

Meeting Minutes
Hightstown Borough Council
June 15, 2020
6:30 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 on the Borough website.” Do to COVID-19 and self-distancing protocols, this meeting was held remotely through freeconferencecall.com.

The flag salute followed Roll Call.

	PRESENT	ABSENT
<i>Councilmember Bluth</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Cicalese</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Jackson</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Misiura</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, Jim Sidelinger, OEM Coordinator and Fred Raffetto, Borough Attorney.

The Flag Salute followed roll call.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Quattrone asked that an OEM update be added to the agenda.

Councilmember Misiura moved the agenda as amended. Councilmember Bluth seconded.

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

Agenda approved as amended 6-0.

OEM UPDATE

Jim Sidelinger, OEM Coordinator, updated Council on the Declaration of Emergency. The State is easing up on some restrictions. Jim is working the Jill Swanson, Health Officer, putting together new guidelines. Until new guidelines are complete, please abide by what is in place already. Mr. Sidelinger left the meeting at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

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

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2020-127 Payment of Bills

Moved by Councilmember Cicalese; Seconded by Councilmember Bluth.

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

Resolution adopted 6-0.

Resolution 2020-127

*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 \$280,611.76 from the following accounts:

**Resolution 2020-128
Supporting Equality of All
Citizens**

Moved by Councilmember Stults; Seconded by Councilmember Misiura.

Councilmember Stults read the resolution into the record.

Councilmember Misiura stated that the resolution is well worded and he supports it 100%.

Current		\$79,386.64
W/S Operating		50,794.93
General Capital		64,272.35
Water/Sewer Capital		29,380.00
Grant		0.00
Trust		1,653.52
Housing Trust		0.00
Animal Control		0.00
Law Enforcement Trust		30,000.00
Housing Rehab Loans		0.00
Unemployment Trust		0.00
Escrow		<u>25,124.32</u>
Total		<u>\$280,611.76</u>

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

Resolution adopted 6-0.

Resolution 2020-128

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

SUPPORTING EQUALITY OF ALL CITIZENS

WHEREAS, The Borough of Hightstown is a multiethnic community and believes that mutual understanding and respect develops a healthier, safer, and caring community; and

WHEREAS, Hightstown Borough takes great effort to work to ensure that all residents have the opportunity to be involved and heard to best represent our community; and

WHEREAS, recent demonstrations and protests across America, sparked by the video of the tragic death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis, Minnesota police officers, challenge public safety organizations and elected leadership across the country to respond honestly and effectively as concerns are raised by residents within our communities; and

WHEREAS, the Hightstown Borough Police Department is fortunate to have a positive relationship with our residents and conduct themselves with the utmost professionalism and respect for our community; and

WHEREAS, the Hightstown Borough Police Department supports the New Jersey Attorney General’s “Excellence in Policing Initiative”, which will provide a model in strengthening accountability and trust between law enforcement and their communities while promoting the culture of professionalism and accountability within police agencies; and

WHEREAS, Hightstown Borough remains committed to the morally, ethically and lawfully fair and just treatment of all Borough residents and visitors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown will promote safety, a sense of security and equal protection of constitutional rights, leading by example through equitable treatment of all by Borough officials and departments.

Resolution 2020-129 Appointing and Authorizing an Agreement for an Intensive-Level Historic Architectural Survey for Municipal Facilities Located at 230 Mercer Street

Moved by Councilmember Misiura; Seconded by Councilmember Stults.

Borough Administrator/Clerk, Debra Sopronyi and Councilmember Stults explained the RFP and the award.

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

Resolution adopted 6-0.

Resolution 2020-129

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

**APPOINTING AND AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT FOR AN INTENSIVE-LEVEL
HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY FOR MUNICIPAL FACILITIES LOCATED
AT 230 MERCER STREET**

WHEREAS, eight (8) proposals were received and opened on May 20, 2020 for an Intensive-Level Historic Architectural Survey; and

WHEREAS, there exists the need for an Intensive-Level Historic Architectural Survey for the municipal facilities project located at 230 Mercer Street in the Borough as requested by the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office (NJHSPO); and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of Borough Council to appoint Richard Grubb and Associates located in Cranbury, New Jersey to provide the Intensive-Level Historic Architectural Survey for the municipal facilities project located at 230 Mercer Street effective June 15, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the cost for the proposed services shall not exceed \$9,688.00 without further approval by the Borough Council; and,

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose will be made available in the 2020 budget as needed; and

WHEREAS, the term of this contract is for the completion of the Intensive-Level Historic Architectural Survey at 230 Mercer Street; and

WHEREAS, this contract is awarded as a “fair and open contract” pursuant to and in accordance with the Local Unit Pay-to-Play Law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the Mayor is authorized to execute and the Borough Clerk to attest an agreement between the Borough of Hightstown and Richard Grubb and Associates located in Cranbury, New Jersey to provide the Intensive-Level Historic Architectural Survey for the municipal facilities project located at 230 Mercer Street.

Resolution 2020-130 Authorizing Emergency Temporary Appropriations Prior to Adoption of the 2020 Budget

Moved by Councilmember Bluth; Seconded by Councilmember Cicalese.

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

Resolution adopted 6-0.

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

Resolution adopted 6-0.

Resolution 2020-130

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

**AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS
PRIOR TO ADOPTION OF THE 2020 BUDGET**

WHEREAS, an emergent condition has arisen with respect to inadequate appropriation balances remaining in some line items of the 2020 temporary budget; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20 provides for the creation of emergency appropriations for the purposes above mentioned; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Mayor and Council to create emergency temporary appropriations as set forth on Schedule “A,” attached; and

WHEREAS, the total emergency temporary appropriations in resolutions adopted in the year 2020 pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20 (Chapter 96, P.L. 1951, as amended), including this resolution, total:

	<i>THIS RESOLUTION</i>	<i>PREVIOUS TOTAL</i>	<i>CUMULATIVE TOTAL</i>
Current	155,000.00	1,618,326.00	1,773,326.00
Capital Outlay – Current	0.00	0.00	0.00
Debt Service - Current	0.00	0.00	0.00
Water/Sewer	150,000.00	596,136.00	746,136.00
Capital Outlay – W/S	0.00	0.00	0.00
Debt Service - W/S	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	305,000.00	2,214,462.00	2,519,462.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hightstown (not less than two-thirds of all the members of thereof affirmatively concurring) that, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20:

1. An emergency temporary appropriation is hereby made for each item listed on the schedules that are attached hereto and made a part hereof;
2. Each emergency appropriation listed will be provided for in the 2020 budget under the same title as written herein;
3. One certified copy of this resolution will be filed with the Director of Local Government Services, and a copy provided to the Chief Finance Officer.

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Meeting Dates

Council President Musing asked CFO, George Lang, when the budget packet would be ready for review. Mr. Lang stated that it should be ready this week. Discussion ensued. Council agreed that the next budget workshop meeting will be held virtually on June 25th at 6:30. Council informed Mr. Lang that they would like the packet by the Friday before the meeting as they would need the weekend to review.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Councilmember Jackson

Parks and Rec met last week. They are getting quotes for the Dawes Park project

Councilmember Stults

Thanked George Chin for his help getting the outdoor seating in place. Happy with the equality resolution and liked how it was written. Thanked the Deputy Clerk for getting that put together.

Councilmember Misiura

Gave Council a report about the First Aid. They have been busy during the pandemic. Happy to see outdoor dining. Reported on the RISE drive through food pantry. They have been using the old Minute Maid property and it has worked out well. The police have been happy with the set up. It has been a massive undertaking. Thanked Hightstown resident Wendy McDade who has coordinated the events. Encouraged everyone to volunteer if you can. Congratulated all the graduating seniors. They really got shortchanged this year. If you see a senior make sure to congratulate them.

Councilmember Cicalese

Stated that he is proud of Hightstown. Happy with the equality statement.

Deputy Clerk, Peggy Riggio

Stated that parking permits are to be renewed. Must be done through the mail or drop box as the offices are still closed to the public. Gave information regarding the Primary Election. Spoke about Census Day of Action which will take place June 17th.

Borough Administrator/Clerk, Debra Sopronyi

Stated that the Equality Resolution will be posted on the website tomorrow.

Mayor Quattrone

The work on Lincoln, Hagemount and Rocky Brook project has begun. Council needs to keep a close eye on spending. The Mayor would like any expenditures over \$5,000 be approved ahead of time. He stated that he was very proud of the Hightstown Police with the handling of the demonstration. Wished all the downtown businesses good luck as they start to reopen.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved at 7:23 p.m. by Councilmember Misiura; Seconded by Council President Musing. All ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret M. Riggio
Deputy Borough Clerk