

**Meeting Minutes
Hightstown Borough Council
August 31, 2020
Budget
6:30 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Quattrone at 6:30 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 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; Police Chief, Frank Gendron and George Lang, CFO.

The Flag Salute followed roll call.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Council President Musing; Seconded by Councilmember Cicalese.

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

Agenda approved 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT I

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

John Hostetler, 309 Stockton Street; Chairman, Historic Preservation Commission – Spoke about safety issues in the historic district that they would like to repair. Received three quotes to fix some of the spots on Stockton Street. They are tripping hazards. Lowest is \$2,750. One of the members bought materials to clean up at the civil war monument. \$755 was spent. He would like to reimburse him. HPC is asking \$3505 in total in the budget to cover both of these expenses.

Council thanked HPC for their stewardship and the amazing job they do for the Borough. It looks as though the proposed budget for HPC will cover their requested expenses.

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

DISCUSSION

Budget 2020

As requested, all departments reduced their requested budgets by 5%. Discussion ensued. Mr. Lang reiterated to Council that it is not a good idea to cut the budget to what was spent in 2019. This jeopardizes future budgets. Any funds left unspent is put into surplus which is beneficial to the Borough. Once again there were questions regarding salary increases, police overtime and a new police vehicle.

Police Chief, Frank Gendron explained that the reasoning for purchasing 1 new vehicle a year, the average life of a vehicle is 8-10 years. The older vehicles require more maintenance. Chief Gendron went on to address overtime stating most overtime comes from covering vacation, sick and personal time. Councilmember Misiura questioned if it be more effective to have a larger police force. Chief Gendron explained; when there were 14 officers there were squads of 3. We did not have to cover vacation or sick with overtime. The more personal we have the better we can do with overtime. It would not eliminate it but would reduce it.

Discussion ensued regarding the police vehicle. Councilmember Misiura stated that he understands the cycle of updating the vehicles but questioned if we need to purchase one this year. Can we budget \$40,000 this year and not buy it? Then next year budget another \$40,000 and purchase a new vehicle. Chief Gendron stated that the vehicle that was ordered in 2019 has still not been received. Further discussion ensued. It was suggested that the police vehicle be put back into the capital budget this year to reduce the tax increase.

Council President Musing moved the budget for introduction with the new police vehicle in the capital budget and 1.4 cent tax increase. There was no second.

Councilmember Misiura moved the budget for introduction with \$40,000 budgeted for a new police vehicle this year and a 2.4 cent tax increase. Councilmember Cicalese seconded.

Roll Call vote: Councilmembers Bluth, Cicalese, Jackson, Misiura and Stults voted yes. Council President Musing voted no.

Budget introduced 5-1.

Budget Hearing and Adoption scheduled for October 5, 2020.

Councilmember Stults recused himself at this time.

Wycoff Mills Warehouse

Ms. Sopronyi stated that the developer needs letter for high site plan. East Windsor Planning board approval is pending awaiting the agreement for sight triangle. Once we send letter, we have no more bargaining rights at all. The piece of property where we are talking is where we would like to build a DPW storage building. The developer is willing to clear the property for us and share the access driveway. Discussion ensued. Council agreed that we should get the developer's offer in writing. It was also stated that the Borough needs to check with East Windsor about requirements for us to build a DPW storage building before anything is done. Mayor Quattrone will meet with the developer again and get his offer in writing.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 2020-168 Authorizing a Meeting that Excludes the Public

Moved by Councilmember Bluth; Seconded by Councilmember Misiura.

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

Resolution adopted 5-0.

Resolution 2020-167

*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 August 31, 2020, via teleconference, that will be limited only to consideration of an item or items with respect to which the public may be excluded pursuant to section 7b of the Open Public Meetings Act.

The general nature of the subject or subjects to be discussed:

Personnel – Professional Services

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 November 30, 2020, 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.

Council adjourned to Executive Session at this time.

Council reconvened into public session at 8:46 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved at 8:47 by Council President Musing; Seconded by Councilmember Bluth. All ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret M. Riggio
Deputy Borough Clerk