

Meeting Minutes
Hightstown Borough Council
April 17, 2018
6:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Quattrone at 6:38 p.m. 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
<i>Councilmember Bluth</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Hansen</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Misiura</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Montferrat</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Musing</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Stults</i>	✓	
<i>Mayor Quattrone</i>	✓	

Also in attendance: Margaret (Peggy) Riggio, Deputy Borough Clerk; Debra Sopronyi Borough Clerk/Administrator; Monika Patel, Deputy CFO and George Lang, CFO.

The Flag Salute followed roll call.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Bluth moved the agenda for approval; Councilmember Hansen seconded.

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

Agenda approved 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT I

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

Scott Caster, 12 Clover Lane – Stated that Council needs to go to the State for State Aid to reduce taxes. Do not cut the budget, bring in revenue through State Aid. We are justified in asking for more money.

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

DISCUSSION

Budget 2018

George Lang, CFO, stated that we will not qualify for State programs; these programs are for town in dire straights and we are in good shape and able to control our budget.

Debra Sopronyi, Borough Administrator/Clerk, stated that 32 out of 98 Better Beginnings students are Hightstown residents. Ms. Sopronyi was unable to find additional history regarding the donation.

Ms. Sopronyi stated that no additional information had been received from the Fire Department and no information had been received from First Aid.

Mr. Lang reviewed the estimated Planner Costs. Mr. Lange stated that there are no funds in the Affordable Housing Trust. Some of the estimated costs would qualify under this trust. Councilmember Misiura suggested that the Re-zoning of the gateways (\$7,500) and the Westerlea Overlay Zone (\$7,500) should be appropriated this year. The Route 33 Corridor re-zoning (\$7,500) and the Affordable Housing Plan preparation (\$25,000) could be kept out of this year's budget. After discussion, Council agreed with this recommendation.

Mayor Quattrone stated that the Fire Department is looking for Council to increase their budget to \$74,500 from \$36,000 in 2017. He also stated that it has been several years since the Fire Department had an increase to their budget. The Mayor proposed increasing the Fire Department appropriation to \$50,000 for 2018. Discussion ensued. Council stated that they need to see an operating budget to determine what it costs to run the department. It was suggested that a committee be formed to work with the Fire Department for future budgets. After discussion, it was decided that \$50,000 will be appropriated for 2018.

Mr. Lang once again talked about how the Borough's surplus keeps things stable for the future. The bottom line is we are still looking at a tax increase of .06 - .07.

It was decided that Council would like to schedule another Budget Workshop. The days discussed were April 24 at 6:30 p.m. or April 26 at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Sopronyi will secure a location for one of these days.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Stults moved to adjourn at 9:53 p.m.; Councilmember Hansen seconded. All ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret M. Riggio
Deputy Borough Clerk