

**Meeting Minutes
Hightstown Borough Council
Workshop Meeting
January 4, 2016
7:00 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Quattrone at 7:00 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 sent to the *Trenton Times* and the *Windsor-Hights Herald*, and is posted in the Borough Clerk's office."

Roll Call

	PRESENT	ABSENT
<i>Councilmember Bluth</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Hansen</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Kurs</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Misiura</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Montferrat</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Stults</i>	✓	
<i>Mayor Quattrone</i>	✓	

Also in attendance: Margaret (Peggy) Riggio, Deputy Borough Clerk; Henry Underhill, Borough Administrator; Fred Raffetto, Borough Attorney and Tamara Lee, Borough Planner.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 2016-026 Authorizing a Meeting Which Excludes the Public

Mayor Quattrone requested the Resolution 2016-26 be amended to include Dispatch under Contract Negotiations

Council President Hansen moved Resolution 2016-026 as amended; Councilmember Stults seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Bluth, Hansen, Kurs, Misiura, Montferrat and Stults voted yes.

Resolution adopted as amended 6-0.

Resolution 2016-026

*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 January 4, 2016 at 7:00 p.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:

Litigation – COAH

Contract Negotiations – Police Department Lease
Dispatch Services

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: April 4, 2016, 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.

Mayor Quattrone called the public meeting to order at 7:46 p.m. and again read the Open Public Meetings Statement.

The Flag Salute followed.

Tamara Lee, Borough Planner departed following Executive Session and was no longer present. George Lang, CFO, arrived at this time and is now present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Quattrone requested that Resolution 2016-024, Borough Hours and Holidays, be added to the agenda.

Councilmember Misiura moved the agenda for approval as amended; Councilmember Stults seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Bluth, Hansen, Kurs, Misiura, Montferrat and Stults voted yes.

Agenda approved at amended 6-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council President Hansen moved the December 21, 2015 open session minutes for approval, Councilmember Stults seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Bluth, Hansen, Kurs, Misiura, Montferrat and Stults voted yes.

Minutes approved 6-0.

Councilmember Misiura moved the December 21, 2015 executive session minutes for approval; Council President Hansen seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Bluth, Hansen, Kurs, Misiura, Montferrat and Stults voted yes.

Minutes approved 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Quattrone advised that the first public comment period of the meetings are now to be only matters that pertain to items on the Agenda. Mayor Quattrone opened public comment period I and the following individuals spoke:

Eugene Sarafin, 628 South Main Street – Stated that he can speak about whenever he wants during public comment periods. Went on to use explicit language directed at Mayor and Council. Mr. Raffetto, Borough Attorney, advised that the Borough is well within its rights to limit the topic of comments during public comments provided that there is an opportunity to speak freely at some other point during the meeting.

Scott Caster, 12 Clover Lane – Regarding the discussion of the 2017 Reorganization Meeting time, there were only about 17 people at the Reorganization Meeting last week. We need to do a better job about including the public. Use social media to get the information out. Make Reorg a tradition, and “event” that everyone can look forward to and be proud of.

Eugene Sarafin, 628 South Main Street – Spoke from the audience. Stated that he just looked up the Open Public Meetings Act on his phone and Mr. Raffetto was right.

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

ORDINANCES

2016-01 First Reading and Introduction – An Ordinance to Establish Salary Ranges for Certain Officers and Employees of the Borough of Hightstown

Council President moved Ordinance 2016-01 for introduction; Councilmember Kurs seconded.

Borough Administrator, Henry Underhill, explained the changes, additions and deletions.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Bluth, Hansen, Kurs, Misiura, Montferrat and Stults voted yes.

Ordinance introduced 6-0. Public Hearing scheduled for January 19, 2016.

Ordinance 2016-01

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

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH SALARY RANGES FOR CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown, as follows:

Section 1. The following official employment designations are hereby confirmed and the rate of compensation of each officer and employee of the Borough of Hightstown, excluding longevity, whose compensation shall be on an annual basis, is:

	RANGING FROM:	TO:
Mayor	\$4,800.00	\$4,800.00
Councilmember	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00
Borough Clerk	\$40,000.00	\$75,000.00
Part-Time Treasurer	\$15,000.00	\$30,000.00
Accounts Payable Clerk	\$30,000.00	\$55,000.00
Tax/Water/Sewer Collector	\$20,000.00	\$57,000 .00
Part-Time Tax/Water/Sewer Collector	\$10,000.00	\$15,000.00

	RANGING FROM:	TO:
Deputy Tax/Water/Sewer Collector	\$10,000.00	\$50,000.00
Tax/Utility Clerk	\$28,000.00	\$47,000.00
Tax Assessor	\$7,500.00	\$18,000 .00
Registrar of Vital Statistics	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00
Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics	\$1,000.00	\$4,600.00
Municipal Court Administrator	\$40,000.00	\$65,000.00
Deputy Municipal Court Administrator	\$28,000.00	\$41,000.00
Records Management and System Administrator and Administrative Assistant to the Police Director	\$32,000.00	\$53,000.00
Planning Board Secretary	\$1,000.00	\$16,000.00
Technical Assistant	\$28,000.00	\$40,000.00
Construction Code Official	\$18,000.00	\$35,000.00
Fire Subcode Official	\$3,500.00	\$8,000.00
Building Subcode Official	\$3,500.00	\$8,000.00
Superintendent of Public Works	\$50,000.00	\$91,000.00
Assistant Superintendent of Public Works	\$50,000.00	\$66,000.00
Water Plant Operator	\$35,000.00	\$73,500.00
Supervising AWWTP Operator	\$44,000.00	\$56,000.00
Superintendent of AWWTP	\$50,000.00	\$85,000.00
Lab Manager – AWWTP	\$35,000.00	\$65,000.00
Secretary Board of Health	\$500.00	\$1,500.00
Computer Systems Administrator	\$3,000.00	\$6,000.00
Chief Financial Officer	\$2,000.00	\$50,000.00
Building Inspector	\$3,500.00	\$4,500.00
Zoning Official	\$6,000.00	\$12,000.00
Health Officer	\$8,000.00	\$13,000.00
OEM Coordinator	\$2,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Borough Administrator	\$40,000.00	\$90,000.00

	RANGING FROM:	TO:
Police Director	\$50,000.00	\$85,000.00

Section 2. The following official employment designations are hereby confirmed and the rate of compensation of each officer and employee of the Borough of Hightstown, whose compensation shall be on an hourly basis, is:

	RANGING FROM:	TO:
Administrative Assistant/Payroll Clerk	\$10.00	\$20.00
Deputy Borough Clerk	\$12.50	\$25.00
Violations Clerk	\$15.00	\$25.00
Disposition Clerk (Part-Time)	\$12.50	\$25.00
Special Officer – Municipal Court	\$25.00	\$35.00
Public Health Nurse	\$25.00	\$45.00
School Crossing Guard	\$15.00	\$25.00
Special Officer I	\$8.00	\$18.00
Special Officer II	\$18.00	\$30.00
Clerical Assistant	\$10.50	\$20.00
Administrative Assistant	\$13.50	\$21.00
Secretary	\$10.00	\$20.00
Public Works Foreman	\$17.00	\$28.00
Public Works Heavy Equipment Operator	\$16.00	\$26.00
Public Works Automated Vehicle Operator	\$16.00	\$26.00
Public Works Driver/Laborer	\$15.00	\$25.00
Public Works Laborer	\$14.00	\$22.00
Public Works Municipal Building Maintenance	\$8.00	\$16.00
Public Works Mechanic	\$16.00	\$26.00
Seasonal/Temporary Labor	\$8.00	\$16.00
Assistant Water Plant Operator	\$15.00	\$25.00
Water Plant Lead Operator	\$40.00	\$49.00

	RANGING FROM:	TO:
AWWTP Maintenance	\$16.00	\$26.00
AWWTP Maintenance (Out of Title)	+\$2.00	+\$4.00
AWWTP Operator Trainee (up to 1 year exp)	\$13.00	\$16.00
AWWTP Operator – Class I (min. 1 year exp)	\$15.00	\$25.00
Recreation Director (part-time)	\$20.00	\$40.00
Assistant Recreation Director (part-time)	\$8.00	\$20.00
Junior Recreation Counselor (part-time)	\$6.00	\$12.00
Housing Inspector	\$14.00	\$35.00
Fire Inspector	\$14.00	\$35.00
Building Inspector	\$14.00	\$35.00
Code Enforcement Officer	\$15.00	\$25.00
Fire Official	\$14.00	\$35.00
Zoning Officer	\$14.00	\$35.00
Electric Subcode Official	\$14.00	\$40.00
Plumbing Subcode Official	\$14.00	\$40.00

Section 3. This Ordinance shall take effect after final passage and publication as provided by law, but the ranges of compensation herein provided shall be retroactive to January 1, 2016.

Section 4. The salary ranges established in this ordinance supersede any established for the same positions in previous salary ordinances, and will remain in effect until changed by the adoption of a new or amending Salary Ordinance.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2016-027 Payment of Bills

Councilmember Bluth requested that Purchase Order 15-02251 be pulled from the bill list and voted on separately.

Councilmember Stults moved Resolution 2016-027 without Purchase Order 15-02251; Council President Hansen seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Bluth, Hansen, Kurs, Misiura, Montferrat and Stults voted yes

Councilmember Stults moved Purchase Order 15-02251 for payment; Council President Hansen seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Hansen, Kurs, Misiura, Montferrat and Stults voted yes, Councilmember Bluth abstained.

Resolution adopted 5-0 with 1 abstention.

Resolution 2016-027

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

AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS

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 \$120,483.83 from the following accounts:

Current		\$72,866.60
W/S Operating		26,796.56
General Capital		17,200.00
Water/Sewer Capital		0.00
Grant		357.97
Trust		199.00
Housing Trust		3,062.50
Animal Control		1.20
Law Enforcement Trust		0.00
Housing Rehab Loans		0.00
Unemployment Trust		0.00
Escrow		<u>0.00</u>
Total		<u>\$120,483.83</u>

Resolution 2016-024 Establishing 2016 Schedule of Holidays and Borough Business Hours

Councilmember Bluth moved Resolution 2016-024; Councilmember Kurs seconded.

Discussion ensued regarding summer hours for the Borough Offices.

Councilmember Bluth – Feels that summer hours have been done for years and doesn't see any need to change it. This is good for the employees and helps boost morale.

Councilmember Misiura – Stated that his only concern is if the copy machine breaks down on the Thursday before a Council meeting a plan needs to be in place to make sure Council gets their paper packets. Council business needs to get done.

Council President Hansen – Would like to try a year without summer hours. She feels that a shortened week is crunched. There is a lot of information in the meeting packet and thinks that we need to have “all hands on deck” to bring efficiency up a notch. Ended by stating that it can’t be left to Council to do all the work and they need the support of the Borough staff.

Councilmember Kurs – Stated that he has always objected to summer hours. His problem is restricting hours to the Government by having the offices closed one day a week. He ended by stating that he has no issue with “shifting schedules” to allow employees four day work weeks.

Councilmember Stults – Stated that he has never had an issue with not receiving the “paper” packet since the Clerk’s office always sends a PDF version of the packet to Council and posts the agenda and packet to the website. He also stated that he hasn’t received any complaints from residents about the Borough Offices being closed on Fridays. He ended by saying that he has no problem with keeping things the way they have been.

Councilmember Montferrat – Questioned if closing the office on Fridays saved money on the utilities. Mr. Underhill responded that he didn’t think a substantial amount was saved on the utility bills.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Bluth, Misiura, and Stults voted yes; Councilmembers Hansen, Kurs and Montferrat voted no.

Vote tied 3-3.

Mayor Quattrone voted no to break the tie.

Resolution defeated 4-3.

Mayor Quattrone asked Mr. Underhill, Borough Administrator, to try to work out a new plan to offer Borough Employees an option for a flexible schedule for a four day work week for the summer.

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

**ESTABLISHING 2016 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 2016 and the first week of 2017:

January 1	New Years' Day (Friday)
January 18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Monday)
February 15	Presidents Day (Monday)
March 25	Good Friday (Friday)
May 30	Memorial Day (Monday)
July 4	Independence Day (Monday)
September 5	Labor Day (Monday)
October 10	Columbus Day (Monday)
November 11	Veterans Day (Friday)
November 24	Thanksgiving Day (Thursday)
November 25	Day after Thanksgiving (Friday)
December 26	Christmas Day (Monday)
January 2	New Years Day (Monday)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the official business hours for Borough offices will be 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except as set forth below:

1. During the period running from May 27, 2016 thru September 2, 2016, offices at Borough Hall will be open according to the following schedule:
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Friday..... Closed
2. This arrangement shall not impact police officers, public works employees and sewer plant employees.

Borough Attorney, Fred Raffetto, advised that because Resolution 2016-024 contained Borough office hours and holidays, a new resolution without the “summer hours” would need to be adopted. Deputy Clerk, Margaret Riggio, advised that the next number for resolutions would be 2016-030.

Resolution 2016-030 Establishing 2016 Schedule of Holidays and Borough Business Hours

Council President Hansen moved Resolution 2016-030; Councilmember Montferrat seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Hansen, Kurs, Misiura, Montferrat and Stults voted yes. Councilmember Bluth voted no.

Resolution adopted 5-1.

Resolution 2016-030

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

**ESTABLISHING 2016 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 2016 and the first week of 2017:

January 1	New Years' Day (Friday)
January 18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Monday)
February 15	Presidents Day (Monday)
March 25	Good Friday (Friday)
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July 4	Independence Day (Monday)
September 5	Labor Day (Monday)
October 10	Columbus Day (Monday)
November 11	Veterans Day (Friday)
November 24	Thanksgiving Day (Thursday)
November 25	Day after Thanksgiving (Friday)
December 26	Christmas Day (Monday)
January 2	New Years Day (Monday)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the official business hours for Borough offices will be 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except as noted above.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda – Resolutions 2016-028, 2016-029

Councilmember Kurs moved Resolutions 2016-028 and 2016-029; Councilmember Stults seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Bluth, Hansen, Kurs, Misiura, Montferrat and Stults voted yes.

Resolutions adopted 6-0.

Resolution 2016-028

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

**AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR ZETAG 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, one (1) bid was received on December 30, 2015 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 bid has been reviewed by the Borough Engineer and it is the Engineer’s recommendation that a two 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 \$10.26 per gallon with a total contract price of \$62,073.00; and

WHEREAS, said contract shall be effective January 1, 2016; 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

WHEREAS, funds will be made available in the 2016 and 2017 budgets for said expenditure;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that a two 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, 2016.

Resolution 2016-029

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

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES OF OTTEAU GROUP, INC.

WHEREAS, there is a need for the Borough of Hightstown (also referenced as the “Borough”) to retain the services of a professional real estate valuation consultant in order to complete an appraisal of certain Borough-owned property located at Block 30, Lot 10 (North Main Street) on the Hightstown Borough Tax Map; and

WHEREAS, the firm of Otteau Group, Inc. (also referenced as the “professional”) has submitted a proposal to the Borough, dated December 15, 2015, to provide said services at a fee of \$4,500.00; and

WHEREAS, a copy of the proposal is attached hereto and made a part hereof; and

WHEREAS, the services to be provided are considered to be “professional services” under the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1, et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law authorizes the awarding of a contract for “professional services” without public advertising for bids and bidding therefor, provided that the Resolution authorizing the contract and the contract itself be available for public inspection in the office of the Municipal Clerk and that notice of the awarding of the contract be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has determined that the amount of the contract shall not exceed \$17,500.00, and therefore the contract is not subject to the provisions of the State’s Local Unit Pay-to-Play Law, N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4, *et seq.* (the “Pay-to-Play law”); and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council, having considered the same, now wishes to authorize the awarding of this professional service contract to Otteau Group, Inc., for provision of the necessary real estate valuation services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hightstown, in the County of Mercer and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. That the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute and the Borough Clerk to attest an Agreement, in a form acceptable to the Borough Attorney, between the Borough of Hightstown and Otteau Group, Inc., regarding the above-referenced real estate valuation services.
2. That this contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a “professional service” in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 of the Local Public Contracts Law of New Jersey, because the services will be performed by persons authorized by law to practice a recognized profession and it is not possible to obtain bids for such needed qualitative services.
3. That the Chief Financial Officer is directed to file a certificate of availability of sufficient funds for this contract and to attach same to this Resolution.
4. That notice of the adoption of this Resolution shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the Borough.
5. That a certified copy of this Resolution shall be provided to each of the following:
 - (a) Otteau Group, Inc.
 - (b) Debra L. Sopronyi, Qualified Purchasing Agent/Borough Clerk
 - (c) George Lang, Borough Chief Financial Officer
 - (d) Frederick C. Raffetto, Esq., Borough Attorney

DISCUSSION

Housing Update

Dave Bell, Housing Inspector, gave Council an update on housing inspections. Mr. Bell informed Council that inspections are going well and we are getting people to register their rental units and comply with our ordinance. Regarding foreclosures in town, Mr. Bell spoke about a company that would inform the Borough about foreclosed properties that should be registered. The fee associated with this service is a percentage of the registration fee of the foreclosed property.

Council inquired as to why we would pay a company for public information. Borough Administrator Underhill stated that even though it is public information this is would come from the County which is not easily accessible. It would require extensive manpower to retrieve the information directly from the County. He feels that the use of the company Mr. Bell spoke of would be beneficial to the Borough.

Mr. Bell said that he would get more information about the company and thanked Council for their ongoing support.

2017 Reorganization Meeting Time

There was discussion regarding the time for the Borough's annual Reorganization Meetings and how to get more of the public to attend.

Councilmember Montferrat – Stated that staff members have stated that having the Reorg Meeting on New Year's Day at Noon is difficult.

Councilmember Stults – Doesn't think the time is necessarily an issue. We might try to coordinate our time with East Windsor's time. This would allow dignitaries the opportunity to attend both municipalities meetings. We also need to try and get the information out to the public.

Councilmember Kurs – Doesn't think that we should coordinate our meeting time with any other town. He feels that the lack of attendance is a sign of the times and has nothing to do with publicity of the meeting.

Council President Hansen – Would like to see appointees of the Boards and Committees at the Reorg Meeting. We need to make it more of a formality.

Councilmember Misiura – Suggested we send out formal invitations to all of our Boards and Committees. He would like to attend East Windsor's Reorganization Meeting and have them attend our meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD II

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

Eugene Sarafin, 628 South Main Street – Stated that they he is at war with all the Democrats in Mercer County and anyone who supports East Windsor Mayor, Janice Mironov. She is costing tax payers money by not allowing Shared Services.

Scott Caster, 12 Clover Lane – Stated that he likes the tradition of keeping Reorganization January 1st. He likes the ideas of swearing in Boards and Committee members. He feels that we need to embrace the diversity of our town and be more accommodating to the public.

Christine Rosnick, 119 Cole Avenue – Spoke about noticing meetings earlier and several times and possibility using social media to get the information out to more people. Also voiced concerns over the Vision Plan for the Lakefront. Questioned the experience of the company that is being used.

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

MAYOR/COUNCIL/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Councilmember Stults

Responded to the concerns over the firm being used for the Lakefront Vision Project. Informed the public that 5 firms were looked at and the firm that was chosen (Looney Ricks Kiss) has much more experience than the other firms. Stated that no architecture has been done yet. This is simply a “vision” right now, a conversation starter. Encouraged Ms. Rosnick to attend the Downtown Hightstown Meetings and become involved in the vision plan.

Councilmember Bluth

Wished everyone a Happy New Year and is looking forward to working with the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Culture Arts Commission.

Councilmember Kurs

Wished everyone a Happy New Year. Informed everyone that Lt. Gendron has been interviewing candidates for new officers. Spoke about the passing of Gary Rosensweig, Planning Board Attorney.

Councilmember Montferrat

Wished everyone a Happy New Year. Thanked Dave Bell for the housing update.

Councilmember Misiura

The Board of Health has their Reorganization Meeting coming up. Also encouraged Ms. Rosnick to get involved in our boards and committees, we are always looking for new people. Spoke about how he was shocked at the passing of Gary Rosensweig, Planning Board Attorney.

Council President Hansen

Stated that she is looking forward to a good year. She likes the change in Public Comment Period I; hoping this will help shorten the meetings. Also encouraged the public to get involved.

George Lang, CFO

All the Department Heads have been getting their budgets in.

Fred Raffetto, Borough Attorney

Spoke about the passing of Gary Rosensweig. Talked about how Mr. Rosensweig was a good attorney, good man and good friend. He will be missed.

Henry Underhill, Borough Administrator

Budget reports are mostly in. The Superintendent of DPW's mother-in-law passed this week so the DPW budget will be delayed a bit.

Mayor Quattrone

Encouraged Ms. Rosnick to get involved. She can stop by the Clerk's office to complete a volunteer application.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Hansen moved to adjourn into Executive Session at 9:15 p.m. Councilmember Kurs seconded. All ayes.

Council returned to open session at 9:37 p.m.

Council President Hansen motioned to adjourn at 9:37 p.m. Councilmember Montferrat seconded. All ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret M. Riggio, RMC
Deputy Borough Clerk