

Meeting Minutes
Hightstown Borough Council
June 7, 2021
6:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Quattrone at 6:31 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 Quattrone</i>	✓	

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

The Flag Salute followed roll call.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councilmember Musing; Seconded by Councilmember Jackson.

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

Agenda approved 6-0.

ENGINEERING ITEMS

Improvements to Stockton and Joseph Street

Borough Engineer, Carmela Roberts reviewed her letter to Council dated May 21, 2021. The Borough has expressed interest in expanding the improvements to Stockton Street to include new curbs and sidewalks from Oak Lane to the Borough limits to the west. The estimated cost for this additional work is \$289,225.00 which includes \$110,000 for police traffic control. Engineering costs would be \$29,000.00. Ms. Roberts stated that we need a

decision to allow for Mercer County to prepare for paving. If we move forward with the project, the County will delay paving Stockton Street until the project is complete. Discussion ensued. There was a question regarding the amount for police coverage. Ms. Roberts explained that there is a need for traffic control. We cannot just close the road and detour traffic. Council was in agreement that this project needs to be completed. Borough Administrator, Debra Sopronyi and CFO, George Lang will investigate if there are funds left in previous bond ordinances for the additional costs. After further discussion, it was the consensus of Council to move forward with the additional improvements to Stockton Street. Ms. Roberts will alert the County so current paving of Stockton Street will stop at Oak Lane/Dutch Neck Road.

Railroad and Dye Project

Borough Engineer, Carmela Roberts, informed Council that this is an NJDOT funded improvement project that must be awarded by November 21, 2021. Ms. Roberts will need a decision on the scope of the project by the July 6th meeting in order to award the project by the November 21st deadline. Discussion ensued. It had been stated that we have received feedback from Complete Streets and the Environmental Commission. We have also received emails from residents objecting to the improvements specifically having the primary entrance and exit of the new Borough Hall located there. They would like to see minimal impact on the greenway. Discussion ensued. There needs to be a way to get in and out of the building. A road will need to go through the greenway. Ms. Roberts will meet with the architect and civil engineer to discuss options and bring this back to Council.

NJDOT Municipal Aid Grant Recommendation

Borough Engineer, Carmela Roberts, reviewed her letter dated April 30, 2021. Ms. Roberts reviewed three project alternatives with Council. Applications are due July 1, 2021. The engineering cost to submit the application would not exceed \$4,500. Discussion ensued. Council instructed Ms. Roberts to move forward with Improvements to Orchard Avenue, Meadow Drive, Clover Lane, and South Main Street. The project would include new curbs and curb ramps as needed on Orchard Avenue, Meadow Drive, and Clover Lane, new sidewalk on one side of the road, storm sewer improvements, and milling and paving of the roadway. The new sidewalks will tie into existing sidewalks that were constructed at Etra Road in 2016 and to new sidewalks at Schuyler Avenue which are anticipated for construction in Summer 2021. The improvements at South Main Street would only include curb replacement as needed and new sidewalks on the east side where none currently exist between Springcrest Drive and Leshin Lane. Council will memorialize this decision by resolution at the next Council meeting.

NJDOT Application for Safe Routes to Schools FY2022

Borough Engineer, Carmela Roberts, reviewed her letter dated June 1, 2021. If Council chooses to move forward with an application, the cost to prepare the application would not exceed \$7,000. Ms. Roberts is requesting direction for this application at the July 6, 2021, meeting.

Ms. Roberts departed the meeting at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT I

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

Gene Sarafin, 628 South Main Street - Stated that it was interesting to see the cannabis discussion on Facebook. Council wisely decided to take time to make a good decision. We only voted to legalize the substance in the November election. Spoke against the republicans. Stated that he would like to see council meetings continue to broadcast on www.zoom.com.

Jan Gunthrie 425 Stockton Street - Thanked Council for the moving ahead with sidewalks on Stockton Street.

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

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2021-07 Final Reading and Public Hearing – An Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Chapter 4, Entitled “Licensing,” of the “Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown, New Jersey,” Relating to Peddlers, Solicitors and Canvassers

Mayor Quattrone opened the public hearing and the following individuals spoke:

Gene Sarafin, 628 South Main Street – Thinks this is a brilliant ordinance.

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

Moved for adoption by Councilmember Bluth; Seconded by Councilmember Fowler.

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

Ordinance adopted 6-0.

ORDINANCE 2021-07
BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN
COUNTY OF MERCER
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 4, ENTITLED “LICENSING,” OF THE “REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN, NEW JERSEY,” RELATING TO PEDDLERS, SOLICITORS AND CANVASSERS

WHEREAS, the existing licensing regulations of the Borough of Hightstown (the “Borough”) as pertains to peddlers, solicitors and canvassers are set forth in Chapter 4, entitled “Licensing,” of the “Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown, New Jersey;” and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council wish to make certain revisions thereto relating to a resident’s right to privacy and quiet as pertains to peddlers, solicitors and canvassers.

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

Section 1. Chapter 4, entitled “Licensing,” Section 4-2, entitled “Peddlers”, and Section 4-3, entitled “Solicitors and Canvassers”, of the “Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown, New Jersey,” are hereby amended and supplemented by adding the following:

DO NOT SOLICIT LIST

- A. All residents of the Borough may register their name and address with the Borough Clerk together with a request to be placed on the “Do-Not-Solicit” list to be maintained by the Borough. The list shall register residents who do not wish to be approached at their residence or within the perimeter of their property by any peddler, solicitor or canvasser without exception.
- B. All residents who have registered on the “Do-Not-Solicit” list may obtain from the Borough Clerk

at no charge a sticker for display on their property warning that the property is on a No-Solicit list. Display of a sticker is not required for enforcement of the “Do-Not-Solicit” ban.

- C. It shall be unlawful for a peddler, solicitor or canvasser to approach or seek personal contact with the occupant of any residence either at the residence or within the perimeter of the property if the residence is registered on an applicable “Do-Not-Solicit” list. All nonprofit, religious, or political groups canvassing exclusively door-to-door shall be exempt from the prohibitions of this section.
- D. All peddlers, solicitors and canvassers shall be required to obtain the most current applicable “Do-Not-Solicit” list from the Borough Clerk when acquiring their license to operate.
- E. Violation of this ordinance shall be a \$100 fine and revocation of the license to operate in the Borough. Revocation of the license shall be applicable to the company to which the license is issued and includes all employees working under same.
- F. Residents shall remain on the Do-Not-Solicit list until they request to be removed or move from the registered address.
- G. The Borough Clerk shall maintain the “Do-Not-Solicit” list and provide a current copy to all who receive a license as a peddler, solicitor or canvasser. The Clerk shall thereafter provide these individuals with updated copies of the lists upon request.
- H. This ordinance shall not be applicable to non-profit and/or political groups
- I. The Borough Clerk shall also maintain copies of the lists on the Borough website.
- J. The Police Department shall be responsible for enforcement of this ordinance and the Borough Clerk shall forward copies of the lists and list updates to the Chief of Police for enforcement purposes.

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

Section 4. This Ordinance shall become effective upon final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2021-082 Authorizing Payment of Bills

Moved by Councilmember Musing; Seconded by Councilmember Misiura.

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

Resolution adopted 5-0 with 1 abstention.

Resolution 2021-082

*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 \$1,041,911.73 from the following accounts:

Resolution 2021-083 Appointing and Authorizing an Agreement for Professional Legal Services, Special Counsel – Timothy J. McNichols (Dasti, Murphy, McGuckin, Ulaky, Koutsouris & Connors)	Current		\$944,323.87
	W/S Operating		54,627.36
	General Capital		132.00
	Water/Sewer Capital		39,970.00
	Grant		0.00
	Trust		950.00
	Unemployment Trust		0.00
	Animal Control		96.00
	Law Enforcement Trust		0.00
	Tax Lien Trust		0.00
	Public Defender Trust		0.00
	Escrow		<u>1,812.50</u>
Total		<u>\$1,041,911.73</u>	

Moved by Councilmember Bluth; Seconded by Councilmember Cicalese.

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

Resolution adopted 6-0.

Resolution 2021-083
*BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN
COUNTY OF MERCER
STATE OF NEW JERSEY*

**APPOINTING AND AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL
LEGAL SERVICES, SPECIAL COUNSEL – TIMOTHY J. MCNICHOLS (DASTI,
MURPHY, MCGUCKIN, ULAKY, KOUTSOURIS & CONNORS)**

WHEREAS, there exists the need for professional legal services, special counsel representation with respect to the municipal appeal filed in the matter of State v. Mary Beth Colvell; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council wishes to appoint Timothy J. McNichols, Esq. of Dasti, Murphy, McGuckin, Ulaky, Koutsouris & Connors of Toms River, New Jersey as Special Counsel; and

WHEREAS, the cost for the proposed services shall be \$175.00 per hour; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose will be made available in the 2021 and future budgets as necessary; and,

WHEREAS, a forthcoming agreement will be in a form acceptable to the Borough Attorney; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law authorizes the awarding of a contract for “professional services” without public advertising for bids and bidding, provided that the Resolution authorizing the contract and the contract itself are available for public inspection in the office of the Municipal Clerk and that notice of the awarding of the contract be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the value of this contract may exceed \$17,500, and therefore the contract is also subject to the provisions of the State’s Local Unit Pay-to-Play Law, N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4, *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the term of this contract is for the completion of the municipal appeal filed in the matter of State v. Mary Beth Colvell; and

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

WHEREAS, the firm of Dasti, Murphy, McGuckin, Ulaky, Koutsouris & Connors. has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification pursuant to the Local Unit Pay-to-Play law (specifically, at N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.8), and has further submitted a certification that the firm is in compliance with the Borough’s own Pay-to-Play ordinance (Section 2-59 of the *Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown*);

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

1. That the Mayor is authorized to execute and the Borough Clerk to attest an Agreement between the Borough of Hightstown and Timothy J. McNichols. regarding the above-referenced professional legal services, as set forth herein.
2. That this contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Service" in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a) of the Local Public Contracts Law because of Dasti, Murphy, McGuckin, Ulaky, Koutsouris & Connors is a firm whose attorneys are authorized by law to practice a recognized profession.
3. That this contract is being awarded in accordance with the Local Unit Pay-to-Play Law and Section 2-59 of the *Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown*, and the Business Disclosure Entity Certification, and other certifications required pursuant to same shall be placed on file with the contract.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Musing moved Resolutions 2021-084, 2021-085, 2021-086, 2021-087, 2021-088 as a Consent Agenda; Councilmember Fowler seconded.

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

Resolutions adopted 6-0.

Resolution 2021-084

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

**AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE #1104-32-001-006
WINE DEPOT CORPORATION, T/A HEDY'S LIQUORS AND JOE CANAL'S
DISCOUNT LIQUOR OUTLET**

WHEREAS, Wine Depot Corporation has made application to the Borough for renewal of their Plenary Retail Consumption License with Broad Package Privilege License #1104-32-001-006, together with the required fees; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey Division of Taxation has certified, by issuance of an ABC Retail Licensee Clearance Certificate, that Wine Depot Corporation is in compliance with Chapter 161, Laws of New Jersey 1995, and that they have no objections to the renewal of this license; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department has been consulted and has no objections to renewal of this license.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the Municipal Clerk is hereby authorized to issue the following Alcoholic Beverage License to Wine Depot Corporation, doing business as Hedy's Liquors and Joe Canal's Discount Liquor Outlet at 500 Mercer Street:

**2021-2022 Plenary Retail Consumption License with Broad Package Privilege
License #1104-32-001-006
Fee: \$2,500.00**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

Resolution 2021-085

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

**AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE #1104-44-002-011
HIGHTSTOWN LIQUORS & WINES, LLC**

WHEREAS, Hightstown Liquors & Wines, LLC has made application to the Borough for renewal of their Plenary Retail Distribution License #1104-44-002-011, together with the required fees; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey Division of Taxation has certified, by issuance of an ABC Retail Licensee Clearance Certificate, that Hightstown Liquors & Wines, LLC, is in compliance with Chapter 161, Laws of New Jersey 1995, and that they have no objections to renewal of said license; and

WHEREAS, the Police Chief has been consulted and has no objections to renewal of this license.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the Municipal Clerk is hereby authorized to issue the following Alcoholic Beverage License to Hightstown Liquors & Wines, LLC, doing business as Hightstown Liquor at 107 Stockton Street:

**2021-2022 Plenary Retail Distribution License
License #1104-44-002-011
Fee: \$2,500.00**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution will be forwarded to the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

Resolution 2021-086

*BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN
COUNTY OF MERCER*

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

**APPROVAL TO EXECUTE AND SUBMIT REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION WITH
THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS,
DIVISION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES (DLGS) FOR FUNDING
PROVIDED BY THE FEDERAL AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021**

WHEREAS, The Federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, signed into law on March 11, 2021, was enacted to provide funding for COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery; and

WHEREAS, Local Fiscal Recovery Fund proceeds for municipalities that are not classified as metropolitan cities under the Act (population less than 50,000); also called non-entitlement units of local government (NEUs) will be distributed by the State Treasury who will serve as intermediary; and

WHEREAS, NEUs must submit a Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Distribution Request and Certification Form and Terms and Conditions Agreement to the New Jersey Division of Local Government Services in order to request initial payment from the State; and

WHEREAS, All Local Fiscal Recovery Fund recipients must execute Assurances of Compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act; and

WHEREAS, it may be required that additional documentation and signatures are required throughout the process of acquiring the appropriate funding as allocated to the Borough.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Administrator is hereby authorized to sign and submit on behalf of the Borough of Hightstown the documents required to request the initial funding allocated to Hightstown Borough under the Federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Resolution 2021-087

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

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN, IN THE COUNTY OF
MERCER, NEW JERSEY, DETERMINING THE FORM AND OTHER DETAILS
OF ITS “NOTE RELATING TO THE CONSTRUCTION FINANCING LOAN
PROGRAM OF THE NEW JERSEY INFRASTRUCTURE BANK”, TO BE
ISSUED IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF UP TO \$70,820, AND PROVIDING
FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF SUCH NOTE TO THE NEW JERSEY
INFRASTRUCTURE BANK, AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND
DELIVERY OF SUCH NOTE BY THE BOROUGH IN FAVOR OF THE NEW
JERSEY INFRASTRUCTURE BANK, ALL PURSUANT TO THE NEW JERSEY
INFRASTRUCTURE BANK CONSTRUCTION FINANCING LOAN PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hightstown (the “Local Unit”), in the County of Mercer, New Jersey, is making improvements, including the application of paint and repairs to the First Avenue water tank, Leshin Lane Standpipe and the Cranbury Station water tank and related design costs, including all related costs and expenditures incidental thereto and further including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto (the “Project”), and it is the desire of the Local Unit to obtain financing for such Project through participation in the environmental infrastructure financing program (the “New Jersey Water Bank”) of the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank (the “I-Bank”);

WHEREAS, the Local Unit has determined to undertake a proposed temporary financing with the proceeds of a short-term loan to be made by the I-Bank (the “Construction Loan”) to the Local Unit, pursuant to the Construction Financing Loan Program of the I-Bank (the “Construction Financing Loan Program”);

WHEREAS, in order to (i) evidence and secure the repayment obligation of the Local Unit to the I-Bank with respect to the Construction Loan and (ii) satisfy the requirements of the Construction Financing Loan Program, it is the desire of the Local Unit to issue and sell to the I-Bank the “Note Relating to the Construction Financing Loan Program of the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank” in an aggregate principal amount of up to \$70,820 (the “Note”);

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Local Unit to authorize, execute, attest and deliver the Note to the I-Bank pursuant to the terms of the Local Bond Law of the State of New Jersey, constituting Chapter 2 of Title 40A of the Revised Statutes of the State of New Jersey (the “Local Bond Law”), and other applicable law; and

WHEREAS, Section 28 of the Local Bond Law allows for the sale of the Note to the I-Bank, without any public offering, and N.J.S.A. 58:11B-9 allows for the sale of the Note to the I-Bank without any public offering, all under the terms and conditions set forth therein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the Local Unit as follows:

Section 1. In accordance with Section 28 of the Local Bond Law and N.J.S.A. 58:11B-9, the Local Unit hereby authorizes the issuance, sale and award the Note in accordance with the provisions hereof. The obligation represented by the Note has been appropriated and authorized by bond ordinance 2020-16, finally adopted on December 7, 2020 (the “Bond Ordinance”) authorizing an aggregate amount of \$70,820 of bonds, and any notes issued in anticipation thereof, for the Project. A quorum was present and acted throughout the Bond Ordinance, all pursuant to the terms of the Local Bond Law and other applicable law.

Section 2. The Chief Financial Officer of the Local Unit (the “Chief Financial Officer”) is hereby authorized to determine, in accordance with the Local Bond Law and pursuant to the terms and conditions hereof, (i) the final principal amount of the Note (subject to the maximum limitation set forth in Section 4(a) hereof), and (ii) the dated date of the Note.

Section 3. Any determination made by the Chief Financial Officer pursuant to the terms hereof shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution and attestation of the Note by the parties authorized pursuant to Section 4(h) hereof.

Section 4. The Local Unit hereby determines that certain terms of the Note shall be as follows:

- (a) the principal amount of the Note to be issued shall be an amount up to \$70,820;
- (b) the maturity of the Note shall be as determined by the I-Bank;
- (c) the interest rate of the Note shall be as determined by the I-Bank;
- (d) the purchase price for the Note shall be par;
- (e) the Note shall be subject to prepayment prior to its stated maturity in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Note;
- (f) the Note shall be issued in a single denomination and shall be numbered “CFP-2021-2”;
- (g) the Note shall be issued in fully registered form and shall be payable to the registered owner thereof as to both principal and interest in lawful money of the United States of America; and
- (h) the Note shall be executed by the manual or facsimile signatures of the Mayor and the Chief Financial Officer under official seal or facsimile thereof affixed, printed, engraved or reproduced thereon and attested by the manual signature of the Local Unit Clerk.

Section 5. The Note shall be substantially in the form provided by the I-Bank.

Section 6. The law firm of McManimon, Scotland and Baumann, LLC is hereby authorized to arrange for the printing of the Note, which law firm may authorize McCarter & English, LLP, bond counsel to the I-Bank for the

Construction Loan Financing Program, to arrange for same.

Section 7. The Authorized Officers of the Local Unit are hereby further severally authorized to (i) execute and deliver, and the Local Unit Clerk is hereby further authorized to attest to such execution and to affix the corporate seal of the Local Unit to, any document, instrument or closing certificate deemed necessary, desirable or convenient by the Authorized Officers or the Secretary of the Local Unit, as applicable, in their respective sole discretion, after consultation with counsel and any advisors to the Local Unit and after further consultation with the I-Bank and its representatives, agents, counsel and advisors, to be executed in connection with the issuance and sale of the Note and the participation of the Local Unit in the Construction Financing Loan Program, which determination shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution of each such certificate or other document by the party authorized hereunder to execute such certificate or other document, and (ii) perform such other actions as the Authorized Officers deem necessary, desirable or convenient in relation to the execution and delivery of the Note and the participation of the Local Unit in the Construction Financing Loan Program and to prepay the Notes.

Section 8. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Section 9. Upon the adoption hereof, the Local Unit Clerk shall forward certified copies of this resolution to McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC, bond counsel to the Local Unit, David Zimmer, Executive Director of the I-Bank, and Richard T. Nolan, Esq., McCarter & English, LLP, bond counsel to the I-Bank.

Resolution 2021-088

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

**AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE #1104-33-003-009
PALUMBO RESTAURANTS, T/A TAVERN ON THE LAKE**

WHEREAS, Palumbo Restaurants, Inc. T/A Tavern on the Lake has made application to the Borough for renewal of their Plenary Retail Consumption License #1104-33-003-009, together with the required fees; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey Division of Taxation has certified, by issuance of an ABC Retail Licensee Clearance Certificate, that Palumbo Restaurants Inc. is in compliance with Chapter 161, Laws of New Jersey 1995, and that they have no objections to the renewal of this license; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department has been consulted and has no objections to renewal of this license;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the Municipal Clerk is hereby authorized to issue the following Alcoholic Beverage License to Palumbo Restaurants, Inc., doing business as Tavern on the Lake at 101-103 Main Street:

**2021-2022 Plenary Retail Consumption License
License #1104-33-003-009
Fee: \$2,500.00**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

NEW BUSINESS

Return to in person meetings

Discussion ensued regarding returning to in person meetings.

Councilmember Bluth - Stated that other municipalities are resuming in person meetings and would like to return to in person meetings also.

Councilmember Cicalese - Stated that he would like members of the public to be able to still attend meetings virtually once we resume in person meetings. He would like to stay virtual for now for the public to remain safe.

Councilmember Jackson - Stated that while he would like to return to in person meetings, he understands people's apprehension. He doesn't feel we are ready to return to live meetings yet.

Councilmember Musing - He agrees with Councilmember Jackson and understands the apprehension. Moving forward we need to get the equipment needed to handle the new normal. At some point we will have to make a decision to open back up. Maybe it still is a little premature. We will need a plan to return to normal.

Councilmember Fowler - Stated that she understands that it may not be feasible just yet, but when we are ready to resume live meetings, she is happy to work with the Clerk's office to broadcast the meetings so the public can continue to attend virtually. She agrees that the meetings should stay virtual a little longer.

Councilmember Misiura - Stated that he is ready to return to live in person meetings.

Staff to Return to the Office Full-time

Borough Administrator, Debra Sopronyi, stated that she does not think that staff should come back full time at this time. We have been working in a hybrid manner since the beginning of the pandemic and the hybrid manner is continuing to be successful. We are encouraging everyone to get vaccinated. We need to give staff some time to get comfortable with things opening up.

Councilmember Bluth - Stated that she feels that everyone should be back in the office full time with Covid protocols in place.

Councilmember Jackson - Stated that he agrees with Ms. Sopronyi. It is important that we put a plan in place to get back to normal. We should not rush things.

Councilmember Cicalese - Believes it is too early to make that decision. He agrees with Ms. Sopronyi.

Councilmember Misiura - We need the staff to return full time. Maybe not right away but a plan needs to be put into place. We need to start to return to normal.

Councilmember Musing - Questioned how we evaluate employee performance, pre-covid, post-covid. If hybrid schedules are working, do we need a new facility?

Mayor Quattrone - Stated that Administrator Sopronyi will put a plan together for Council to review and vote on before a decision is made to return to in person meetings and staff returning to the office full time.

300 Anniversary/Labor Day Events

Councilmember Cicalese would like to try to do a 300th Anniversary Celebration this fall. Discussion ensued. Mayor Quattrone suggested Councilmember Cicalese speak with the Historical Society to see if they would like to get involved.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Councilmember Fowler

Environmental Commission - Trees have been planted on Main Street.

Downtown Hightstown - Hightstown Happenings is this weekend. Each downtown business will be planning their own events from June 10th - June 13th.

Councilmember Musing

Stated that moving forward with reopening is the right thing to do.

Councilmember Misiura

Complete Streets - Has been notified that Hightstown received the Gold Certification for New Jersey Safe Routes. All of our work is being recognized by the State.

Councilmember Jackson

HPC - Planning to do walk through of Willis house. This should happen in the next month or two. They are still looking for a storage place for anything worth salvaging.

Councilmember Cicalese

We spoke about a lot of serious topics and had good discussion this evening. He is feeling positive about how we are moving forward.

Council President Bluth

Cultural Arts Commission - Will be meeting in person this Wednesday. She is looking forward to seeing the commission members again.

Borough Administrator, Debra Sopronyi

The administration office has been very busy with the Stockton Street project which is winding down. Stated that she will be retiring September 1st. She has enjoyed working with Hightstown and hopes to get as much done as possible before her departure.

Borough Attorney, Fred Raffetto

The ordinance subcommittee met via zoom. They are in the process of revisions that will be brought forward to Council.

Mayor Quattrone

Stated that he is still concerned with a backslide in Covid. Looks forward to review a plan for reopening.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 2021-089 Authorizing a Meeting that Excludes the Public

Moved by Councilmember Jackson; Seconded by Councilmember Fowler.

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

Resolution adopted 6-0.

Resolution 2021-089

*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 June 7, 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:

Contract Negotiations – Robbinsville

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 September 7, 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.

Councilmember Bluth moved to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:47 p.m. Councilmember Cicalese seconded. All ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

Council reconvened to public session at 9:25.

Councilmember Cicalese moved to adjourn at 9:26 p.m.; Councilmember Fowler seconded. All ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,



Margaret Riggio
Deputy Borough Clerk

ADOPTED: July 19, 2021