

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Hightstown Borough Council**  
**Special Meeting**  
**April 28, 2014**  
**7:00 pm**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kirson at 7:00pm 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
Councilmember Bluth	✓	
Vacant		
Councilmember Hansen	✓	
Councilmember Misiura	✓	
Councilmember Quattrone	✓	
Councilmember Thibault	✓	
Mayor Kirson	✓	

Also in attendance: Debra Sopronyi, Borough Clerk.

Mayor Kirson requested that resolution 2014-94 be removed from the agenda; under the Borough Attorney's recommendation, the entire process of appointing a Councilmember to fill the vacancy will be carried out in public.

Council President Bluth moved the agenda as amended for approval, Councilmember Hansen seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bluth, Hansen, Misiura, Quattrone and Thibault voted yes.

Agenda approved.

Mayor Kirson explained the purpose of this meeting is to fill the vacancy that exists on the Borough Council due to the resignation of Gail Doran. He then described the process to be taken will be questions from Council will be made and the nominees will answer each question in rotation; each Nominee will be permitted to make a final statement, then he will ask for nominations from Council. The first Nominee to get three votes will be sworn into office and resolution 2014-95 will be moved with the name of that Nominee inserted. The Councilmember will then be sworn into office so that there is a full Council for the May 5, 2014 meeting.

Mayor Kirson opened the public comment period and there being no comments, the public comment period was closed.

The three nominees from the Democratic Committee were brought forward and asked to introduce themselves; they were Seth Kurs of 22 Maple Avenue, Walter Sikorski of 326 N. Main Street, and Michael Theokas of 142 Mill Run East.

Council then began the interview process and questions consisted of, but were not limited to:

Why are you seeking to fill this vacancy?

What are the three most pressing challenges you see Hightstown facing this year?

If someone made the statement "Hightstown Borough is a financially stable community, how would you respond?

If you are appointed, what would be your major goal or pet project, and why?

Is it your intention to run in the General Election to fulfill the unexpired term?

What do you think is the primary concern of residents?

We are currently negotiating our union contracts. What direction do you think should be taken and what is your availability to assist with addressing the matter? (A health benefit contribution example was used as an impact factor for the employees.)

The nominees were asked to give a closing statement, and after they were given, the Mayor thanked the Nominees and asked them to return to the audience, noting that this is going to be a difficult decision.

Mayor Kirson then solicited discussion from the Borough Council, and there being none he solicited nominations from Council.

Councilmember Quattrone nominated Walter Sikorski, Councilmember Hansen seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Hansen and Quattrone voted yes; Council members Bluth, Misiura and Thibault voted no.

Nomination failed.

Council President Bluth nominated Seth Kurs, Councilmember Quattrone seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bluth, Hansen, Misiura, Quattrone and Thibault voted yes.

Nomination passed 5-0.

#### **Resolution 2014-95 Appointing a Councilmember to Fill a Vacancy until the General Election**

Council President Bluth moved resolution 2014-95 with the name of Seth Kurs inserted, Councilmember Quattrone seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bluth, Hansen, Misiura, Quattrone and Thibault voted yes.

Resolution adopted, 5-0.

#### **Resolution 2013-95**

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

#### **APPOINTING A COUNCILMEMBER TO FILL A VACANCY UNTIL THE GENERAL ELECTION**

**WHEREAS**, there exists a vacancy in the office of Councilmember due to the resignation of Gail Doran effective April 7, 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, the Municipal Vacancy Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:16-1 *et seq.*), provides that the Municipal Committee of the party that previously filled the seat shall submit within fifteen (15) days three (3) names for Council's consideration in filling the vacancy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Democratic Municipal Committee submitted the names of three (3) Nominees on April 17, 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Municipal Vacancy Law, the Borough Council must, fill the vacancy by the appointment of a successor from the three (3) Nominees put forward from same political party which had nominated the incumbent whose office had become vacant; and

April 28, 2014 Special

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council has publicly interviewed the nominees presented by the Democratic Municipal Committee and deliberated to fill the vacancy with a member who would best serve the residents of the Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, by vote of Borough Council, the Council has decided to appoint Seth A. Kurs to fill the position of Councilmember until the General Election on November 4, 2014 when a successor will be elected by the voters to fulfill the vacant unexpired term of Councilmember ending December 31, 2015.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that Seth A. Kurs is hereby appointed to serve in the position of Councilmember to fill the vacancy until the General Election on November 4, 2014 when a successor will be elected by the voters to fulfill the vacant unexpired term of Councilmember Gail Doran ending December 31, 2015.

Mayor Kirson swore Councilmember Kurs into office.

Council congratulated and welcomed Councilmember Kurs.

Quattrone moved to adjourn at 8:05pm, Councilmember Thibault seconded. All ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra L. Sopronyi, RMC  
Borough Clerk