amended. Council President Quattrone seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bond, McGinty, Musing, Quattrone, Sikorski and Theokas voted yes

Resolution 2010-18 adopted as amended, 6-0.

Resolution 2010-18

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

**ESTABLISHING 2010 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 2010 and the first week of 2011:

January 1	New Years' Day (Friday)
January 18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Monday)
February 15	Presidents Day (Monday)
April 2	Good Friday
May 31	Memorial Day observed (Monday)
July 5	Independence Day observed (Monday)
September 6	Labor Day (Monday)
October 11	Columbus Day observed (Monday)
November 11	Veterans Day (Thursday)
November 25	Thanksgiving Day (Thursday)
November 26	Day After Thanksgiving (Friday)
December 24	Christmas Eve (Friday)
December 31	New Years Eve (Friday)

Council Comments

Councilmember Theokas – Thanks to Dave Schneider, it was a pleasure; and thanks to Walter Sikorski he did an outstanding job as Council President. Welcome Dimitri Musing, he looks forward to working with him. He proceeded to quote Mark Twain and followed by wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilmember McGinty – Thank you Dave Schneider and Walter Sikorski for their dedication to the Council. She then recognized Herb Massa as the Borough Administrator and Debra Sopronyi as the Borough Clerk; she feels they are excellent additions to Hightstown Borough. She hopes the residents recognize that it is Council who should respond to their inquiries. She is concerned with the cancellation of the January 4th meeting because business will continue in the Borough and they will not meet until January 19th. She welcome Dimitri Musing to the Council.

Councilmember Bond – thanked Dave Schneider and welcomed Dimitri Musing. There was a time when Council President was just a figure head, but Walter took it beyond to a new level. He spends about 30 hours a week working on Borough business and talking to the members of Council, getting a consensus. If the public perceives that there is a lack of consensus on the Council, it surely is not Walter's fault and he thinks Walter has done a wonderful job for three years.

Council President Quattrone – thanked Dave Schneider and expressed that he could call him anytime; congratulations to Mr. Musing and welcome. Walter has brought Council to a new level and Mr. Quattrone hopes to carry on that way; he stated that if he could not, he would bring it back to Council and they will have to choose someone else. He then thanked Mr. Massa for attending the meeting today.

Councilmember Sikorski – commented that 209 certainly was a year of change for Hightstown Borough; the departure of Candace Gallagher, and the hiring of the new Clerk and Administrator. He thinks they made great choices and saved the Borough a lot of money by doing the search themselves. He has committed himself to the consolidation of services, the police feasibility study as long term solutions to the Borough financial difficulties. Working out the details is difficult and arduous. We cannot look to Trenton to solve our problems and we should look to the lead taken by the larger municipalities and consider employee furloughs and employee contribution to medical coverage. I do not envy the new Governor's position. The Council needs to consider these items this year when preparing the budget and they look forward to Mr. Massa's input in this matter. It is Mr. Sikorski's intent to continue to work cooperatively with his fellow council members and East Windsor Township for the betterment of Hightstown Borough.

Dimitri Musing – thanked Dave Schneider and Walter Sikorski for their service to the Borough. He said it is a new decade and there are important issues facing the Borough that he looks forward to working on.

Debra Sopronyi, Clerk – wished everyone a Happy New Year

Mayor Patten – welcomed Herb Massa

Herb Massa – wished everyone a Happy New Year and he looks forward to starting with the Borough.

The Mayor then gave the Mayor's Address

Happy New Year to all of you! I wish you much peace, good health and success in 2010.

People say that history has a way of repeating itself. That occurred to me when responding to a request from nine year old Taylor Bell, a Hightstown resident, who spoke at a recent council meeting asking if she could form a group to raise funds to replace the walking bridge over the Peddie Lake dam, which Taylor misses dearly since its recent removal due to its unsafe condition.

In order to help Taylor with her request, we met at the library and found some interesting research on the bridge...in fact, it was in the Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society's Newsletter issue of March-April, 1998 under the headline, "Hightstown Re-Builds," written by former Hightstonian and life-long local historian, Richard Hutchinson (a familiar name).

Here is a bit of history for you: according to Hutch, the Gross Brothers' Feed Mill and other mills located at the intersection of Franklin and Main Streets were the first things people entering town from the east saw and in that period of time, the wooden dam which formed Peddie Lake was covered by the mill structures and an enclosed wooden walk-way--the pre-cursor to our current walking bridge. On the right side of the dam, stood the old saw mill, and several buildings housed businesses – a blacksmith shop, a barber shop, a movie theatre and a garage; but that all changed in 1920, when a fire began in the mills. The mill dust spread the fire, burning the entire mill area including all the wooden buildings from Franklin Street up to the Railroad Hotel, now the Tavern on the Lake.

Immediately, a massive clean-up began, spurred on by the fact that the Hightstown's 200th birthday was approaching and plans for the Bicentennial Celebration in 1921 were underway. The owners of the properties decided not to rebuild the mills and the empty lots were bought by a group of local businessmen with the property deeded to the town as a site for a Memorial Park in honor of the local soldiers who served our country in World War I. Thus the town acquired the property almost up to Stockton Street and began the rebuilding of Hightstown. The dirt covered Main Street was paved and sidewalks were put in place. A huge flag pole (one hundred feet tall), for what was later to become the site of the opening ceremonies of the Bicentennial, was set into place in what would later become known as Memorial Park.

Completing the renewal of the mill area was the removal of the wooden dam and the retaining walls which were replaced with the present rock wall and concrete dam that we see today; all of the rebuilding was done through a community effort guided by the local businessmen involved in the Hightstown Board of Trade. The whole project was to cost an estimated \$25,000 and all of it had to be raised by contributions.

The fundraising drive lasted all of three weeks with the entire amount being raised in that period of time!! Through this effort by the people of our community, Hightstown's downtown area was rebuilt. A compelling letter sent to all households stated, "The estimated cost of the whole enterprise is \$25,000 and every man, woman and child of our community will be urged to make some contribution to the fund. A certificate will be issued to each subscriber. Pledge buttons, window cards, with small American flag stickers for each member of the family contributing will also be furnished"...it ended with "Yours for the good of Hightstown and the glory of her sons." It was signed by C. Herbert Davison, Pres.; and Wm. H. Franklin, Sec.

The editor of the newsletter, Richard "Hutch" Hutchinson, noted, "I often wonder that if such a disaster befell the community today, would we have that same community spirit? Would we be able to pull together and accomplish what our forefathers did?" And, now, history is repeating itself with Taylor Bell's initiative to help make our town better.

My answer to Hutch's questions is a loud and familiar..., **"Yes, we can!"** No matter what form the disasters and downturns take, we can survive and continue the town's healthy heartbeat of New Jersey. Evidence of this community spirit is seen everywhere from our beautiful, holiday-decorated downtown to the exciting preparations being made for our all volunteer Hightstown Engine Company #1 Fire Department's 175th Anniversary to be celebrated throughout 2010. While other towns have had to cancel or reduce their holiday decorations, ours were spectacular....and while other towns cancelled their community fairs, ours grew larger...all due to community volunteers' spirit and generosity. Our town's diverse population of 5,300 has hundreds of residents

who unselfishly give of their time, energy and resources to the continuing success of the Borough of Hightstown.

We are SMALL and BEAUTIFUL ... and that means, everyone feels a part of this special place and that he or she can make a positive difference, whether you're nine or ninety, you are a part of the town, our Hightstown!

In conclusion, for the year 2010, let us all make resolutions for the good of Hightstown. Our town needs unity in the community. Here is what we all can do to help make Hightstown a better place in which to live, worship, visit, and do business. With much pride, I am able to offer the names of many townspeople, and civic organizations and houses of worship and municipal boards, commissions and committees and youth groups and businesses and ... more and more outstanding names who help give the Borough of Hightstown a positive image in New Jersey. I thank everyone who has been part of this continuing effort since the founding of our town.

Now, with the start of a new decade, let's resolve to answer the question, "Why can't we all get along together?" Let's say, "We are capable and we will!" Politics should not divide us, it must unite us! Let's truly work together to make Hightstown a better community each and every day. It is our town! Having unified goals for it will bring about positive changes much more quickly. Let us all make that commitment!

Please resolve, as a community, that we will provide the support and assistance to the services offered to many of our community members and families through our community action service center called RISE and the Better Beginnings Child Development Center.

Let's decide to discover the many "points of pride" in our community and share them with your friends, relatives and associates wherever they may live. We have a wonderful town! Establish your own plan to add a point or two or more.

We all understand that freedom of speech is a special right for each of us. Let's practice behaviors of dignity and respect when we interact with others. Whether you are a mayor or councilperson, a member of the public, a media reporter, or a borough employee--we need to practice civility. Treat people the way you would want to be treated.

In 1721, Mary and John Hight had a dream for their newly settled land—one of prosperity. They accomplished that with their brook side mill and home. Now, with this town's journey through nearly 290 years, the Hights and former mayors and councils left a legacy that today in the 21st century needs the "power of the people" to focus on a vision of a vibrant town with the synergy of modern diversity of population. Let's focus on having suitable housing, community services, schooling, employment, economics, transportation, and a worthy life-style for all. And equal opportunities for all without bias, prejudice, harassment, or any violation of human rights. So, let us all promise, right now, that Hightstown will be the place of opportunity for all its residents and the model for all other towns in this great country of the U. S. of A.

Please agree today that your hearts, with all the excitement and spirit that our town's founders had, will beat in unison for Hightstown's success. Together, we can make a positive difference. Yes, we most certainly can! Hightstown's mayor and council cannot do it alone. Let us recognize that Hightstown's unity in the community only becomes a reality with volunteering, sharing ideas and energy, being benevolent, joining civic organizations, and being a good neighbor across this wonderful 1.2 square miles of "Our Town."

Yes, our property taxes are too high; but, let's unite to urge our state legislators to amend the state constitution so property owners are not the only contributors to funding our public schools. We have been carrying that burden for too long; but, at the same time, let's promise to support our public schools which are the solid foundation of our democratic society.

So, let us be united to support this Mayor and Council in its deliberations to improve our town. Agree to understand the actions

of the Council when it makes the tough decisions which may not be what you want;but, it will be what the town needs.

Lastly, whether you are a resident, business owner, visitor or consumer, or just passing through, let's all resolve to exemplify the spirit of the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights. They are our guardians for equality and freedom for all, not just a few.

God bless you all, God bless Hightstown and enjoy a wonderful New Year!

After some initial comments regarding Walter Sikorski, Pastor Bob Turton of Gospel Mission Corps and the Interim Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Hightstown gave the Benediction.

The Mayor invited everyone to join the Council at the Historical Society Building across the parking lot for a reception, which is being provided by Mr. Dave Schneider.

Councilmember Sikorski moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:24 pm and Council President Quattrone seconded; the Motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra L. Sopronyi

Borough Clerk