

**Meeting Minutes
Hightstown Borough Council
March 4, 2019
7:00 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Quattrone at 7:00 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 Egan</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Jackson</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Montferrat</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Musing</i>	Arrived at 7:04 pm	
<i>Councilmember Stults</i>	✓	
<i>Mayor Quattrone</i>	✓	

Also in attendance: Margaret (Peggy) Riggio, Deputy Borough Clerk; Debra Sopronyi Borough Clerk/Administrator and Fred Raffetto, Borough Attorney.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 2019-55 Authorizing a Meeting that Excludes the Public

Moved by Councilmember Stults; Seconded by Councilmember Jackson.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Bluth, Egan, Jackson, Misiura and Stults voted yes.

Resolution adopted 5-0.

Resolution 2019-55

*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 March 4, 2019 at the Hightstown Fire House located at 140 North Main 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:

Contract Negotiations – Robbinsville Court

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: June 4, 2019, 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 7:30 p.m. and again read the Open Public Meetings Statement.

Councilmember Musing arrived during Executive Session and is now present.

The Flag Salute followed roll call.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Bluth requested that Resolution 2019-58 be taken out of consent and voted on separately. Councilmember Stults requested that the Borough Engineer's letter regarding First and Forman be added to discussion.

Councilmember Musing moved the agenda as amended; Councilmember Bluth seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Bluth, Egan, Jackson, Misiura, Musing and Stults voted yes.

Agenda approved as amended 6-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 19, 2019 – Executive Session

Moved by Councilmember Stults; Seconded by Councilmember Egan.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Bluth, Egan, Jackson, Musing and Stults voted yes; Councilmember Misiura abstained.

Minutes approved 5-0.

February 19, 2019 – Public Session

Councilmember Bluth requested that the date of Empty Bowls be corrected.

Moved as amended by Councilmember Bluth; Seconded by Councilmember Stults.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Bluth, Egan, Jackson, Musing and Stults voted yes; Councilmember Misiura abstained.

PRESENTATIONS

RISE

Nancy Laudenberger, President of the RISE Board of Directors, gave the history of RISE and an overview of their programs. She stated that the Board meets on the 1st Wednesday of the month and they welcome Councilmembers to join them. Mayor Quattrone asked if anyone from the public had any questions.

Scott Caster, 12 Clover Lane – Asked if RISE had a footprint in East Windsor and what percentage of the people served were Hightstown residents. Ms. Laudenberger stated that 1,070 people are served; 179 families are from Hightstown, 295 families were East Windsor residents and 16 families are Cranbury residents. She also stated that at present time, RISE does not have a footprint in East Windsor, but that East Windsor does support them financially.

PUBLIC COMMENT I

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

There being no one coming forward, Mayor Quattrone closed the public comment period.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2019-02 Final Reading and Public Hearing – An Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Subsection 25-10, Entitled “Maintenance and Repair,” of Section 25, “Stormwater Control,” of the “Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown, New Jersey.”

Mayor Quattrone opened the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-02 and the following individuals spoke:

Frank Rivera, 110 Broad Street – Spoke regarding the high-water table in Hightstown and that the residents on Broad Street would like to direct their sump pumps out to the street.

There being no one else coming forward, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Moved for adoption by Council President Misiura; seconded by Councilmember Musing.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Bluth, Egan, Jackson, Misiura, Musing and Stults voted yes.

Ordinance adopted 6-0.

ORDINANCE 2019-02

BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN
COUNTY OF MERCER
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING
SUBSECTION 25-10, ENTITLED “MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR,”
OF SECTION 25, “STORMWATER CONTROL,”
OF THE “REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE
BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN, NEW JERSEY.”**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hightstown (the “Borough”) maintains an MS4 New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) Stormwater Permit (the “Stormwater Permit”); and

WHEREAS, the Stormwater Permit must remain in compliance each year; and

WHEREAS, as of January 1, 2018, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (the “NJDEP”) updated and issued new requirements that the Borough must adhere to in order to comply with the Annual Permit Recertification; and

WHEREAS, the Borough is required to develop, update, implement, and enforce a program to ensure adequate long-term cleaning, operation, and maintenance of stormwater facilities not owned or operated by the Borough; and

WHEREAS, at the recommendation of the Borough Engineer, and in order to remain in compliance with the Stormwater Permit, the Hightstown Borough Council has agreed to modify the existing language of certain provisions currently contained within the Borough Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Hightstown, in the County of Mercer and State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. Subsection 25-10, entitled “Maintenance and Repair,” of Section 25 “Stormwater Control,” of the “Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown,” is hereby amended and supplemented in the following respects (additions are shown with underline, deletions are shown with ~~strikeout~~):

Section 25 STORMWATER CONTROL

25-10. Maintenance and Repair

A. Applicability

1. Projects subject to review as in Section 1.C of this ordinance shall comply with the requirements of Sections 10.B and 10.C.

B. General Maintenance

1. The design engineer shall prepare a maintenance plan for the stormwater management measures incorporated into the design of a major development.
2. The maintenance plan shall contain specific preventative maintenance tasks and schedules; cost estimates, including estimated cost of sediment, debris, or trash removal; and the name, address, and telephone number of the person or persons responsible for preventative and corrective maintenance (including replacement). Maintenance guidelines for stormwater management measures are available in the New Jersey Stormwater Best Management Practices Manual. If the maintenance plan identifies a person other than the developer (for example, a homeowners’ association) as having the responsibility for maintenance, the plan shall include documentation of such person’s agreement to assume this

responsibility, or of the developer's obligation to dedicate a stormwater management facility to such person under an applicable ordinance or regulation.

3. Responsibility for maintenance shall not be assigned or transferred to the owner or tenant of an individual property in a residential development or project, unless such owner or tenant owns or leases the entire residential development or project.
4. If the person responsible for maintenance identified under Section 10.B.2 above is not a public agency, the maintenance plan and any future revisions based on Section 10.B.7 below shall be recorded upon the deed of record for each property on which the maintenance described in the maintenance plan must be undertaken.
5. Preventative and corrective maintenance shall be performed to maintain the function of the stormwater management measure, including repairs or replacement to the structure; removal of sediment, debris, or trash; restoration of eroded areas; snow and ice removal; fence repair or replacement; restoration of vegetation; and repair or replacement of nonvegetated linings.
6. The person responsible for maintenance identified under Section 10.B.2 above shall maintain a detailed log of all preventative and corrective maintenance for the structural stormwater management measures incorporated into the design of the development, including a record of all inspections and copies of all maintenance-related workorders.
7. The person responsible for maintenance identified under Section 10.B.2 above shall evaluate the effectiveness of the maintenance plan at least once per year and adjust the plan and the deed as needed.
8. The person responsible for maintenance identified under Section 10.B.2 above shall retain and make available, upon request by any public entity with administrative, health, environmental, or safety authority over the site, the maintenance plan and the documentation required by Sections 10.B.6 and 10.B.7 above.
9. The requirements of Sections 10.B.3 and 10.B.4 do not apply to stormwater management facilities that are dedicated to and accepted by the Borough.
10. For all stormwater management facilities not dedicated to the Borough, a two-year maintenance guarantee for maintenance and repair of the stormwater management facility shall be submitted to the Borough in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:55D-53. The maintenance guarantee shall be in addition to the submission of performance and maintenance guarantees required for subdivisions and site plans.

11. The owner of a private stormwater facility is required to inspect the facility after each major storm event and perform any maintenance and/or repairs that may be required, in addition to routine mowing and removal and disposal of accumulated debris from the facility. The owner shall file a report with the Borough annually which provides its inspection dates (which shall be performed quarterly), and any action(s) taken to rectify any condition(s) found. The Borough shall inspect the facility once per year at the cost of \$100.00 to the property owner. The Borough shall also maintain a log and map to demonstrate compliance with maintenance requirements and shall document any actions taken by the Borough to enforce compliance. If inspection reveals that maintenance has not been maintained by the owner of the stormwater facility, then the Borough Official will issue an order to correct the deficiency within 30 days. If the deficiency is not corrected within 30 days, the Borough will correct the deficiency and recover the cost under the Property Maintenance Section of the Borough Code (Section 14-12). The Borough, in its discretion, may extend the time allowed for effecting maintenance and repair for good cause as approved by the Borough Engineer or his/her designee.

C. Nothing in this section shall preclude the Borough in which the major development is located from requiring the posting of a performance or maintenance guarantee in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:55D—53.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

Section 3. All other Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 4. In the event that any portion of this Ordinance is found to be invalid for any reason by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall be limited in its effect only to that portion of the Ordinance actually adjudged to be invalid, and the remaining portions of this Ordinance shall be deemed severable therefrom and shall not be affected.

Ordinance 2019-03 Final Reading and Public Hearing – An Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Chapter 2, Entitled “Administration”, Section 2-19, Entitled “Police Department”, Subsection 2-19-10 Entitled “Qualifications for Police Officers” of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown, New Jersey

Mayor Quattrone opened the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-03 and the following individuals spoke:

There being no one coming forward, Mayor Quattrone closed the public hearing.

Moved for adoption by Councilmember Stults; Seconded by Councilmember Jackson.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Bluth, Egan, Jackson, Misiura, Musing and Stults voted yes.

Ordinance adopted 6-0.

Ordinance 2019-03

BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN

COUNTY OF MERCER

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 2, ENTITLED
“ADMINISTRATION”, SECTION 2-19, ENTITLED “POLICE DEPARTMENT”, SUBSECTION
2-19.10 ENTITLED “QUALIFICATIONS FOR POLICE OFFICERS” OF THE REVISED
GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN, NEW JERSEY**

WHEREAS, the Hightstown Police Department desires to amend the qualifications for the hiring of new officers; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council find this change would be advantageous for the hiring process.

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

Section 1. That Chapter 2, entitled “Administration”, Section 2-19, entitled “Police Department”, Subsection 2-19.10, entitled “Qualifications for Police Officers”, is hereby amended to read as follows (underline for additions, strikethroughs for deletions):

Subsection 2-19.10 Qualifications for Police Officers.

No person shall be appointed as a regular or permanent member of the Police Department unless that person is qualified in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 40A:14-122 and the age requirements set forth in N.J.S.A. 40A:14-127 et seq. In particular, no person shall be eligible or qualified to be appointed as a regular or permanent police officer unless, at the time of his/her appointment:

- a. She/he shall be a citizen of the United States and resident of the State of New Jersey.
- b. She/he shall not be less than eighteen (18) years of age and shall be sound in body and of good health sufficient to satisfy the Board of Trustees of the Police and Firemen's Retirement System of New Jersey as to her/his eligibility for membership in the retirement system. Age shall not be considered in the promotion of any officer to a higher rank.
- c. She/he shall demonstrate the ability to read and write the English language intelligently.
- d. She/he is of good moral character and shall not have been convicted of a crime or disorderly persons offense that, in the judgment of the Borough Council, would be prejudicial to the morale or the reputation of the Police Department.
- e. She/he must successfully pass the required physical fitness examination, drug and alcohol screening, psychological examination administered by a physician or laboratory of the Borough's choosing and be a successful graduate of a certified police academy as she/he may be assigned by the Borough. Any drug screening, psychological or medical examination or physical fitness examination shall be conducted after a conditional offer of

employment or promotion has been made by the Borough.

f. She/he is a holder of a valid New Jersey driver's license.

g. She/he must have an associate's degree or 60 college credits from an accredited college or university PLUS at least 24 months of satisfactory employment or military experience.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

Section 3. All other Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 4. In the event that any portion of this Ordinance is found to be invalid for any reason by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall be limited in its effect only to that portion of the Ordinance actually adjudged to be invalid, and the remaining portions of this Ordinance shall be deemed severable therefrom and shall not be affected.

Ordinance 2019-04 Final Reading and Public Hearing – An Ordinance of the Borough of Hightstown, in the County of Mercer, New Jersey Appropriating \$198,791 Expected to be Received as A Grant from the State of New Jersey Department of Transportation alternatives Program to Supplement the \$210,000 Appropriated by Bond Ordinance #2013-07, Finally Adopted April 1, 2013 and the \$331, 000 Appropriated by Bond Ordinance #2015-14, Finally Adopted August 17, 2015 of the Borough for Improvements to the Peddie Lake Dam Walking Bridge

Mayor Quattrone opened the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-04 and the following individuals spoke:

There being no one coming forward, Mayor Quattrone closed the public hearing.

Moved for adoption by Councilmember Musing; Seconded by Councilmember Stults.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Bluth, Egan, Jackson, Misiura, Musing and Stults voted yes.

Ordinance adopted 6-0.

Ordinance 2019-04

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

**ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN, IN THE
COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY APPROPRIATING \$198,791
EXPECTED TO BE RECEIVED AS A GRANT FROM THE STATE OF
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM TO SUPPLEMENT THE \$210,000
APPROPRIATED BY BOND ORDINANCE #2013-07, FINALLY
ADOPTED APRIL 1, 2013 AND THE \$331,000 APPROPRIATED BY
BOND ORDINANCE #2015-14, FINALLY ADOPTED AUGUST 17, 2015
OF THE BOROUGH FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PEDDIE LAKE
DAM WALKING BRIDGE.**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The sum of \$198,791, expected to be received as a grant from the State of New Jersey Department of Transportation Alternatives Program, is hereby appropriated to supplement the \$210,000 previously appropriated in bond ordinance #2013-07 of the Borough of Hightstown, in the County of Mercer, New Jersey (the “Borough”), finally adopted April 1, 2013 (“Bond Ordinance #2013-07”) and the \$331,000 previously appropriated in bond ordinance #2015-14 of the Borough, finally adopted August 17, 2015 (“Bond Ordinance #2015-14” and, together with Bond Ordinance #2013-07, the “Original Bond Ordinances”) for improvements to the Peddie Lake Dam walking bridge, including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto, as more fully described in the Original Bond Ordinances.

Section 2. The Borough hereby certifies that it has adopted a capital budget or a temporary capital budget, as applicable. The capital or temporary capital budget of the Borough is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith. To the extent that the purposes authorized herein are inconsistent with the adopted capital or temporary capital budget, a revised capital or temporary capital budget has been filed with the Division of Local Government Services.

Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect as provided by the law.

Ordinance 2019-05 First Reading and Introduction – An Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Chapter 8, Entitled “Towing and Storage”, of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown, New Jersey

Moved for introduction by Councilmember Stults; Seconded by Councilmember Egan.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Bluth, Egan, Jackson, Misiura, Musing and Stults voted yes.

Ordinance introduced 6-0.

Public Hearing scheduled for March 18, 2019.

Ordinance 2019-05

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

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 8, ENTITLED “TOWING AND STORAGE”, OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN, NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police has recommended that certain changes be made to the Borough’s towing ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council agree with said recommendation.

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

Section 1. Chapter 8, “Towing and Storage”, is hereby amended as follows (underline for additions, strikethroughs for deletions):

Section 8-1 Purpose.

To establish rules and regulations, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:48-2.49, et seq., for the towing and storage of motor vehicles from public roadways by operators engaged in the business of towing and storing motor vehicles.

Section 8-2 ~~Scope.~~ Applicability of Provisions

~~The provisions of this chapter shall apply to those businesses that engage in towing and storage of motor vehicles within the Borough of Hightstown through the police department.~~

a. ~~The provisions of this chapter shall apply only when a towing service on the tow list is responding to a call initiated by the Hightstown Police Department.~~

b. ~~This chapter shall only apply to all motor vehicle towing and storage operations within the Borough of Hightstown, which occur at the initiation of the Hightstown Police Department. Nothing herein limits the right of the owner or operator of a motor vehicle to request or summon a tow operator of his or her own choosing or a tow operator from another municipality, unless a borough police officer at the scene determines that the tow service to be summoned cannot arrive at the scene within the limited time specified section 8-7 hereof, or does not have the proper equipment to clear the scene, pursuant to subsection 8-10 hereof, and the safety of persons and motorists may be jeopardized thereby.~~

Section 8-3 Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

~~“Abandoned vehicle” shall mean a motor vehicle which the owner or operator leaves on a public roadway and fails to notify the police or does not attempt to repair and remove the same within a reasonable period of time.~~

~~“Accident vehicle” shall mean a motor vehicle which has been involved in an accident.~~

BASIC TOWING SERVICE

~~Refers to the removal and transportation of an automobile from a highway, street or other public or private roadway, or a parking area, or from a storage facility, and other services incident thereto, but does not include~~

recovery of an automobile from a position beyond the right-of-way or berm, or from being impaled upon any other object within the right-of-way or berm.

DOUBLE TOW

When any motor vehicle is brought from the original location to police headquarters for investigative purposes and upon completion, is moved from police headquarters to a final destination, the charge will be one and one half times the actual rate for one tow.

ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE CALLS

Basic roadside assistance calls such as tire changing, up to two gallons of fuel, vehicle lockouts or jumpstarting. Due to traffic patterns, roadway design and the inability to conduct quick roadside assistance, the Borough of Hightstown does not recognize roadside assistance for vehicles in excess of 16,000 GVW. Disabled vehicles in excess of 16,000 GVW must be towed from the roadway or any other vehicle deemed to be unsafe on the roadway. If the roadside assistance call results in a tow, then the vehicle operator will only be charged for the towing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN-UP

Removal and/or disposal of any fluids or debris left on the roadway or property as a result of a motor vehicle accident of recovery.

COMMERICAL MOTOR VEHICLE

Any motor vehicle with a GVW greater than 16,000 pounds which is not classified as an automobile

~~“Disabled vehicle” shall mean any motor vehicle which is unable to operate under its own power.~~

~~“Heavy duty recovery” shall mean the recovery of any motor vehicle over 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight which requires the vehicle to be uprighted or recovered from either on or off the traveled portion of a public roadway.~~

~~“Heavy duty towing” shall mean the towing of any motor vehicle over 10,000 16,000 pounds gross vehicle weight.~~

~~“Impounded vehicle” shall mean a vehicle which, at the direction of the police department, is taken into police custody because the operator of the vehicle was engaged in a violation of the law, including but not limited to, the operator being arrested on a DWI charge, the operator having been arrested for driving without registration or insurance, or the operator having been arrested for stealing the motor vehicle, or the vehicle having been involved in a serious accident.~~

~~“Light duty towing” shall mean the towing of any motor vehicle up to and including 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight.~~

MOTOR VEHICLE

~~“Motor vehicle” shall mean any vehicle propelled otherwise than by muscular power, including trailers and recreational campers, excepting such vehicles as run only upon rails or tracks and motorized bicycles.~~

STORAGE RATE

~~“Storage rates” shall mean fees charged for the storage of motor vehicles.~~

TOW LIST

~~“Towing list”~~ shall mean a rotating list of all towing services registered with the Borough of Hightstown kept by the Borough Chief of Police.

TOW OPERATOR

A person engaged in the business of or offering the services of a tow vehicle or tow truck and storage services.

TOWING RATES

~~“Towing rates”~~ shall mean fees charged by a towing service for removal and transportation of a motor vehicle.

TOWING SERVICE

~~“Towing service”~~ shall mean a business engaged in the towing and storing of motor vehicles which has been approved for the towing list.

TOWING VEHICLE

~~“Towing vehicle”~~ shall mean a motor vehicle employed by a towing service for the purpose of towing, transporting, conveying or removing motor vehicles from public roadways.

WINCHING

An operation by which a vehicle is moved into the roadway from a position off the roadway or other operation in which substantial work is required to prepare a vehicle for normal towing (i.e. lifting, dragging, up righting a vehicle etc.).

Section 8-4 Towing Service Registration.

a. No towing service shall be placed upon the towing list for the towing or storing of motor vehicles within the Borough, unless the towing service shall first register with the Borough. In order to be placed upon the towing list for towing, a towing service must be located within five (5) miles of the geographic center of the Borough of Hightstown or within the Borough of Hightstown. Registration applications shall be made available by the Borough police department. A towing service that has met all the specifications and requirements of this chapter and has registered with the Borough shall be placed on the towing list by the Chief of Police; however, the maximum number of towing services on the Borough’s towing list shall be up to (3) three ~~five (5)~~ such services. ~~Currently the borough has (5) five towing services on its tow list. This number of approved towing services shall remain in effect, until such time that a currently approved towing company fails to re-register with the borough as an authorized towing service or is removed from the towing list for a violation of this chapter. A list of approved towing services is listed in section 8-19 of this chapter.~~ Services shall be placed on the Borough’s towing list on a first-come first-served basis. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner. Each towing service must submit their schedule of basic towing and storage rates with their registration application. The rates and fees for towing and storage of motor vehicles shall not exceed the rates set by this chapter.

b. The towing service owner or its authorized representative shall sign the registration application form indicating that the full requirements of this chapter have been met by the towing service applicant.

c. If any information provided by a towing service in its registration application changes, the towing service is responsible for notifying the police department of the change in the registration information within thirty (30) days of such change. Failure to comply with this provision will be deemed a violation of this chapter.

Section 8-5 Insurance.

a. No towing service shall operate within the Borough unless it carries liability insurance in the following amounts:

1. Garage Liability/Comprehensive General Liability insurance policy in an amount not less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) combined single limit covering bodily injury and property damage liability, including but not limited to personal injury, products liability, independent contractor and completed operation coverage;

2. Garage Keepers Legal Liability insurance policy in an amount not less than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00);

3. For heavy-duty towing and heavy-duty recovery vehicles, One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) combined single limit with endorsement MSC-90;

4. Automobile Liability insurance policy in an amount not less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) combined single limit covering bodily injury and property damage liability, including but not limited to owned, non-owned and hired vehicles;

5. Worker's Compensation insurance as required by law, including but not limited to statutory New Jersey Worker's Compensation Benefits and employer's liability coverage;

6. All policies shall provide an endorsement for collision coverage for motor vehicles and cargo towed by towing service vehicles; and

7. On all liability policies, the Borough of Hightstown shall be added as an additional insured, and insurance policies and/or certificates shall indicate such coverage as primary coverage notwithstanding any insurance carried by the Borough.

Section 8-6 Rates and Fees.

a. Fees and rates for the towing, roadside assistance and storage of motor vehicles shall be established by resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council, which rates shall be based on the usual, customary and reasonable rates of operators towing and storing motor vehicles in the Borough.

b. Fees and rates for the towing and storage of motor vehicles shall be reviewed by the Chief of Police on an annual basis, and shall be revised, if necessary, by resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council. The Chief of Police shall advise all towing services placed on the towing list of any such revisions.

c. The fees and rates shall be set in Section 8-18 of by this chapter, and any subsequent revisions thereto, shall be submitted to the Division of Consumer Affairs for review, and shall be made available to the public during normal business hours of the Borough.

Section 8-7 Rules and Regulations.

a. All towing services placed on the towing list shall be available to respond to a call in accordance with the towing rotation schedule of on-call status established by the Chief of Police.

b. All towing services shall respond to a call in any part of the Borough within twenty (20) minutes. If a

towing service does not respond within twenty (20) minutes of a call, the towing service next on the list shall be called and entitled to provide services as needed, and the first towing service shall lose any claim to compensation.

c. All drivers and operators of towing vehicles shall be properly licensed to operate a motor vehicle within the State of New Jersey and are subject to driver's license checks by the Borough police department at the time of registration and at least on an ~~a~~ **bi-** annual basis thereafter. All towing vehicles shall be properly registered and inspected in accordance with any applicable law.

d. All vehicles must be towed in a safe manner.

e. All towing services shall be capable of providing reasonable roadside services to disabled vehicles such as, but not limited to, jump-starting, changing of flat tires, **vehicle lockouts** and providing fuel. Such services will only be performed if they can be done so safely, as determined by the police officer on the scene. **The fees charged for these services shall be in accordance with this chapter.**

f. All towing services shall make available a copy of its basic rates and a business card to all owners and operators of motor vehicles which will be towed.

g. All towing services shall keep accurate records of all motor vehicles towed and stored at the direction of the Borough police department. A copy of such records shall be provided to the Borough upon request.

h. Towing services shall not remove any motor vehicle which has been abandoned or involved in an accident in any public roadway without first notifying the Borough police department.

i. The police department shall not call a towing service to remove a vehicle from private property. The police department shall provide the property owner with all available information regarding the ownership of the motor vehicle on their property, and the property owner will then be responsible for making their own arrangements to remove the vehicle.

j. The towing service shall notify the police department of all vehicles found by the towing service to have been abandoned and not claimed within fourteen (14) days after being stored. The police department shall, upon notification, expeditiously process the vehicle in accordance with the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Code concerning abandoned and unclaimed motor vehicles.

k. Towing service shall be in compliance with the state affirmative action statues and rules.

l. Towing service must be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

m. Towing service shall confirm that it is an independent contractor and does not represent or act for the Borough of Hightstown in any way.

n. All towing services authorized by the Borough of Hightstown must perform emergency roadside assistance when so requested by the Hightstown Police Department.

o. Nothing in this chapter shall preclude the right of a motorist or vehicle operator to summon a tow operator of his or her own choosing, pursuant to the provisions of 8-2.

p. The Borough of Hightstown shall not be liable for the cost of any services performed by the towing service unless those services are performed on borough vehicles.

Section 8-8 Towing List; Rotation.

a. A towing list will be kept with the Chief of Police. The towing list shall include all towing services which have registered with the Borough. A towing service shall be placed on the bottom of the towing list upon registration with the Borough. The towing list shall be a rotating list as provided in paragraphs b, c and d of this section.

b. When the need arises, the police department will call the towing service on the top of the list, which is on-call on the towing rotation schedule. The towing service called, if it shall perform any of the services covered by this chapter, shall be placed at the bottom of the towing list and not called again until all other on-call towing services on the towing list have been called.

c. If a towing service is unavailable to perform required services when called by the police department, for whatever reason, said towing service shall be charged with a call and placed at the bottom of the towing list, and the next available on-call towing service shall be called. The towing service that responds in its place shall remain at the top of the list.

d. If a towing service, after being dispatched, is recalled and does not perform any duties or services covered by this chapter, the towing service shall remain on the top of the towing list. However, if a towing service arrives at the scene of an incident in which its services are required and cannot perform said services, it shall lose its place on the towing list, and the next on-call towing service on the list shall be called.

Section 8-9 Storage Facilities.

a. All storage facilities operated or used by towing services shall meet all local zoning and code requirements, and must be located within five (5) miles of the geographic center of the Borough of Hightstown or within the Borough.

b. All towing services shall have an indoor storage facility at its disposal for motor vehicles which have been involved in criminal activity and impounded by the police department.

c. All storage facilities shall have a business office open to the public ~~between normal business hours at least five (5) days a week, excluding holidays.~~ **at least six (6) days in a calendar week and at least 40 hours in the week, excluding weeks that contain New Jersey State holidays. An employee is required to be at the storage yard during these hours, unless the employee is out on a towing assignment. The business hours of operation are to be posted in a conspicuous space.**

d. All outside storage facilities shall be secured and fully enclosed by a sturdy fence having a minimum height of six (6) feet, with a lockable gate for ingress and egress, and shall be lighted from dusk to dawn.

e. A towing service shall not charge a release fee or other charge for releasing motor vehicles to their owners after normal business hours or on weekends. **During all other hours and legal holidays, vehicle may be released at the sole discretion of the towing/storage facility.**

f. All towing services shall be responsible for ensuring the proper and safe storage of all motor vehicles towed pursuant to this chapter, and shall be liable for any damage incurred by such motor vehicles while in transit to or while stored in the storage facilities.

g. **All vehicles towed must be removed to an approved storage facility unless the owner or operator of the vehicle specifically requests that it be towed to another place and the police officer at the scene does not direct otherwise.**

h. Storage begins at the date and time the vehicle is placed on the property of the towing service or storage facility and will be charged for each 24 hour period. Any vehicle released prior to 12 hours storage will be charged only half of the 24 hour rate.

Section 8-10. Towing Vehicle and Equipment Specifications; Cleanup at Scene.

a. All towing services engaged in light-duty towing shall have at least one (1) rollback truck and one (1) wrecker, with necessary brooms and equipment to do the complete removal. Each truck must have a manufacturer's capacity of at least ten thousand (10,000) pounds gross vehicle weight and a manufacturer's boom capacity of four (4) tons; one (1) heavy-duty wrecker with a manufacturer's capacity of not less than twenty-seven thousand (27,000) pounds gross vehicle weight and a boom capacity of not less than twenty-five thousand (25,000) pounds independently or twenty-four (24) tons jointly; two (2) power winches with pulling capacity of not less than twenty-five thousand pounds each; at least two hundred (200) feet of cable at least nine-sixteenths (9/16) of an inch diameter on each drum; double boom to permit splitting, or single boom hydraulically elevated and extendable with a 360-degree swivel on the end of the boom; air brakes so constructed as to lock rear wheels; heavy-duty under reach; two (2) snatch blocks with a twenty-five thousand (25,000) pound rating and two (2) scotch blocks.

b. All towing vehicles must have radio equipment with a 24-hour dispatch service or a cellular telephone for the purpose of maintaining communications with the police department radio desk.

c. All towing vehicles must be equipped with **amber beacons or strobe lights, and amber-colored safety tow lights or magnetic tow lights for towing vehicles at night, as permitted by the State of New Jersey. All tow vehicles must have at least one (1) five pound ABC-type fire extinguisher, safety chains, flares, jumper cables, shovel, pry bar, heavy-duty push broom and** substances for application to small liquid spills, ~~and stiff push brooms to clean up debris at the scene.~~

d. ~~Each tow operator, prior to departure from the scene of towing, shall clean and clear any customary or usual debris from the accident scene. Each tow operator shall also clean, clear, absorb or dilute any usual oil, gasoline or other motor vehicle fluid spill at the scene of the towing service. All materials disposed of by a tow operator shall be properly disposed of in accordance with the requirements of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency. Nothing in this chapter shall prevent the Hightstown Police Department from summoning any other person, if an unusual or potentially dangerous situation occurs or it is otherwise necessary to do so. Such situations include, but are not limited to, accidents or breakdowns involving dangerous or potentially dangerous cargo, or spills of chemicals, solvents or other fluids.~~

~~e.~~ e. Proof of towing vehicle and equipment specifications shall be provided to the Borough with the registration application.

~~f.~~ f. All towing vehicles are to conform with all applicable State and Federal laws and shall be subject to inspection by Borough officials during normal business hours at the time of registration and on an annual basis thereafter.

Section 8-11 Rights of Owners/Operators of Motor Vehicles Required to be Towed.

a. If a motor vehicle operator or owner wishes to have his vehicle towed by a particular towing service, their request shall be honored, providing the police officer in charge at the scene has not already dispatched a towing service or the police officer has determined that the motor vehicle in question will not be removed in an expeditious or safe manner and will jeopardize the public safety, in which case the motor vehicle operator or owner shall be

required to utilize a compensated dispatched towing service.

b. The owner or operator of any motor vehicle required to be towed or stored shall have the right to remove all personal items and effects from the motor vehicle unless the police department has placed a police hold on any such items.

c. The motor vehicle owner or his representative shall have the right to take photographs of any stored vehicle for insurance purposes.

d. Upon request of the motor vehicle owner or his representative, a towing service shall provide a detailed and itemized bill for all services rendered.

Section 8-12 Collection of Fees.

All towing services shall be responsible for collection of all fees for services rendered.

Section 8-13 Complaints; Violations; Hearings.

a. All violations of this chapter and all complaints by the public or police department against any towing service shall be forwarded to the Mayor and Borough Council.

b. The Mayor and Borough Council, in their discretion, shall determine if any complaint or violation against a towing service is of such a serious nature as to warrant a hearing and possible disciplinary measures. If the Mayor and Borough Council decide that a hearing is required, they shall, upon proper notice to all interested parties, conduct a hearing in which all parties may present evidence. If, after a hearing, the Mayor and Borough Council find that a towing service has violated any provision of this chapter, they may, depending on the seriousness of the offense:

1. Fine the violating party not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00).
2. Suspend the violating party from the towing list for not more than three (3) months for a first offense; not more than six (6) months for a second offense; and permanently remove the violating party from the towing list for a third offense.

Section 8-14 Solicitation of Business.

A. No tow service may respond to the scene of an accident or emergency with the purpose of towing vehicles unless specifically called there by the police for a person involved in the accident or emergency. This section is intended to prohibit tow operators from soliciting business at the scene of accidents or emergencies and shall not be construed to prohibit any person from summoning a tow operator of his or her own choice in accordance with 8-2 of this chapter.

Section 8-15 Vehicles Involved in Suspected Crimes.

a. Tow operators shall comply with the directions of the police investigator in connection with vehicles involved in suspected crimes.

Section 8-16 Unethical Conduct Prohibited.

a. No reward, gratuity, gift or any type of remuneration shall be offered to any Hightstown Borough Police Officer, borough official or borough employee by any towing service or tow operator.

Section 8-17 Final Determination by Officer at Scene.

a. When a borough police officer is at the scene of an accident requiring towing service, said officer shall be responsible for making the final determination as to when towing shall take place. The officer shall not be limited to the tow list when it is clear that special towing equipment is required for large vehicles and/or public safety may be threatened by vehicles requiring removal.

Section 8-18 Towing, Storage and Roadside Assistance Rates and Fees. (For the purpose of setting towing and storage rates, vehicles shall be classified into four (4) categories):

- 1) Light-Duty (Class 1): Shall consist of all vehicles with a GVW of 10,000 pounds or less.
- 2) Medium-Duty (Class 2): Shall consist of all vehicles with a GVW between 10,000 and 16,000 pounds.
- 3) Heavy-Duty (Class 3): Shall consist of all vehicles with a GVW greater than 16,000 pounds.
- 4) Motorcycles: Shall consist of all types of motorcycle, dirt bikes, mopeds, ATV, Side by Side, off road utility vehicle, snowmobile, golf cart or any type of similar unlisted vehicle.

A. Towing fee rates:

Light Duty: \$150.00

Medium Duty: \$250.00

Heavy Duty: \$500.00

Heavy Duty with wheel lift required: \$550.00

Motorcycle: \$125.00

B. Winching rates:

Light Duty: \$50.00 per ½ hour

Medium Duty: \$50.00 per ½ hour

Heavy Duty: \$50.00 per ½ hour

Additional personal needed on scene: \$75.00 per hour.

C. Specialized equipment rates:

Crane service: \$450.00 per hours

Heavy-Duty Flatbed/Lowboy: \$350.00 per hour

D. Vehicle prep work needed to complete tow. (i.e. remove bumper, airlines, damaged vehicle parts, etc.)

Light/Medium/Heavy Duty: \$50.00 per ½ Hour

Additional personnel needed at scene to complete tow: \$75.00 per hour

Stand-by/wait time: \$60.00 per hour

E. Environmental Service:

Environmental Service: \$65.00 per hour

Additional absorbent: \$ 20.00 per bag

F. Roadside assistance rates: If road side assistance results in a tow, then the towing service may only charge the rate of the tow and not the rate of the roadside assistance or both)

Light-Duty: \$100.00

Medium-Duty: \$ 225.00

Heavy-Duty:\$450.00

G. Storage rates: (Any vehicle released prior to 12 hours storage will be charged only half of the 24 hour rate).

Light-Duty: \$45.00 per day

Medium-Duty: \$75.00 per day

Heavy-Duty: \$150.00 per day

Motorcycles: \$30.00 per day

H. Additional storage fees:

Administrative fee- Light-Duty: \$50.00

Administrative fee – Medium-Duty: \$ 100.00

Administrative fee - Heavy-Duty: \$ 100.00

Yard service fee- Light-Duty: \$45.00

Yard service fee- Medium-Duty: \$75.00

Yard service fee – Heavy-Duty: \$175.00

Wrapping/Trapping fee: \$ 75.00 per hour.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

Section 3. All other Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 4. In the event that any portion of this Ordinance is found to be invalid for any reason by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall be limited in its effect only to that portion of the Ordinance actually adjudged to be invalid, and the remaining portions of this Ordinance shall be deemed severable therefrom and shall not be affected.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2019-56 Payment of Bills

Moved by Councilmember Stults; Seconded by Council President Misiura.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Bluth, Egan, Jackson, Misiura, Musing and Stults voted yes.

Resolution adopted 6-0.

Resolution 2019-56

*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 \$97,077.35 from the following accounts:

Current		\$72,304.37
W/S Operating		23,961.28
General Capital		191.70
Water/Sewer Capital		0.00
Grant		0.00
Trust		620.00
Housing Trust		0.00
Animal Control		0.00
Law Enforcement Trust		0.00
Housing Rehab Loans		0.00
Unemployment Trust		0.00
Escrow		<u>0.00</u>
Total		<u>\$97,077.35</u>

Resolution 2019-57 Authorizing the Execution of a Revised Shared Services Agreement with Robbinsville Township for Municipal Court Facilities

Moved by Councilmember Musing; Seconded by Councilmember Stults

Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Bluth, Egan, Jackson, Misiura, Musing and Stults voted yes.

Resolution adopted 6-0.

Resolution 2019-57

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

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A REVISED SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ROBBINSVILLE TOWNSHIP FOR MUNICIPAL COURT FACILITIES

WHEREAS, On December 17, 2018, with the adoption of Resolution 2018-241, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown approved a continuation of a Shared Services Agreement with Robbinsville Township for Municipal Court Services at a monthly fee of \$6,000 for the period of January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019; and

WHEREAS, On January 10, 2019, with the adoption of Resolution 2019-44, Robbinsville Township Council revised said agreement for the Shared Services Agreement for Municipal Court Services for a period of January 1, 2019 – August 31, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Robbinsville Township is now revising the Shared Services Agreement for Municipal Court Services for a period of January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019 at a rate of \$6,000 per month.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute and the Municipal Clerk to attest the revised agreement on behalf of the Borough.

Resolution 2019-58 Authorizing the Execution an Agreement with the County of Mercer and the Township of East Windsor for the Mercer at Play Program Project Grant

Moved by Councilmember Bluth; Seconded Councilmember Stults.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Bluth, Egan, Jackson, Misiura, Musing and Stults voted yes.

Resolution adopted 6-0.

Resolution 2019-58

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

**AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AN AGREEMENT WITH THE
COUNTY OF MERCER AND THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST WINDSOR
FOR THE MERCER AT PLAY PROGRAM PROJECT GRANT**

WHEREAS, On November 5, 2018, with the adoption of Resolution 2018-202, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown authorized a joint application with East Windsor Township for the Mercer at Play Round 2 Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, Mercer County has forwarded to Hightstown Borough, the Project Grant Agreement; and

WHEREAS, Mercer County is requesting Hightstown Borough to execute and attest to four (4) copies of said Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute and the Municipal Clerk to attest the Agreement on behalf of the Borough.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Bluth moved Resolutions 2019-59; 2019-60; 2019-61 and 2019-62 as a Consent Agenda; Councilmember Jackson seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Bluth, Egan, Jackson, Misiura, Musing and Stults voted yes.

Resolutions adopted 6-0.

Resolution 2019-59

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

**RESOLUTION MAKING AND CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT FOR THE BOARD
OF HEALTH**

BE IT RESOLVED that the following appointments are hereby made and confirmed by the Mayor and Council of

the Borough of Hightstown:

Board of Health

Debra Napolitano Ux. 3 yrs. December 31, 2020

Resolution 2019-60

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

**ACCEPTING MEMBERSHIP OF JAIME OROCHENA IN
HIGHTSTOWN ENGINE CO. NO. 1**

WHEREAS, Jaime Orochena of East Hightstown, New Jersey has applied for membership in Hightstown Engine Company No. 1; and

WHEREAS Mr. Orochena has undergone and passed the required physical examination, and his membership application has been reviewed and approved by Fire Chief Scott Jenkins;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the membership of Jaime Orochena in Hightstown Engine Company No. 1 is hereby accepted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to Hightstown Engine Co. #1.

Resolution 2019-61

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

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK (MARCH 17-23, 2019)

WHEREAS, Congress designated the third full week in March to be National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW) in 1961 and since then this week has helped to raise national awareness of the dangers of potentially poisonous medicines, household chemicals, and other substances; and

WHEREAS, poisoning is a preventable illness! From the youngest to the oldest, all people and even pets are at risk; and

WHEREAS, poison centers across the country will focus the public's attention on identifying poisoning hazards at home as well as learning ways to prevent poisoning emergencies; and

WHEREAS, a poison is defined as anything that is taken in the wrong amount, in the wrong way or by the wrong person; and

WHEREAS, unintentional poisoning is the leading cause of unintentional injury death in New Jersey outnumbering deaths by motor vehicles and firearms; and

WHEREAS, drug overdose deaths including those from prescription and over-the-counter medications, as well as illegal drugs such as heroin and methamphetamines remain at epidemic proportions for both New Jersey and

the United States.; and

WHEREAS, in approximately 94% of unintentional poison death nationally and 96% in New Jersey, drugs are the poison; and

WHEREAS, although the majority of reported poison exposures involve children five (5) years old and younger; the majority of poisoning deaths occur in adults aged 20 to 59; and

WHEREAS, lead poisoning remains a major public health concern. Elevated blood lead levels can cause significant and permanent damage to the health and wellbeing of a young child. There is no safe level of lead. Stop a child's exposure to lead before it causes harm; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES), a division of the Department of Emergency Medicine of the New Jersey Medical School of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, provides expert advice, drug information, and poison prevention education to NJ residents through the 800-222-1222 Poison Help Hotline; and

WHEREAS, all services are free, confidential, multilingual and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year even during bouts of Mother Nature; and

WHEREAS, the public can contact a poison expert by calling (1-800-222-1222), chatting (www.njpies.org), or texting (8002221222@njpies.org); and

WHEREAS, consumers must be aware that e-cigarette devices, hookah pipes and liquid nicotine may contain very high doses of nicotine in enticing colors, aromas, and flavors – increasing the likelihood that small children and pets will focus their attention on them. These products pose serious risk of poisoning; and

WHEREAS, poison experts urge residents to use our services as a resource for poison and drug information instead of consulting the internet for information that may not be accurate; and

WHEREAS, we encourage all residents to program the Poison Help Line 800-222-1222 into home, office, and cell phones because a rapid response can make a difference in preventing serious injury and saving lives; and

WHEREAS, poison centers help to eliminate thousands of unnecessary and expensive emergency department visits by offering callers access to free, confidential medical advice; and

WHEREAS, NJPIES is also involved with the state's efforts in homeland defense, counter-terrorism, emergency preparedness and response, bio surveillance, and surveillance for clusters of poisonings and their sources (products, food and beverages, chemicals in the workplace and at home, environmental toxins, drugs and medicine, and animal and insect bites and stings);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council, of the Borough of Hightstown do hereby recognize the week of March 17-23, 2019 as National Poison Prevention Week in New Jersey and encourages all citizens to pledge their commitment to ensuring the safety of themselves, their families, and their community.

Resolution 2019-62

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

PROCLAIMING MARCH 2019 AS AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH

WHEREAS, More than 137 years ago, the American Red Cross was established as a humanitarian

organization, guided by seven fundamental principles—including humanity, impartiality and independence—to provide services to those in need regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or citizenship status. Today, the American Red Cross is one of the largest humanitarian organizations in the world, and delivers its mission every day to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies.

WHEREAS, Every year, the American Red Cross responds to an average of more than 62,000 disasters across the country, from small home fires to devastating massive disasters. Last year’s large crises included mudslides in California, a volcano **in Hawaii**, **wildfires in Colorado and California**, **destructive hurricanes in Florida and the Carolinas**, and **a devastating typhoon in U.S. territories**. **Thousands of American Red Cross volunteers provided around-the-clock shelter for disaster victims, served millions of meals and snacks with partners, and distributed millions of relief items.**

WHEREAS, In New Jersey, **the Red Cross has a long history of helping our neighbors in need. The Red Cross** New Jersey Region assisted with 902 local disasters in the past year alone and helped save lives through our Home Fire Campaign. Since the campaign launched in October 2014, the New Jersey Region has worked with community partners to install more than 31,761 smoke alarms. Meanwhile, in our area, the Red Cross handles an average of 5,100 emergency military calls every year and collects an average of 95,000 units of blood from our generous blood donors.

WHEREAS, March is Red Cross Month, a special time to recognize and thank the Red Cross volunteers and donors who give of their time and resources to help members of the community. The Red Cross depends on these local heroes to deliver help and hope during a disaster. **We applaud our heroes here in New Jersey who give of themselves** to assist their neighbors when they need a helping hand.

WHEREAS, The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families.

WHEREAS, We dedicate the month of March to all those who support the American Red Cross mission to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies. Our community depends on the American Red Cross, which relies on volunteers and the generosity of the public to perform its mission

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of Hightstown Borough, Mercer County, New Jersey do hereby proclaim March 2019 as American Red Cross Month and encourage all Americans to support this organization and its noble humanitarian mission.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD II

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

Scott Caster, 12 Clover Lane – Reemphasized his comments from the February 19th meeting. Our tax rate is not competitive with our surrounding municipalities.

Frank Rivera, 110 Broad Street – Residents from Broad Street will be coming forward to Council regarding storm water management violations. Borough Administrator/Clerk Sopronyi stated that the Water Department and the Waste Water Treatment Plant are aware of the situation and are looking for alternatives for resident sump pump issues.

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

DISCUSSION

First Avenue and Forman Street Water Main Extension

Borough Administrator/Clerk Debra Sopronyi reviewed Borough Engineer, Carmela Robert's, letter dated March 1, 2019. Ms. Roberts recommended milling and paving Forman Street and Church Street after the watermain was complete. Ms. Sopronyi stated that she has spoken with CFO, George Lang, regarding the cost associated with this addition to the project. Mr. Lang informed her that there are enough funds in the bond ordinance to pave Forman Street and funds in a previous bond ordinance to pave Church Street. No additional funds will need to be appropriated for the change. After discussion, Council all agreed to have the Borough Engineer move forward with the change in the project.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Streets & Sidewalks Committee

Councilmember Misiura stated that the planning assistance grant application is ready to go. Thanked Bev Asselstine for all of her work in getting this done. The walkability audit will be presented to Council. Asked if a Resolution could be down forming the Streets and Sidewalks as an official committee.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Councilmember Egan

The Board of Health Meets next week.

Councilmember Musing

HPC has not met since their reorg meeting.

Councilmember Stults

Read the February Police Report. Downtown Hightstown will be sponsoring the First Annual Taste of Hightstown March 17th – 23rd. Nine restaurants will be participating. Check Downtown Hightstown's Facebook page for more information. The Housing Authority will meet again in a few weeks.

Councilmember Bluth

Cultural Arts Commission Empty Bowls will be held March 23rd at the Peddie School from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. Environmental Commission will be holding a shredding event on April 13, 2019 at Memorial Park from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Councilmember Jackson

Parks and Rec will meet next Thursday. Fun Fridays will be moved to Association Park because of the bridge construction.

Council President Misiura

He will be meeting with the new First Aid Captain to see what they have planned. Planning Board did not meet because of the snow. Himself and Councilmember Stults will be meeting with PRC Group tomorrow for an update. He and Councilmember Stults attended the Budget Training Seminar for Elected Officials last week at Mercer County College.

Mayor Quattrone asked Council to give their goals for 2019.

Councilmember Bluth stated that she would like to improve communication with residents by having an ENewsletter monthly or bi-monthly.

Councilmember Jackson stated that he would like to see Committee Chairs come before Council to talk about their committees.

Councilmember Stults stated that he would like to see more business density in downtown. Would like to see an RFP go out to redevelopers to see what they come up with for the Route 33 Corridor.

Councilmember Egan would like to see how other towns make themselves unique. Hightstown will be celebrating their 300th Anniversary in 2021 if a celebration is going to happen planning would need to begin soon.

Councilmember Musing stated that he would like to see an increase in rateables and increase in property values. Zoning changes will open up the town for businesses. He would like to see Hightstown more vibrant and to expand their commercial base.

Council President Misiura stated that he would making walkability a priority. Complete streets and sidewalks are all in the Master Plan and he would like to see this implemented along with environmentally friendly streetscape.

Mayor Quattrone stated that these are great goals from a great Council. Happy to see that the bridge will be completed this year. He would like to work with DOT to reduce truck traffic.

Borough Administrator/Clerk, Debra Sopronyi read the goals from various departments:

“Police Chief:

- 1) The establishment of a dedicated loading and unloading zone in the Stockton Street parking lot for vehicle making deliveries to downtown businesses to improve the flow of traffic and improve overall safety for both motorists and pedestrians.
- 2) Continue working with state and county officials to address engineering issues to improve pedestrian safety in the borough.
- 3) Continue working toward the completion of municipal/police facilities.

Water Dept:

1. Rug Mill Project
2. Complete the required Asset Management Plan
3. Continue to include water infrastructure updates in road projects

Construction/Inspections:

1. Finish the work to get approval for the proposed zoning map to create a more viable and beneficial zoning for Hightstown.
2. To work with and encourage the good developers to continue to invest in Hightstown.

3. Stress property maintenance to protect property value.”

Ms. Sopronyi stated that there will be a Vision Meeting on March 28, 2018 6:30 p.m. at the Firehouse. We are inviting boards and committees as well as the public to bring their needs forward for the new municipal facilities.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Musing moved to adjourn at 9:06; Seconded by Councilmember Stults. All ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret M. Riggio
Deputy Borough Clerk