

Meeting Minutes
Hightstown Borough Council
Budget Meeting
May 10, 2011
7:30 pm

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kirson at 7:30 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."

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 Vanderbeck</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Woods</i>	✓	
<i>Mayor Kirson</i>	✓	

Also in attendance: Debra Sopronyi, Borough Clerk and Phil Nettel, Special Labor Counsel

Resolution 2011-137

Councilmember Quattrone moved resolution 2011-137, Councilmember Gilmartin seconded.

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

Resolution adopted, 6-0

Resolution 2011-137

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 May 10, 2011 at approximately 7:30 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

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: August 10, 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 8:10 pm.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kirson at 8:15 pm and he again read the Open Public Meetings Act statement.

The Flag Salute followed the Roll call which has remained the same: Councilmember Vanderbeck was in the other room and is temporarily absent; George Lang, Chief Financial Officer had also joined the public meeting.

Council President McGinty moved that the agenda be approved with the addition of a second public comment period and Council comments following the discussion. There was no second.

Councilmember Quattrone made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Councilmember Gilmartin seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bibens, Gilmartin, Quattrone, and Woods voted yes; Councilmember McGinty, voted no; Councilmember Vanderbeck had not yet returned to the dais and is considered absent.

Agenda was approved as presented by a vote of 4-1.

Councilmember Vanderbeck returned to the dais at this time and was now in attendance.

Mayor Kirson opened the Public Comment Period and the following individuals spoke during the period: Eugene Sarafin, 628 S. Main Street; Rob Thibault, 504 S. Main Street, Gail Doran, 201 Hutchinson Street; and Scott Caster, 12 Clover Lane.

George Lang, Chief Financial Officer, gave a review of the introduced budget and the proposed amendment which included salary corrections and additions to Professional Service fees. He explained that police and dispatch salaries as well as their benefits are no longer being charged to the Water/Sewer budget as they had in the past. This budget, with the proposed amendment, will produce a flat tax rate. He noted that last year was very difficult, however tax collection percentages increased in 2010 and Department Heads have been very conscientious, assisting with stabilizing the tax rate. Mr. Lang stated that he would like to introduce the amendment at the May 16th meeting, and adopt the budget at the June 6th meeting to avoid having to send out estimated tax bills which is quite costly. Discussion ensued regarding state aid and energy receipts being taken over the by the state. A question and answer period followed.

There was discussion regarding shared services, property values and tax appeals. Discussion continued regarding the ability of the public to understand the budget and Hightstown's sustainability.

The Mayor commented that he had attended several events regarding police and fire consolidation, however there did not appear to be any dedication to move forward with either and he expressed his frustration.

Council President McGinty suggested that the shade tree fund be returned to the budget and Councilmember Gilmartin suggested that the Borough attempt to increase the submission of grant applications. Discussion ensued regarding Professional fees and the need to reduce them, the Capital Improvement Fund and the Administrator salary.

Mr. Lang then gave a review of the process for the adoption of the amendment and budget. There was discussion regarding police overtime.

Councilmember Vanderbeck moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 PM and Councilmember Quattrone seconded; the motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra L. Sopronyi

Borough Clerk