

**Meeting Minutes
Hightstown Borough Council
Regular Meeting
December 1, 2014
First Aid Building**

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES DURING YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING TO AVOID SOUNDS/RINGING OR CONVERSATION THAT MAY INTERFERE WITH THE MEETING OR THE ABILITY OF ATTENDEES TO HEAR THE PROCEEDINGS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

Meeting called to order by Mayor Steven Kirson 6:02 PM.

STATEMENT: 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 provided 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 Bluth</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Hansen</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Kurs</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Misiura</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Quattrone</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Thibault</i>	✓	
<i>Mayor Kirson</i>	✓	

Also in attendance: Debra Sopronyi, Borough Clerk; Henry Underhill, Borough Administrator; Frederick Raffetto, Esq. Borough Attorney; and Elizabeth Garcia, Labor Counsel. Council-Elects Lee Stults and Connor Montferrat were also present.

Resolution 2014-233 Authorizing a Meeting Which Excludes the Public

Mayor Kirson requested that Insurance for Borough Hall be added to this resolution.

Councilmember Thibault expressed concern regarding the resolution reading Shared Services (Various) for Police, Dispatch and Court services and noted that he does not believe it is in the spirit of the OPMA. He inquired of the Borough Attorney how he would defend it, if needed. Mayor Kirson asked the Attorney if he had anything to add to his previous response, to which the Borough Attorney responded that he had nothing to add to his response at the previous meeting.

Councilmember Quattrone moved resolution 2014-233 as amended, Council President Bluth seconded.

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

Resolution adopted 5-1.

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Resolution 2014-233
*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 December 1, 2014 at 6:00p.m. in the First Aid Building located at 168 Bank 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 – Professional Services
Police
Contract Negotiations – Shared Services (Various)
Borough Hall Insurance
Litigation – Marchione

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: March 1, 2015 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.

The Flag Salute followed Roll Call.

George Lang, CFO; and Carmela Roberts, Borough Engineer joined the meeting at this time and were now present. Elizabeth Garcia, Labor Counsel departed the meeting following executive session and was no longer present.

Councilmember Thibault asked that Walking Bridge Grant and Rug Mill Re-development updates be added to the agenda under discussion. He then notified the public that he objected to the verbiage used in the resolution for executive session, noting that the contract negotiations for shared services should be better defined as police, court and dispatch, not various; but he has been told that the present reading of the resolution meets the Open Public Meeting Act. He noted that he does not agree with this determination.

Councilmember Quattrone moved the agenda as amended for approval, Councilmember Thibault seconded.

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

Agenda approved as amended 6-0.

Councilmember Quattrone moved the November 3, 2014 executive session minutes for approval, Council President Bluth seconded.

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

Minutes approved 6-0.

Councilmember Misiura moved the November 17, 2014 open session minutes, Councilmember Hansen seconded.

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

Minutes approved 6-0.

Mayor Kirson then invited the family of Councilmember Seth Kurs to come forward for his swearing in to the term as Councilmember which expires December 31, 2015 pursuant to the general election results. Mayor Kirson swore in Councilmember Kurs to Council. Council and the public congratulated Councilmember Kurs.

Mayor Kirson then announced that he realizes that there is such a large crowd because the flier that was distributed throughout town, by a person of the public, stated that there would be a vote on the shared services agreement for the police. He continued that he wanted to let everyone know that these discussions are in the preliminary stages and that no vote on the matter will be taken this evening. He also noted that the matter regarding Officer Marchione's paid suspension is being handled by the Prosecutor's office and is out of Council's hands; he noted that the police operate under different rules and regulations which allow paid suspension without any disciplinary action.

Mayor Kirson opened public comment period I and the following individuals spoke:

Lynne Woods, 315 Park Avenue – reviewed population and coverage requirements for police coverage for East Windsor and Hightstown; noted that the East Windsor Mayor only agrees to things that benefit East Windsor residents.

Selena Bibens, Clinton Street – commented that she feels the Borough is sacrificing its residents for dollars and cents; spoke regarding response times, community policing, radar detail, and the safety of the community. She asked for a referendum to the voters.

David Coates, Hightstown – congratulated Council for considering having East Windsor police cover Hightstown, they are always in town; it is a fiscal issue and he trusts Council to do what is right for Hightstown.

Frank Marchione, Hightstown Police Officer – noted that the Prosecutor is handling an IA investigation, not criminal charges and this needs to be expedited.

Mayor Kirson responded that the Borough Council would also like to have the matter resolved, but have no authority in the matter.

Doug Mair, 536 S. Main Street – commented that he does not want the police outsourced; commented regarding the savings, or lack thereof, and his distrust of the East Windsor Mayor.

Herbert Smith, 150 S. Main Street – commented that he supports keeping the police; his taxes are paying an Officer for not working.

Renee Klein, East Windsor – commented that she supports the Hightstown police and that the issues are caused by the leadership, not the officers; she supports Officer Marchione.

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Glenn Locke, 105 Hutchinson – expressed concern with the coverage that will be provided by East Windsor; supports Officer Marchione.

Scott Caster, 12 Clover Lane – commented that he appreciates Council looking for ways to share services, but this is an emotional issue; he supports keeping the police; there is an imbalance between Hightstown and East Windsor for costs to cover the schools.

Paul Sweeney, 101 Hutchinson – referenced the revenue generated by the police.

Eva Teller, Branch Manager at First Constitution Bank – noted that she is concerned with the response time if the police are outsourced.

Gary Snook, 357 Morrison Ave. – inquired as to who put out the flier, as it says nothing at all; commented that the Council has done nothing about vacant properties in town, such as the Minute Maid property; a Police Chief is needed so they can perform officer duties; inquired about the status of the Borough Hall insurance claim.

Mayor Kirson responded that the Borough did not put out the flier; there is \$2.5M outstanding on the claim , but we cannot return to the old Borough Hall due to code issues for the police and court.

Rick Kerr, Wilson Ave. – commented that Mr. Snook’s comedy show was sad; Hightstown is a rudderless ship.

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

Resolution 2014-234 Rejecting Bids for Removal, Transportation, Delivery and Disposal of Sludge Cake

Councilmember Hansen moved resolution 2014-234, Councilmember Quattrone seconded.

The Borough Engineer explained the resolution and noted that this will be re-bid with the remaining chemicals.

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

Resolution adopted: 6-0

Resolution 2014-234

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

REJECTING BIDS FOR REMOVAL, TRANSPORTATION, DELIVERY AND DISPOSAL OF SLUDGE CAKE

WHEREAS, three (3) bids were received on October 29, 2014 for the removal, transportation, delivery and disposal of sludge cake for the Hightstown Advanced Waste Water Plant; and

WHEREAS, the low bid exceeded the Engineer’s estimate and is above the funds available for this project; and

WHEREAS, it is the Engineer’s recommendation that the bids received for the removal, transportation, delivery

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and disposal of sludge cake for the Hightstown Advanced Waste Water Plant be rejected.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the bids received on October 29, 2014 for the removal, transportation, delivery and disposal of sludge cake for the Hightstown Advanced Waste Water Plant are hereby rejected as they exceed the funds available for this project.

Resolution 2014-235

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

Resolution 2014-235 Awarding a Contract for Zeta 8849FS, an Equivalent to Zeta Lyte 2685 CH Linear Cationic Emulsion Polymer with Cross Linked Cationic Emulsion Flocculant – George S. Coyne Chemical Co., Inc.

Councilmember Hansen moved resolution 2014-235, Councilmember Misiura seconded.

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

Resolution adopted: 6-0

Resolution 2014-236

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

**AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR ZETA 8849FS, AN EQUIVALENT TO ZETA LYTE
2685 CH LINEAR CATIONIC EMULSION POLYMER WITH CROSS LINKED
CATIONIC EMULSION FLOCCULANT – GEORGE S. COYNE CHEMICAL
COMPANY, INC.**

WHEREAS, two (2) bids were received on October 29, 2014 for Zeta Lyte 2685 CH Linear Cationic Emulsion Polymer with Cross Linked Cationic Emulsion Flocculant “or Equal” for the Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant (AWWTP) in Hightstown Borough; and

WHEREAS, the bid submitted by George S. Coyne Chemical Co., Inc. of Croydon, Pennsylvania was for an “equal” product that has been tested by the Superintendent of the AWWTP and the polymer was found adequate to be considered an equivalent; and

WHEREAS, the bids have been reviewed by the Borough Engineer and it is the Engineer’s recommendation that a one year contract for Zetag 8849FS, an equivalent to Zeta Lyte 2685 CH Linear Cationic Emulsion Polymer with Cross Linked Cationic Emulsion Flocculant, be awarded to George S. Coyne Chemical Company, Inc. of Croydon, Pennsylvania at a per unit price of \$10.295 per gallon with a total contract price of \$60,946.00; and

WHEREAS, said contract shall be effective January 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Attorney has reviewed the bid and determined that the bid submitted by George S. Coyne Chemical Company, Inc. of Croydon, Pennsylvania is in order with respect to legal compliance; and

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WHEREAS, funds will be made available in the 2015 budget for said expenditure;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that a one year contract for Zetag 8849FS, the equivalent to Zeta Lyte 2685 CH Linear Cationic Emulsion Polymer with Cross Linked Cationic Emulsion Flocculant, be awarded to George S. Coyne Chemical Company, Inc. of Croydon, Pennsylvania effective January 1, 2015.

NJEIT Projects

The Borough Engineer explained that she has prepared the letters of interest for the NJEIT projects, as directed; the preliminary plans are due March 6, 2015 and in order to get them prepared by the deadline she needs to know which projects the Council wishes to move forward with. She recommended that the rehabilitation of well #2, the water mains, and tanks for the water plant, as well as the ultraviolet for the AWWTP get done in this year's round. She noted that she has spoken to the Trust regarding eligibility for the Nano Forgiveness Program and that determination will not be made until December or March; clean water projects are not eligible for the Nano Forgiveness Program.

Ms. Roberts continued that she is recommending the ultraviolet disinfection due to DEP regulations; they are trying to get away from Chlorine. The plant must be ready by January 2017 to meet the permit limit or could receive a daily fine. She continued that well #2 needs to be rehabilitated and well #3 can cover during the rehab; the tanks at the water plant need maintenance; and the Stockton Street water mains are very old and constantly breaking.

There was discussion regarding deadlines and timelines; priorities; ultraviolet disinfection being a number one priority to meet DEP regulation deadlines; the clean water projects not being eligible for the Nano Forgiveness Program; the low interest rates available; the \$219,000 in Engineering fee approval request and how the cost for projects differ due to the amount of work required for each; the Water Plant location in the flood plain and the AWWTP location near Rocky Brook. The Borough Engineer explained the various project components and noted that the preliminary plans must be submitted by March 6, 2015 to be considered in the 2016 funding.

There was additional discussion regarding the RFP that is out for an AWWTP Engineer; Engineering and project costs; budget impacts; bonding costs; and debt service. Council approved the Engineer to move forward with the ultraviolet project only at this time; if they are accepted into the Nano Forgiveness Program, they can then consider the other projects.

Resolution 2014-236 Authorizing the Payment of Bills.

Councilmember Kurs moved resolution 2014-236, Councilmember Quattrone seconded.

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

Resolution adopted: 6-0

Resolution 2014-236

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

AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS

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WHEREAS, certain bills are due and payable as per itemized claims listed on the following schedules, which are made a part of the minutes of this meeting as a supplemental record;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the bills be paid on audit and approval of the Borough Administrator, the appropriate Department Head and the Treasurer in the amount of \$1,738,827.08 from the following accounts:

Current	\$1,702,912.57
W/S Operating	35,670.51
General Capital	0.00
Water/Sewer Capital	12.00
Grant	152.50
Trust	0.00
Housing Trust	0.00
Animal Control	79.50
Law Enforcement Trust	0.00
Housing Rehab Loans	0.00
Unemployment Trust	0.00
Escrow	<u>0.00</u>
 Total	 <u><u>\$1,738,827.08</u></u>

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

Resolution 2014-237 Seeking Assistance for Municipalities with Significant Tax Exempt Properties

Councilmember Quattrone moved resolution 2014-237, Councilmember Hansen seconded.

There was discussion regarding the verbiage in the resolution.

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

Resolution adopted: 6-0

Resolution 2014-237

December 1, 2014

**SEEKING ASSISTANCE FOR MUNICIPALITIES WITH SIGNIFICANT TAX-EXEMPT
PROPERTIES**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.6 provides for property tax exemptions for nonprofit organizations; and

WHEREAS, 26.92% of Hightstown Borough's municipal tax base is exempt from paying taxes; and

WHEREAS, Hightstown Borough recognizes the many benefits provided by non-profit organizations, typically at no cost or at a reduced cost, to Hightstown residents; and

WHEREAS, Hightstown Borough also recognizes that many of the service providers located in Hightstown Borough provides services not only to Hightstown residents, but to the larger community, including the residents of other municipalities in Mercer County and those outside of Mercer County; and

WHEREAS, tax exempt properties utilize many basic municipal services, including roads, police, fire and EMT services, without contributing any funds towards the cost of such services through property tax payments; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hightstown has identified 79 municipalities in New Jersey who have more than 20% of their municipal tax base occupied by commercial Class 15 tax exempt land, not inclusive of farmland assessed properties; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of Hightstown wishes to work with other municipalities with more than 20% of their tax base taken up by Class 15 tax exempt properties, the New Jersey League of Municipalities (the "League"), and elected officials to craft legislation to provide tax-exempt property relief to municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council supports A1635, sponsored by Assemblywoman Caroline Casagrande, which permits municipalities in which 12% or more land is exempt from property taxes to issue up to two additional plenary retail consumption licenses; and

WHEREAS, the Borough supports any legislation seeking to increase state aid to municipalities which have significant tax exempt land, including an offset or a credit for municipalities that serve as the County seat.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that we do hereby seek the League's assistance in advancing legislation regarding the issue of significant property tax exempt land; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, the 79 municipalities identified as having more than 20% of their municipal tax base occupied by tax exempt land, and the Legislators for the Borough of Hightstown.

Consent Agenda Resolutions 2014-238, 2014-239 and 2014-240

Councilmember Quattrone moved resolutions 2014-238, 2014-239 and 2014-240 as the consent agenda, Councilmember Kurs seconded.

Mayor Kirson read the titles of the resolutions aloud and gave a brief explanation of each placing special

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emphasis on resolution 2014-240. Councilmember Kurs noted that he has worked with Womanspace and they provide a tremendous service working with police, and he gave a overview of the services provided to both men and women.

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

Resolutions adopted 6-0.

Resolution 2014-238

BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN

COUNTY OF MERCER

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

AUTHORIZING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS IN THE 2014 BUDGET

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58 provides that the governing body may authorize a transfer of funds in the budget during the last two months of the fiscal year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the following transfers in the 2014 budget are hereby authorized:

Current:	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Assessment of Taxes		
Other Expenses	\$ 6,000.00	
Tax Collector		\$ 500.00
Other Expenses		
Employee Group Health Insurance		
Other Expenses	\$ 15,500.00	
Health Benefit Waiver	\$ 10,000.00	
Police Fire Communications		
Salaries and Wages		\$ 18,000.00
Municipal Court		
Salaries and Wages	\$ 8,000.00	
Legal Services		
Other Expenses		\$ 10,000.00
Engineer Services and Costs		

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Other Expenses \$ 1,000.00

Buildings and Grounds

Other Expenses \$ 10,000.00

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TOTALS	\$ 39,500.00	\$ 39,500.00

Resolution 2014-239

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

AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENT

WHEREAS, an overpayment of taxes was made for Block 41, Lot 1, 100-102 Second Avenue, in the amount of \$1956.01 due to a double payment; and

WHEREAS, the payer, Nieschmidt Law Office, 412 Monmouth Street, Hightstown, New Jersey, 08520 has requested that a refund be issued for the overpayment in the amount of \$1956.01; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has requested that said overpayment be refunded in the amount of \$1956.01.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the Tax Collector and Treasurer are hereby authorized to issue a refund in the amount of \$1956.01 to Nieschmidt Law Office, 412 Monmouth Street, Hightstown, New Jersey, 08520, representing the tax overpayment as set forth herein.

Resolution 2014-240

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

PROCLAIMING DECEMBER 8, 2014 AS “COMMUNITIES OF LIGHT DAY”

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Borough of Hightstown to recognize organizations that have contributed to the overall benefit of the community; and

WHEREAS, Womanspace, founded in 1977, has demonstrated a unique ability to provide comfort, support services, crisis intervention and safety to women who are victims of sexual assault and domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, Womanspace, in the belief that “peace begins at home,” has asked the Mercer County community to join them in their struggle against violence toward women by participating in their annual Communities of Light project; and

WHEREAS, Womanspace has provided emergency shelter in secure locations and comprehensive services for victims of domestic violence since 1977 and sexual assault since 2002, for more than 39,169 women, 5,383 children and 1,016 men. Additionally, Womanspace has assisted more than 204,015 callers over the last 30 years; and

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WHEREAS, the Borough of Hightstown applauds the efforts of Womanspace to bring an end to the circle of abuse imposed on women, children and men; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council urge each and every household to demonstrate their support of the concept that “peace begins at home” by placing luminaries along their driveways and sidewalks on Monday, December 8, 2014, as a visible symbol of that support; and

WHEREAS, the proceeds from Communities of Light 2014 will be used to fund vital services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that we do hereby proclaim December 8, 2014, as

COMMUNITIES OF LIGHT DAY

and commend Womanspace on its many accomplishments, and wish them continued success with Communities of Light in the years to come.

Walking Bridge Grant Update

The Borough Engineer advised that there has not yet been a determination from the state on the award of this grant, and no award date has been announced. She noted that this is federal money, so it can take quite some time to hear anything.

Rug Mill Re-development Update

Mayor Kirson reviewed the meeting held with the Planning Board on this matter noting that the original developer has bailed out of the project due to the flood plain and contamination concerns; however there are two more developers that may be interested in the property. He continued that there needs to be a decision on whether the Borough is going to keep the building so Developers know where they stand.

Councilmember Misiura noted that this matter has been discussed in committee and he would like to present information pertaining to recommendations for revisions to the Redevelopment Plan so it could be forwarded to the Planning Board to be revised. Councilmember Thibault suggested that this matter wait until January so the new Council can act on it.

The Borough Engineer departed the meeting at this time.

Mayor Kirson opened public comment period II and the following individuals spoke:

Scott Caster, 12 Clover Lane – referenced a play at Princeton University with a Small Town USA theme; commented that resolution 2014-237 should have been revised to include towns that host a regional school district; he would like to see the numbers for the police.

Lynne Woods, 315 Park Ave. – commented that she researched New Jersey conflict of interest laws and noted specific sections; noted that we lost things with Hurricane Irene that we should have back.

Eugene Sarafin, 628 S. Main St. – commented that he is embarrassed by the residents, Council is elected to do

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what is best for the Borough and they should be permitted to do their job; they will eventually explain everything to the public.

Doug Mair, 536 S. Main St. – commented that Council spends their time discussing what they want, not what the public wants to discuss; Mayor Kirson does not care, his term is done; Council does not do what is best for the Borough; he supports the police; he is appalled at the Council-elects for not supporting the police; commented regarding RINO and a recall election.

There was an outburst in the public between Mr. Mair and Mr. Sarafin; the Mayor called the meeting to order, asking the public to settle down and keep their comments restricted to the public comment period.

David Coates, Hightstown – noted that he sees East Windsor officers in Hightstown all the time, whether the remainder of the public agrees or not; the public needs to clean up their act; Council did the right thing and is attempting to do something that would benefit Hightstown and they deserve respect.

Dan Buriak, 194 Stockton Street – commented that the projects related to the water and sewer plants is the most important discussion tonight and he recommended that Council consider approving all of the preliminary engineering plans for all of the projects now so the Borough is prepared in the future when they do move forward.

Romey Kane, Monroe Twp. – commented that infrastructure is important, but Marchione and Krupa are human stories and need attention.

Janine Krupa, Hightstown Police Officer – commented that this will not be a merger and all police are going to be laid off; how are we supposed to support our families? What about negotiations with the PBA?

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

Mayor/Council/Administrative Comments and Committee Reports

Councilmember Thibault – noted that he feels the agenda has been obscuring the shared service subjects and he is upset that discussion is occurring without public comments; he is not sure he supports the agreement this time. He noted that contract negotiations are confidential, but the issue is public; Council is elected to make the decision, but the public should have input; Council should go out and talk to those who do not come to the meetings. He encouraged the public to contact the Prosecutor's office regarding Officer Marchione; Council cannot do anything in this matter. He announced that there is a public meeting tomorrow at 6:30pm at Peddie School regarding replacing dorms and four new tax exempt properties.

Councilmember Misiura – commented that while a majority in the room opposes outsourcing the police, we need to explore the opportunities to get answers. He noted that the Minute Maid property is not vacant; it is in full use by the owners and is getting upgrades.

Councilmember Kurs – commented that he has had the police respond several times to his house and they provide great service, but that is not the issue; he repeatedly hears that Council should check for opportunities for relief due to the volume of tax exempt properties in town, and resolution 2014-237 does that. He then advised that the Historic Preservation Commission has submitted a grant application.

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Councilmember Quattrone – noted that IA matters cannot be addressed by Council; the DARE graduation is December 12th and it is a great program; the Firemen will be going to Florida to see the demo fire engine.

Councilmember Hansen – noted that Council members are residents too, but they have the responsibility of knowing the facts. Council is in negotiations which limit information to the public, but we need to get the information to give to the public. She feels the public concern, but Council is tasked with getting the facts and the public has told us that is what they want; it would be helpful to not be personally attacked by members of the public.

Council President Bluth – commented that the Parks and Recreation Commission decorated association Park yesterday and it is lovely; she encouraged the public to go see it.

Mayor Kirson – noted that everyone is entitled to their opinion, and Council is working on a lot including infrastructure and the police.

Mayor Kirson then notified the public that Council would be re-entering executive session to finish their business, but action would not be taken when they return to public.

Councilmember Thibault motioned to adjourn back into executive session at 10:05pm, Councilmember Misiura seconded. All ayes.

Councilmember Thibault motioned to adjourn at 10:45 pm, Council President Bluth seconded. All ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra L. Sopronyi, RMC
Borough Clerk

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