

**Meeting Minutes  
Hightstown Borough Council  
October 28, 2021  
Special Meeting  
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](http://www.zoom.com).

The flag salute followed Roll Call.

	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<i>Councilmember Susan Bluth</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Joseph Cicalese</i>	ARRIVE LATE	
<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, Borough Clerk; Dimitri Musing, Borough Administrator, Police Chief Frank Gendron and Fred Raffetto, Borough Attorney.

The Flag Salute followed roll call.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by Councilmember Bluth; Seconded by Councilmember Jackson.

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

Agenda approved 4-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

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

**SPECIAL HEARING - Towing Ordinance Violations – LSC Mechanical**

Mayor Quattrone recused himself at this time and left the meeting. Council President Bluth began presiding over the meeting.

Borough Attorney, Fred Raffetto, explained that this is a hearing for towing violations against LSC Towing for fee violations against Borough Code regarding offenses which occurred July 29, 2021.

**Mariya Maister** explained how her mother's car was towed during a storm on July 29, 2021. After paying the bill and picking up the car, Ms. Maister's mother noticed duplicate and inaccurate charges on the bill. She contacted Borough Administrator, Dimitri Musing with her concerns.

**Deidre Misiura** explained that her daughter's car stalled in flooded water on Mercer Streeting during the rain storm on July 29, 2021. She called AAA to be towed and was informed the wait was over an hour. While waiting, Ms. Misiura was approached by a Hightstown Borough Police Officer and told that she could not wait for AAA. They dispatched a tow truck to remove her vehicle. After picking up and receiving the bill from LSC Mechanical, Ms. Misiura noticed several inaccuracies and over charges. She contacted Borough Administrator, Dimitri Musing with this information.

Mr. Musing forward both complaints to Chief Gendron pursuant to Hightstown Borough Code. Chief Gendron met with Mr. Jeffrey Lawton regarding the over charges. Mr. Lawton rectified the situation and refunded the individuals affected.

**Jeffrey Lawton, Owner, LSC Mechanical**. Apologized to Council and the individuals affected by this situation. He has had an issuing with hiring reliable staff. He never intended to hurt anyone financially.

Mr. Raffetto explained to Council that they have to ability to impose a fine of no more than \$1,000 and suspending LSC from the lowing list for no more than 3 months.

Discussion ensued.

**Councilmember Montferrat** - Does LSC have towing agreements with any neighboring towns.

**Mr. Lawton** - Current agreements with Hightstown and Robbinsville.

**Councilmember Jackson** - Stated that this sounds like this was not done maliciously. They were clerical errors that were corrected and refunded.

**Councilmember Montferrat** - Has Hightstown had any other complaints involving LSC in the past?

**Chief Gendron** - Only 1 a few years prior. LSC was using the wrong ordinance when charging. They were notified and the situation was rectified immediately and customers were refunded.

**Councilmember Fowler** - Where any other cars towed that evening in the Borough?

**Mr. Lawton** - Yes. 2 additional cars were towed. 1 car was brought to a repair show. There was a discount on the storage fee plus a veteran's discount. The other car was totaled and picked up by the insurance company.

**Councilmember Fowler** agrees with Councilmember Jackson. There was no malice intended.

**Council President Bluth** - Mr. Lawton sincerely apologized and rectified the bills. Asked Mr. Lawton to please be more careful with his billing.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Jackson moved to adjourn at 6:45 p.m.; seconded by Councilmember Cicalese. All ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,



Margaret M. Riggio  
Borough Clerk

Approved by Hightstown Borough Council: February 22, 2022