

Meeting Minutes
Hightstown Borough Council
July 26, 2021 – Budget Workshop
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 Cicaese</i>		✓
<i>Councilmember Cristina Fowler</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Joshua Jackson</i>		✓
<i>Councilmember Steven Misiura</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Frederick Montferrat</i>	✓	
<i>Mayor Quattrone</i>	✓	

Also in attendance: Margaret (Peggy) Riggio, Deputy Borough Clerk; Debra Sopronyi Borough Clerk/Administrator; Dimitri Musing and George Lang, CFO.

The Flag Salute followed roll call.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councilmember Bluth; Seconded by Councilmember Fowler.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Bluth, Fowler, Misiura and Montferrat voted yes.

Agenda approved 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT I

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

There being no public in attendance, Mayor Quattrone closed the public comment period.

DISCUSSION

Budget 2021

Water Sewer Budget

George Lang, CFO, explained that at the end of 2020, Water/Sewer was no longer self-liquidating and he anticipates a deficit. The deficit would be taken from the current fund. The reduced revenue is a result of cutting the intake of graywater at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Musing is looking at a rate increase which seems like a good idea.

Purchase of Police Car

Council President Bluth asked if it would be a better idea to put the purchase of the Police car back into Capital so the current budget wouldn't take such a hit. Mr. Lang explained that it is more expensive to bond this expense and it should be kept in the annual budget.

First Aid

Council President Bluth stated that she would like to see the First Aid Squad budget reduced. They are only answering about 1/3 of the calls. We are still paying Robbinsville and there is no limit to the amount calls that they will answer.

Councilmember Misiura stated the First Aid is moving in the right direction. They are not a full-time squad. Council needs to decide to shut down the squad or fund them for what they need.

Sneah, Captain of the First Aid Squad spoke about Robbinsville's response time. He stated that the squad is doing well. They have more members answering calls but it will cost more money.

Environmental Commission

Councilmember Bluth questioned the Environmental Commission Budget. It looks as though it has more than doubled. Mr. Lang will look at the line items more closely to see if there is anything that is also included in other line items.

ARP Funding

Mr. Lang advised that \$125,000 from ARP Funding is being used for revenue loss.

Police Budget

Mayor Quattrone advised Council that the Police Department is in need of additional administrative support. There needs to be back up and redundancy. Mr. Lang believes that we can budget this from October until the end of the year.

Mayor and Council Salary

Mr. Musing stated that salaries for Mayor and Council has not increased in over 12 years. He suggested a \$1,000 increase.

Mr. Lang will send an updated budget to Council in preparation for discussion and possible introduction at the August 2, 2021 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Bluth moved to adjourn at 8:32 p.m.; Councilmember Montferrat seconded. All ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret M. Riggio
Deputy Borough Clerk