

Meeting Minutes
Hightstown Borough Council
May 3, 2021
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 on the Borough website.” Do to COVID-19 and self-distancing protocols, this meeting was held remotely through www.zoom.com.

The flag salute followed Roll Call.

	PRESENT	ABSENT
<i>Councilmember Susan Bluth</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Joseph Cicalese</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Cristina Fowler</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Joshua Jackson</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Steven Misiura</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Dimitri Musing</i>	✓	
<i>Mayor Lawrence Quattrone</i>	✓	

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

The Flag Salute followed roll call.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Musing requested to amend the agenda by adding an Executive Session to discuss Attorney Client Privilege. Council President Bluth requested to add Resolution 2021-076 A Resolution Acknowledging Continued Participation in the Home Investment Partnership Program Consortium with the County of Mercer.

Moved as amended by Councilmember Musing; Seconded by Councilmember Fowler.

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

Agenda approved as amended 6-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 15, 2021 – Public Session

Moved by Councilmember Misiura; Seconded by Councilmember Cicalese.

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

Minutes approved 6-0.

March 15, 2021 – Executive Session

Moved by Councilmember Fowler; Seconded by Councilmember Cicalese.

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

Minutes approved 6-0.

March 25, 2021 – Special Meeting Public Session

Moved by Councilmember Misiura; Seconded by Councilmember Cicalese.

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

Minutes approved 5-0 with 1 abstention.

March 25, 2021 – Special Meeting Executive Session

Moved by Councilmember Misiura; Seconded by Councilmember Fowler.

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

Minutes approved 5-0 with 1 abstention.

April 5, 2021 – Public Session

Moved by Council President Bluth; Seconded by Councilmember Cicalese.

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

Minutes approved 6-0.

April 5, 2021 – Executive Session

Moved by Council President Bluth; Seconded by Councilmember Cicalese.

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

Minutes approved 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Quattrone opened public comment and the following individuals spoke:

Tori Watkins, 68 Meadow Drive - Welcomed the Mayor back. Spoke regarding Ordinance 2021-06. Believes that this needs to be presented to Planning Board before it can be introduced. He also believes that Council should be getting a lot of input from the public before this is introduced. He believes that this should be tabled until Council receives public input.

Eugene Sarafin, 628 South Main Street - Questioned what the Executive Session would be discussing. Deputy Clerk, Peggy Riggio, explained it was Attorney Client Privilege. He went on to talk about states limiting voter rights. Council needs to stand up for our democracy; it needs to start at the local levels.

John Laudenberger, 301 Grant Avenue - Read the following statement: *"My name is John Laudenberger. I live at 301 Grant Ave. I am currently serving on the Hightstown Planning Board. I would like to address the council regarding the Ordinance Prohibiting the Operation of Any Class of Cannabis Businesses within Hightstown. I see that passing this Prohibition Ordinance will do nothing but miss an opportunity for Hightstown to generate tax revenue and create local jobs. What I understand as the council's main concern and immediate goal with this ordinance is that it is a response to the state's August 21st deadline of opting in or opting out of a 5 year commitment, and that by opting out at this moment the council can essentially open the window so as to make a more informed decision based on what a subcommittee finds or how they see the industry playing out in other municipalities. I do understand the logic behind this strategy because the state has yet to provide clear guidelines and answers to some of the more important questions. However, as I stated in the Planning Board meeting where this was first brought up, I think that Hightstown will miss the boat. In response to my comment one council member during a recent meeting made the statement that there is no boat to be missed and compared the cannabis industry to the alcohol industry, saying that it is like a bar or a liquor store and that there will always be a demand for it. However, this comparison is baseless when we compare the two industries in terms of licensing and tax revenue. In New Jersey, liquor licenses are proportioned to each municipality based on population numbers. As it seems, cannabis licenses will not be granted in this manner. There will be a set quantity of licenses in the state and that's it. As far as tax revenue goes, tax from liquor sales go to the state, not the municipality. Hightstown sees no difference in tax revenue regardless of how much alcohol is sold within our borders. Cannabis, however, has the potential to bring in substantial amounts of tax revenue. Hightstown can make up to 2% from the total receipts of sales from cultivators, manufacturers, and retailers, and up to 1% percent from wholesalers. According to a recent projection, in New Jersey, the Estimated Adult-Use sales by year four could reach up to \$1.8 billion dollars. What is Hightstown's advantage here? Certainly it is not space. However, from what I understood in the borough planner's report, Hightstown does have the capacity to host any and all of the categories of the industry, but those options are small when compared to any of the neighboring municipalities. Once this industry gets going and other towns wake up to the fact that there is a lot of tax revenue to be made and jobs to be created then they will all reconsider their positions and they will have more ideal conditions and spaces to offer. The way I see it, Hightstown's only advantage is to come out ahead on this issue, get in on the ground floor, and create a solid relationship with the industry so that they will feel welcome and committed to Hightstown. What is the council expecting to find in their exploration of the issue through subcommittee? What would it take for them to come up with a decision? Consider Hightstown's results for last November's referendum on cannabis legalization. Out of the 5107 voters who answered the question, 3663 voted yes. That is 71.72%. I find it hard to see how these results can be interpreted as anything but a mandate for the cannabis industry to be allowed to establish in Hightstown. I would like to hear the council's thoughts and stances on what are the cons of allowing the Cannabis industry in Hightstown, because I only see pros - tax revenue and jobs. We may be a small town, but there is no reason for us to think small."*

Storm Lewis, Owner Elements located at 100 Mercer Street - Spoke in opposition of Ordinance 2021-06.

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

Borough Attorney, Fred Raffetto, stated that if the ordinance is introduced this evening, Council will refer this to Planning Board for their comments. Council will not adopt until comments are received from the Planning Board.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2021-06 First Reading and Introduction – An Ordinance Prohibiting the Operation of Any Class of Cannabis Businesses within the Geographical Boundaries of the Borough of Hightstown in Mercer County, New Jersey, and Amending and Supplementing Chapter 28, Entitled “Zoning,” of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough, In Order to Establish a New Section Thereof to be Known as Section 28-12, Entitled “Cannabis.”

Moved for Introduction by Councilmember Musing; Seconded by Council President Bluth.

Discussion ensued.

Borough Attorney, Fred Raffetto, stated that the ordinance being introduced tonight is a model ordinance drafted by the League of Municipalities and if a municipality would like to opt they must act within 180 days (August 20, 2021). If a municipality does not opt out by this date, they will become a host community for cannabis sales.

Councilmember Musing stated that it is the recommendation of the subcommittee for the Borough to opt out at this time. The subcommittee consists of Councilmembers Fowler, Jackson and Musing. The subcommittee feels there are still too many unknowns. We do not know the details of what a host community is yet. There are many stakeholders in town. We are just starting the conversation on this. The State of New Jersey has not given guidelines yet.

Councilmember Misiura stated that if we don't act by the August 20th deadline, we automatically accept all 6 classes of facilities as governed by the State. We will have no say in how many, what class or location. We can try to tackle the issues but it won't happen by August 20th. These types of ordinances take a tremendous amount of time. Procedurally, it is difficult. We want to get this right. Once we are in, we are in 5 years. We can opt in at anytime. The subcommittee will still be investigating this. We are not opting out forever. The 180-day timeframe is not enough time to put a good ordinance in place.

Councilmember Cicalese stated that the main issue is are we in favor in the long term? Hearing members of the public speak tonight, they think that Council is not in favor of cannabis.

Councilmember Bluth stated that we are voting to opt out tonight does not mean that we are not in favor of cannabis. We do not have enough info at this point to vote yes or no which is why we have a subcommittee to evaluate what is best for the Borough long term. There are many factors involved and a large amount of groups that need to be spoken with before a final decision can be made.

Councilmember Fowler stated that she is part of the subcommittee and they are committed to looking into a clear path for the Borough to opt in. There are just too many unknowns at this time. We can opt in at any time. We need to do our due diligence and make sure we have a good ordinance to take advantage of all the benefits.

Councilmember Jackson stated that he will be voting against the ordinance. The voters want this. And it is a good business opportunity for the Borough. The Subcommittee will continue to do its due diligence.

Councilmember Misiura stated that the only responsible course to take right now is to opt out. The State has forced us into this position by now having the regulations available now. The Subcommittee will continue to work. Unless we know the impact this will have on the Borough, we cannot vote to opt in at this point.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Bluth, Cicalese, Fowler, Misiura and Musing voted yes. Councilmember Jackson voted no.

Ordinance introduced 5-1. Public Hearing scheduled for May 17, 2021.

Ordinance 2021-06

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

AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE OPERATION OF ANY CLASS OF CANNABIS BUSINESSES WITHIN THE GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN IN MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, AND AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 28, ENTITLED “ZONING,” OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH, IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A NEW SECTION THEREOF TO BE KNOWN AS SECTION 28-12, ENTITLED “CANNABIS.”

WHEREAS, in 2020 New Jersey voters approved Public Question No. 1, which amended the New Jersey Constitution to allow for the legalization of a controlled form of marijuana called “cannabis” for adults at least 21 years of age; and

WHEREAS, on February 22, 2021, Governor Murphy signed into law P.L. 2021, c. 16, known as the “New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act” (the “Act”), which legalizes the recreational use of marijuana by adults 21 years of age or older, and establishes a comprehensive regulatory and licensing scheme for commercial recreational (adult use) cannabis operations, use and possession; and

WHEREAS, the Act establishes six marketplace classes of licensed businesses, including:

- Class 1 Cannabis Cultivator license, for facilities involved in growing and cultivating cannabis;
- Class 2 Cannabis Manufacturer license, for facilities involved in the manufacturing, preparation, and packaging of cannabis items;
- Class 3 Cannabis Wholesaler license, for facilities involved in obtaining and selling cannabis items for later resale by other licensees;
- Class 4 Cannabis Distributer license, for businesses involved in transporting cannabis plants in bulk from on licensed cultivator to another licensed cultivator, or cannabis items in bulk from any type of licensed cannabis business to another;
- Class 5 Cannabis Retailer license for locations at which cannabis items and related supplies are sold to consumers; and
- Class 6 Cannabis Delivery license, for businesses providing courier services for consumer purchases that are fulfilled by a licensed cannabis retailer in order to make deliveries of the purchases items to a consumer, and which service would include the ability of a consumer to make a purchase directly through the cannabis delivery service which would be presented by the delivery service for fulfillment by a retailer and then delivered to a consumer.

WHEREAS, section 31a of the Act authorizes municipalities by ordinance to adopt regulations governing the number of cannabis establishments (defined in section 3 of the Act as “a cannabis cultivator, a cannabis manufacturer, a cannabis wholesaler, or a cannabis retailer”), cannabis distributors or cannabis delivery services allowed to operate within their boundaries, as well as the location manner and times operation of such establishments, distributors or delivery services, and establishing civil penalties for the violation of any such regulations; and

WHEREAS, section 31b of the Act authorizes municipalities by ordinance to prohibit the operation of any one

or more classes of cannabis establishments, distributors, or delivery services anywhere in the municipality; and

WHEREAS, section 31b of the Act also stipulates, however, that any municipal regulation or prohibition must be adopted within 180 days of the effective date of the Act (*i.e.*, by August 22, 2021); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 31b of the Act, the failure to do so shall mean that for a period of five years thereafter, the growing, cultivating, manufacturing, selling and reselling of cannabis and cannabis items shall be permitted uses in all industrial zones, and the retail selling of cannabis items to consumers shall be a conditional use in all commercial and retail zones; and

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of the initial and any subsequent five-year period following a failure to enact local regulations or prohibitions, the municipality shall again have 180 days to adopt an ordinance regulating or prohibiting cannabis businesses, but any such ordinance would be prospective only and would not apply to any cannabis business already operating within the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Hightstown (the “Borough”), in the County of Mercer, and State of New Jersey, has determined that, due to present uncertainties regarding the potential future impacts that allowing one or more classes of cannabis business might have on New Jersey municipalities in general, and on the Borough in particular, it is at this time necessary and appropriate, and in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the Borough’s residents and members of the public who visit, travel, or conduct business in the Borough, to prohibit all manner of marijuana-related land use and development within the geographic boundaries of the Borough, and to amend the Borough’s zoning regulations accordingly; and

WHEREAS, officials from two prominent non-profit organizations that have been established for the purpose of advising New Jersey municipalities on legal matters such as have been presented by the Act (those organizations being the New Jersey State League of Municipalities and the New Jersey Institute of Local Government Attorneys) have strongly urged that, due to the complexity and novelty of the Act; the many areas of municipal law that are or may be implicated in decisions as to whether or to what extent cannabis or medical cannabis should be permitted for land use purposes or otherwise regulated in any particular municipality; and the relatively short duration in which the Act would allow such decisions to be made before imposing an automatic authorization of such uses in specified zoning districts subject to unspecified conditions, the most prudent course of action for all municipalities, whether or not generally in favor of cannabis or medical cannabis land development and uses, would be to prohibit all such uses within the Act’s 180-day period in order to ensure sufficient time to carefully review all aspects of the Act and its impacts.

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, pursuant to section 31b of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act (P.L. 2021, c. 16) (the “Act”), all cannabis establishments, cannabis distributors and/or cannabis delivery services, as those terms are defined in the Act, are hereby prohibited from locating and/or operating anywhere within the geographical boundaries of the Borough, except that the delivery of cannabis items and related supplies by a delivery service within the Borough shall be permitted.

Section 2. That Chapter 28, entitled “Zoning,” of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown (the “Borough Code”) is hereby amended and supplemented in order to establish a new Section thereof, to be known as Section 28-12, entitled “Cannabis,” as follows:

Section 28-12

CANNABIS

Subsections:

28-12-1 Scope and Purpose; Authority.

28-12-2 Cannabis Operations Prohibited.

Subsection 28-12-1 Scope and Purpose; Authority.

The purpose of this ordinance is to prohibit, within the geographical boundaries of the Borough, the location and/or operation of all classes of cannabis establishments or cannabis distributors or cannabis delivery services, as said terms are defined in section 3 of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act (P.L. 2021, c. 16) (the “Act”), but not the delivery of cannabis items and related supplies by a delivery service.

This ordinance is adopted pursuant to the authority set forth in section 31b of the Act.

Subsection 28-12-2 Cannabis Operations Prohibited.

The location and/or operation of all classes of cannabis establishments or cannabis distributors or cannabis delivery services, as said terms are defined in section 3 of the Act, but not the delivery of cannabis items and related supplies by a delivery service, is hereby prohibited within the geographical boundaries of the Borough.

Section 3. That this Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

Section 4. That all other Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 5. That, 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 2021-072 Authorizing Payment of Bills

Moved by Councilmember Musing; Seconded by Councilmember Cicalese.

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

Resolution adopted 6-0.

Resolution 2021-072

*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 \$950,157.89 from the following accounts:

Current		\$850,025.47
W/S Operating		77,838.91
General Capital		21,093.51
Water/Sewer Capital		1,200.00
Grant		0.00
Trust		0.00
Unemployment Trust		0.00
Animal Control		0.00
Law Enforcement Trust		0.00
Tax Lien Trust		0.00
Public Defender Trust		0.00
Escrow		<u>0.00</u>
Total		<u>\$950,157.89</u>

Resolution 2021-073 Awarding a Contract for Water Treatment Plant Emergency Generator and Flood Gates – Advanced Control Systems

Moved by Councilmember Misiura; Seconded by Councilmember Jackson.

Borough Administrator/Clerk, Debra Sopronyi, explained that this award is funded by FEMA or the mitigation of the Water Plant from Hurricane Irene.

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

Resolution adopted 6-0.

Resolution 2021-073
*BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN
 COUNTY OF MERCER
 STATE OF NEW JERSEY*

AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR WATER TREATMENT PLANT EMERGENCY GENERATOR AND FLOOD GATES – ADVANCED CONTROL SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, three (3) bids were received on April 15, 2021, for the Water Treatment Plant Emergency Generator and Flood Gates; and

WHEREAS, the bids have been reviewed by the Borough Engineer and it is the Engineer’s recommendation that a

contract for the Water Treatment Plant Emergency Generator and Flood Gates be awarded to the low bidder, Advanced Control Systems of Manalapan, New Jersey at the price of \$448,600.00; and

WHEREAS, this project is funded by a grant through FEMA, the award of this contract is conditional upon approval by FEMA; and

WHEREAS, the execution of this contract is subject to the review and approval of the Borough Attorney to assure that the bid submitted by Advanced Control Systems is in order with respect to legal compliance; and,

WHEREAS, the CFO has certified that funds are available for this purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the contract for the Water Treatment Plant Emergency Generator and Flood Gates be awarded to the low bidder, Advanced Control Systems of Manalapan, New Jersey at the price of \$448,600.00.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Misiura moved Resolutions 2021-074; 2021-075 and 2021-076 as a Consent Agenda; Councilmember Cicalese seconded.

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

Resolutions adopted 6-0.

Resolution 2021-074

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

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH

WHEREAS, Community Action connects individuals and families to approaches that help them succeed and promotes community-wide solutions to challenges throughout our cities, suburbs, and rural areas; and

WHEREAS, Community Action builds and promotes economic stability as an essential aspect of enabling and enhancing stronger communities, which in turn promotes self-sufficiency, ensuring that all Americans are able to live in dignity; and

WHEREAS, Community Action connects millions of children and families to greater opportunity, transforming their lives and making our communities — and our nation— stronger; and

WHEREAS, Community Action serves 99% of America's counties in rural, suburban, and urban communities, offering life-changing services that create pathways to prosperity by connecting families to job training, affordable housing, utility assistance for seniors, promoting community-wide solutions and sharing expertise; and

WHEREAS, Community Action will continue to implement innovative programs that create a greater chance at success for everyone, will continue to focus on a broader range of community challenges to ignite economic growth and ensure all families can benefit, and will continue to be a voice for the disenfranchised.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council, of the Borough of Hightstown do hereby recognize May 2021 as COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH in recognition of the hard work and dedication of all Rise - a Community Action Service Center.

Resolution 2021-075

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

**AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS
PRIOR TO ADOPTION OF THE 2021 BUDGET**

WHEREAS, an emergent condition has arisen with respect to inadequate appropriation balances remaining in some line items of the 2021 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 2021 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	97,000.00	885,497.00	982,497.00
Capital Outlay – Current	0.00	0.00	0.00
Debt Service – Current	0.00	0.00	0.00
Water/Sewer	70,000.00	407,966.00	477,966.00
Capital Outlay – W/S	0.00	0.00	0.00
Debt Service - W/S	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	167,000.00	1,293,463.00	1,460,463.00

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 2021 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.

Borough of Hightstown

Emergency Temporary No. 3

5/3/2021

SCHEDULE A

Current Fund

Administrative and Executive	Salaries and Wages	6,000.00
Municipal Court	Salaries and Wages	2,000.00
Planning Board	Salaries and Wages	4,000.00
Parks and Recreation	Salaries and Wages	3,000.00
Telephone	Other Expenses	2,000.00
Gas Heating Oil	Other Expenses	2,000.00
Vehicle Maintenance (Robbinsville)	Other Expenses	4,000.00
Group Health Insurance	Other Expenses	60,000.00
Tree Grant	Other Expenses	14,000.00
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Total Current Fund		97,000.00

Water-Sewer Operating Fund

Other Expenses		70,000.00
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Total Water Sewer Operating		70,000.00
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Total		167,000.00

Resolution 2021-076
BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN
COUNTY OF MERCER
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM CONSORTIUM WITH THE COUNTY OF MERCER

WHEREAS, the Hightstown Borough Governing Body previously adopted Resolution 2015-72 which authorized the Borough of Hightstown to enter into an Agreement with The County of Mercer, regarding Hightstown

Borough's participation in the Home Consortium Investment Partnership Program; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement was executed by the parties on February 17, 2015; and

WHEREAS, on May 28, 2015, the parties executed a revised Recertification Agreement which added language previously omitted, as required by the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the revised Recertification Agreement, the County of Mercer must notify participants of their right to participate in the next three (3) year HOME Consortium qualification period and Hightstown Borough must affirmatively acknowledge its desire continue to be a member of the Consortium; and

WHEREAS, in a letter dated April 8, 2021, the County of Mercer notified Hightstown Borough of its right to participate in the next three (3) year HOME Consortium period which will run from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the Borough of Hightstown desires to continue to be a member of the Mercer County Consortium HOME Investment Partnership Program for the next three (3) year period which will run from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS

Do Not Solicit Ordinance

Borough Administrator/Clerk, Debra Sopronyi, stated that as more and more Covid restrictions are being lifted, we cannot refrain from issuing solicitation permits. This will give the residents an option to have people not solicit at their home. This would be enforced by the Police Department. After discussion Council agreed that this is a good idea and would like to see it introduced at the May 17th meeting.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Councilmember Cicalese

Complete Streets - NV5 is working on the mobility study and looked into the feasibility of a circle at Franklin Street and Main Street. They have concluded that this is not possible but will continue to look at different approaches. May 15th will be Bike Night at the Brewery. May is pedestrian bike safety month. Earlier this week the Mayor signed proclamation for Pedestrian Bike Safety Month.

Both the Board of Health and Parks and Rec will meet next week.

Council President Bluth

Cultural Arts Commission – Will be putting together a 2022 wall calendar for the 300 anniversary with historic sites in the Borough and renderings how the sites look today. They are currently looking for artists. The calendars will be available for purchase in October.

Councilmember Fowler

Environmental Commission - Received a grant to plant 43 trees on North and South Main Street. They have received County and State approval to have the trees planted. They will be asking for an extension for the Sustainable Jersey Certification. The Community Garden and rain garden has had a tremendous amount of work done by Jason Shumpsky as part of his Eagle Scout Project.

Downtown Hightstown - will be having a Hightstown Happening weekend long event June 10 - 13 which will be kicked off by the Historical Society Waking Tour.

Councilmember Misiura

Spoke to First Aid and advised them to attend the budget meeting next week.

Councilmember Jackson

HPC - will be meeting on the 20th of this month.

In the last 2 months we have seen 4 ribbon cutting in downtown. It is great to see so many new businesses opening in the Borough

Borough Administrator/Clerk, Debra Sopronyi

The office has been very busy with the many projects happening in town. Covid restrictions are lessening everyday. Covid data will begin being listed by municipality.

Mayor Quattrone

Stockton Street - Getting complaints that there is no curb or sidewalk.

Cannabis - we need answers, and we need them soon.

Thanked council for everything they are doing.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 2021-077 Authorizing a Meeting that Excludes the Public

Moved by Councilmember Fowler; Seconded by Councilmember Cicalese.

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

Resolution adopted 6-0.

Resolution 2021-077

*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 May 3, 2021, via www.zoom.com, 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:

Attorney Client Privilege

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 August 3, 2021, 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 reconvened into Public Session at 8:13 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councilmember Fowler at 8:14 p.m.; Seconded by Councilmember Cicalese. All ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret M. Riggio
Deputy Borough Clerk