

Meeting Minutes
Hightstown Borough Council
September 19, 2022
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 Frederick Montferrat</i>	✓	
<i>Mayor Quattrone</i>	✓	

Also in attendance: Margaret (Peggy) Riggio, Borough Clerk; Dimitri Musing, Borough Administrator; Fred Raffetto, Borough Attorney and George Lang, CFO;

The Flag Salute followed roll call.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councilmember Montferrat; Seconded by Councilmember Fowler.

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

Agenda approved 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Eugene Sarafin, 628 South Main Street – Spoke about the Queens passing and spoke against President Trump.

Adam Welch, 2 Taylor Avenue – Here representing the Cultural Arts Commission. Thanked Dimitri for his help over the last 2 days. He is frustrated over cancellation of Porchfest. Doesn't understand why they couldn't use Association Park.

Peter Klapsogorge, 418 North Main Street - Spoke about safety issues in Hightstown. Traffic is a big issue affecting the quality of life. We cannot keep waiting on the County for action to be taken. The variable message sign by old Borough Hall should be moved and used to alert drivers that the 25-mph speed limit strictly enforced. He hopes that council takes this all seriously.

Jeff Epstein, 421 North Main Street – He noticed that yesterday, there was an 18-wheeler truck parked at The rug mill. We are not regulating trucks that are coming through town. The rug mill property is not being maintained. Something needs to be done.

There being further comments, Mayor Quattrone closed the public comment period.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2022-18 Final Reading and Public Hearing An Ordinance Establishing Regulations Relating to the Replacement of Lead and Galvanized Service Lines and Amending and Supplementing Chapter 19, Entitled “Water and Sewer,” of “The Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown” In Order to Establish a New Article 19-6 Thereof to be Known as “Replacement of Lead and Galvanized Service Lines

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

Eugene Sarafin, 628 South Main Street – Spoke in support of the Ordinance.

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

Moved for adoption by Councilmember Misiura; Seconded by Councilmember Fowler

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

Ordinance adopted 5-0 with 1 abstention.

ORDINANCE 2022-18

BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN
COUNTY OF MERCER
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE REPLACEMENT OF LEAD AND GALVANIZED SERVICE LINES AND AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 19, ENTITLED “WATER AND SEWER,” OF “THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN” IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A NEW ARTICLE 19-6 THEREOF TO BE KNOWN AS “REPLACEMENT OF LEAD AND GALVANIZED SERVICE LINES”

WHEREAS, the presence of lead in drinking water represents a threat to the public health, especially the health and development of New Jersey’s children; and

WHEREAS, pipes containing lead that connect water mains to homes and other buildings, often called lead service lines, are a primary source of lead in drinking water; and

WHEREAS, given the risk to public health, the New Jersey State Legislature has required that each public

water system replace all existing lead and galvanized service lines, including those existing on private property; and

WHEREAS, in order to protect the health and welfare of the citizens of the Borough of Hightstown, in the County of Mercer, and State of New Jersey (hereinafter the “Borough”), the Borough’s Mayor and Council implemented an inventory and replacement plan for any lead and galvanized service lines existing within the Borough; and

WHEREAS, to effectuate said plan, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 58:12A-39, the Borough hereby adopts this Ordinance to allow the Borough and/or the Borough’s water system, including any officials, employees and/or agents thereof, to enter any property within the Borough to perform lead and galvanized service line replacements, provided that the Borough serves appropriate notices upon the proper parties, as set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, on June 20, 2022, the Borough’s Mayor and Council adopted Resolution No. 2022-120, which established the official policy of the Borough relative to funding the costs associated with lead and galvanized service line replacements; specifically, the costs associated with lead/galvanized service line replacements shall be borne by all of the customers of the Borough-owned public community water system, rather than assessed to the property of specific property owners in the same manner as provided for the assessment of local improvements pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:56-1, *et seq.* Said determination was made in accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:12A-44(e).

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 19, entitled “Water and Sewer,” of “The Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown” (the “Borough Code”), is hereby amended and supplemented in certain limited respects, in order to establish a new Article 19-6, to be known as “Replacement of Lead and Galvanized Service Lines,” to read as follows:

Article 19-6. Replacement of Lead and Galvanized Service Lines.

§ 19-6-1. Purpose and Authority.

The Borough finds that the presence of lead in drinking water represents a threat to the public health and welfare of its citizens, and that pipes containing lead that connect water mains to homes and other buildings, called lead or galvanized service lines, are significant sources of lead in drinking water. As such, under the authority granted the Borough by N.J.S.A. 58:12A-38 and N.J.S.A. 58:12A-39, the Borough hereby declares its intent to identify and replace all lead and/or galvanized service lines within the Borough, including the authority to enter upon any property within the Borough to replace all existing lead and/or galvanized service lines, at the Borough’s cost and expense.

§ 19-6-2. Scope of Property Owner/Borough Responsibilities.

- A. This Chapter shall generally govern the respective responsibilities of the Borough and individual property owners as to all service lines within the Borough, except in the case of a “lead service line” to which this Article 19-6 shall specifically be applicable.
- B. A “lead service line” is a water supply connection that is made of, or lined with, a material consisting of lead, and which connects a water main to a building inlet. A lead pigtail, lead gooseneck, or other lead fitting shall be considered to be a lead service line, regardless of the composition of the service line or other portions of piping to which such piece is attached. A galvanized service line shall be considered to be a lead service line. A lead service line may be owned by the Borough, a property owner, or both.
- C. In the case of a “lead service line”, the Borough shall be responsible for replacement of all pipes, tubing, and fittings connecting its water main to a building or structure, including the water meter for the property. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:12A-44(e), the Borough has determined that all costs and expenses associated with the said replacement work shall be funded by the Borough, rather than assessed to specific property owner(s).

§ 19-6-3. Borough’s Right-of-Entry to Replace Lead Service Lines.

The Borough shall have the authority to enter any property within the Borough to perform a lead service line replacement, provided that the Borough provides the owner and any residents of the property with notice at least 72 hours before entering the property, unless in the case of an emergency as determined by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

A. For the purposes of this Subsection 19-6-3, notice to the owner and any residents of the property shall include an attempt to inform the owner and any residents in person of the date and time of the lead service line replacement, and if the owner or a resident is unable to be reached in person, the Borough shall send, by certified mail, a letter to the owner and any residents or post a written notice in a prominent location on the property which shall include:

- (1) The scheduled date and time of the lead service line replacement and who will be performing the replacement;
- (2) The likely extent of water service disruption;
- (3) The nearby locations where the municipality or a public water system is distributing supplementary drinking water, if any; and
- (4) Any remedies that the municipality shall take if the municipality or municipal water system, or an agent thereof, is unable to access the property.

B. In addition to the notice requirements set forth in this Subsection 19-6-3, the Borough shall send, by certified mail, the owner a letter after the completion of the replacement stating the approximate time that the replacement occurred, and providing a brief summary of the work performed.

Section 2. All parts and provisions of any Ordinance which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance shall be repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 3. The provisions of this Ordinance shall be severable. 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 the portion of the Ordinance actually adjudged invalid and shall not be deemed to affect the operation of any other portion thereof, which shall remain in full force and effect.

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

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2022-170 Authorizing Payment of Bills

Moved by Councilmember Montferrat; Seconded by Councilmember Jackson.

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

Resolution adopted 6-0.

Resolution 2022-170
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 \$158,526.66 from the following accounts:

Current		\$74,735.42	
W/S Operating		27,974.67	
General Capital		19,341.22	
Water/Sewer Capital		29,207.00	
Grant		865.00	
Trust		395.60	
Unemployment Trust		0.00	
Animal Control		0.00	
Law Enforcement Trust		0.00	
Tax Lien Trust		0.00	
Public Defender Trust		0.00	
Housing Trust		0.00	
Escrow		<u>6,007.75</u>	
Total		<u>\$158,526.66</u>	

Resolution 2022-171 Authorizing Payment No. 18 – The Musial Group, P.A. (Architectural and Contract Administration Services for Municipal Facilities Located at 230 Mercer Street)

Moved by Councilmember Cicalese; Seconded by Councilmember Misiura

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

Resolution adopted 6-0.

Resolution 2022-171
*BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN
COUNTY OF MERCER
STATE OF NEW JERSEY*

AUTHORIZING PAYMENT NO. 18 - THE MUSIAL GROUP, P.A.

**(ARCHITECTURAL AND CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR
MUNICIPAL FACILITIES LOCATED AT 230 MERCER STREET)**

WHEREAS, Resolution 2019-44, appointed the Musial Group as Architect and Contract Administrator for the municipal facilities project located at 230 Mercer Street; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2019-44 also authorized concept design at a cost not to exceed \$40,000; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2019-115, adopted on June 3, 2019, authorized the remainder of the project at a total cost not to exceed \$459,895.00; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2020-40, adopted on January 21, 2020, amended the contract to not exceed \$472,895.00 without further authorization of the Governing Body; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2020-153, adopted on August 3, 2020, amended the contact to not exceed \$511,995.00 without further authorization of the Governing Body; and

WHEREAS, the architect has submitted payment request No. 18 for professional services for July 31, 2022 – August 27, 2022 in the total amount of \$39,105.61.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the payment request to The Musial Group, P.A. of Mountainside, New Jersey in the amount of \$39,105.61, is hereby approved as detailed herein, and the Deputy CFO is authorized to issue same.

Resolution 2022-172 Authorizing the Borough of Hightstown to Hire One New Full-Time Regular Police Officer

Moved by Councilmember Bluth; Seconded by Councilmember Fowler.

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

Resolution adopted 6-0.

Resolution 2022-172

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

**AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN TO HIRE ONE NEW FULL-TIME
REGULAR POLICE OFFICER**

WHEREAS, in order to maintain the health, safety and welfare of the public at large, the Hightstown Borough Council has determined that it is necessary to hire a rank and file police officer for the Borough; and

WHEREAS, Section 2-19.8 of the “Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown, New Jersey,” governs the procedure relating to application for, and appointment to, the position of police officer of any rank within the Borough; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Subsection 2-19.8(b), the Chief has recommended that the Borough Council appoint Colin M. Geraghty as a Hightstown Borough Police Officer; and

WHEREAS, the employment of appointee Colin Geraghty shall be conditioned upon his passing all applicable Borough requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Hightstown Borough Council believes that the hiring of the new police officer as referenced above is in the best interests of the health, safety and welfare of the Borough's residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT 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 individual referenced above is hereby appointed to serve as full-time regular police officer for the Borough of Hightstown, contingent upon the conditions set forth in this Resolution.
2. That the employment of the new officer shall be conditioned upon passing all applicable Borough requirements.
3. That all other terms and conditions of employment relating to the new hire shall be as set forth in the existing FOP Agreement and/or Borough Personnel Policy.
4. That all appropriate Borough officials are hereby authorized and directed to take all appropriate actions in furtherance of the intentions set forth in this Resolution.
5. That a certified copy of this Resolution shall be provided to each of the following:
 - a. Appointee Colin M. Geraghty;
 - b. Police Chief Frank Gendron;
 - c. Police Commissioner Susan Bluth;
 - d. Robert Merryman, Borough Labor Counsel; and
 - e. Frederick C. Raffetto, Esq., Borough Attorney

Resolution 2022-173 Appointing a Qualified Purchasing Agent

Moved by Councilmember Jackson Seconded by Councilmember Fowler.

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

Resolution adopted 6-0.

Resolution 2022-173

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

APPOINTING A QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3a permits an increase in the bid threshold if a Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) is appointed as well as granted the authorization to negotiate and award such contracts below the bid threshold; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:34-5 et seq. establishes the criteria for qualifying a Qualified Purchasing Agent and,

WHEREAS, with the adoption of Resolution 2021-121, Margaret Riggio was appointed Temporary QPA following the retirement of Debra Sopronyi; and

WHEREAS, on August 7, 2022, Ms. Riggio was notified that she successfully completed the examination for a Qualified Purchasing Agent Certificate from the Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Riggio now possesses the designation of Qualified Purchasing Agent as issued by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:34-5 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, Hightstown Borough desires to continue to take advantage of the increased bid threshold.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Hightstown, hereby appoints Margaret Riggio as the Qualified Purchasing Agent to exercise the duties of a purchasing agent pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11- 2(30), with specific relevance to the authority, responsibility, and accountability of the purchasing activity of the contracting unit; and increases its bid threshold, the amount of which shall not exceed the statutory maximum bid threshold; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:34-5.2 the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution and a copy of Margaret Riggio’s certification to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

Resolution 2022-174 Requesting the State of New Jersey Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program be Modified to Provide Additional Funding

Moved by Councilmember Misiura; Seconded by Councilmember Fowler

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

Resolution adopted 5-0 with 1 abstention.

Resolution 2022-174

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

**REQUESTING THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY CLEAN WATER AND
DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROGRAM BE
MODIFIED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING**

WHEREAS, Hightstown Borough has a population of approximately 5,500 residents and provides water and sewer service through a Municipally owned department; and

WHEREAS, Hightstown Borough makes a diligent effort to maintain its water system to prevent it from excessive degradation and has never exceeded contaminants limits within its water system; and

WHEREAS, Hightstown Borough has participated in the NANO Program to continue to make needed improvements to its water and sewer systems on a regular basis; and

WHEREAS, the current NANO Loan Forgiveness Program maxes out at \$1,000,000 with a loan forgiveness of 50% or \$500,000; and

WHEREAS, Hightstown Borough is currently dealing with the State Law requiring all lead service lines be replaced by 2031 at a cost of up to \$10,000,000; and

WHEREAS, small municipalities have limited debt capacity and the lead service line mandate will stress that capacity and every resident due to increased water and sewer rates over the next 10 years; and

WHEREAS, Hightstown Borough is requesting that additional funding be added to lead service line replacement particularly for small systems; and

WHEREAS, Hightstown Borough is requesting that the maximum amount of funding and loan forgiveness under the NANO program be substantially increased.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the State of New Jersey Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Programs be modified to provide additional funding to small systems with limited financial resources and therefore limited ability to take on the burden of additional debt and modify its program to increase the funding limit in the NANO program and increase the amount of loan forgiveness.

Resolution 2022-175 Resolution Opposing the Increases to the State Health Benefits Program

Moved by Councilmember Bluth; Seconded by Councilmember Cicalese.

Discussion ensued. Councilmember Bluth suggested that the sixth Whereas read as follows: *Whereas this increase demonstrated the Commission's lack of transparency, accountability and foresight to accurately project substantial rate increases with such far reaching consequences.*

Councilmember Bluth moved to amend the resolution as discussed; Seconded by Councilmember Cicalese.

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

Resolution amended 6-0.

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

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

Resolution adopted as amended 6-0.

Resolution 2022-175

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

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE INCREASES TO
THE STATE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the State Health Benefits Program (SHBP), governed by N.J.S.A. 52:14-17.25 et seq., offers medical, prescription drug, and dental coverage to qualified State and participating local government public employees, retirees, and eligible dependents; and

WHEREAS, all SHBP plans are self-funded meaning that the money paid out for benefits comes directly from a SHBP fund supplied by the State, participating local employers, and member premiums; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Pensions and Benefits is responsible for the daily administrative activities of the SHPB, the State Health Benefits Commission is the executive organization responsible for overseeing the SHBP; and

WHEREAS, the State Health Benefits Commission, comprised of state officials and union representatives, annually consider the calendar year premium levels for the Local Government Employer Group of the SHBP based

on recommendations found in the Rate Setting Recommendation Analysis of the Local Government Employee Group; and

WHEREAS, on September 14, 2022, the State Health Benefits Commission voted to approve a nearly 23% increase for local government health insurance rates for 2023; and

WHEREAS, this increase demonstrated the Commission's lack of transparency, accountability and foresight to accurately project substantial rate increases with such far reaching consequences; and

WHEREAS, it appears that no other state is seeing such a drastic double-digit single year increase in their state and local government health plans; and

WHEREAS, while these costs are outside of the municipal cap, revenue will still have to be identified to cover the increased costs that will be paid for by municipalities, local government employees and property taxpayers

WHEREAS, the premium increase for most active employees will take thousands more out of their paychecks annually and lead to huge costs for local governments that will translate into higher property tax bills and cause a financial hardship for residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown in the county of Mercer implore the State Health Benefit Commission reconsider the rate increase by evaluating the cost-sharing measures offered by the Plan Design Committee and strike a rate increase that is appropriate given the current economic conditions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown in the county of Mercer urge the legislature to adopt legislation expanding the composition of the State Health Benefits Commission to include representatives from both municipal and county government management; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Murphy, State Treasurer Muoio, Senate President Scutari, Assembly Speaker Coughlin, Senator Linda Greenstein, Assemblyman Daniel Benson, Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo, and New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

DISCUSSION

Comcast Renewal Ordinance

Borough Attorney Fred Raffetto explained that Rob Clifton, a representative from Comcast, sent over a proposed ordinance for review by himself as well as Peggy Riggio and Dimitri Musing. After a Zoom conference with Mr. Clifton, a final proposed ordinance was created to be sent down to the BPU for review and approval. The term length would be 10 years and the Borough would be entitled to 3.5%. The draft is being submitted to the Council to forward to the BPU for its review. Administrator Dimitri Musing echoed his support, and the draft was approved for forwarding to the BPU.

East Windsor Regional School District – Leshin Lane Water Tower Rams Logo

Hightstown High School would like to paint the water tower with the school colors with a ram logo and the word “Hightstown”. Administrator Dimitri Musing said Patricia Malta, the director of buildings and grounds for the East Windsor Regional School District, said the school district would be in favor of paying for the painting. Musing recommended a written agreement that states the school district would also cover the cost of upkeep. Councilmember Fowler spoke in support of the action, as did Councilmembers Bluth, Jackson, and Montferrat. Councilmember Misiura recommended the design be approved by the Cultural Arts Commission.

Professional Services 2023

Mayor Quattrone stated that it is time to decide if Council would like to received proposals for Professional Services. Please think about this and reach out to Peggy if there is a particular professional service you would like to receive proposals for. Municipal Clerk, Peggy Riggio, suggested the Borough consider bringing on a law firm that specializes in OPRA. The Borough would only be billed when the firm was used.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Board of Health- Councilmember Cicalese mentioned there would be a COVID-19 vaccination clinic at Hightstown High School on Wednesday from 4:30 to 6:30 by appointment only. There will also one on Nov. 3 at the First Presbyterian Church on Main Street for children six months to five years.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Councilmember Fowler- The Environmental Commission will be able to provide paddleboats for the Harvest Fair. The Commission was also highlighted for the youth leadership program, and a member dropped off, meaning the Commission is in need of another member. Councilmember Fowler thanked Gary Grub for his work in revitalizing the flowers in Downtown Hightstown. The Harvest Fair is 12 days away; over 100 artisans and crafters will be attending and the radio station 98.3 WNGQ will be coming and broadcasting live.

Councilmember Montferrat- Reported that he is working with other Council members to come up with property maintenance items.

Councilmember Misiura- Expressed his condolences for the young Hightstown resident who died in the accident on Highway 33 in Hightstown. He also expressed disappointment that Porch Fest was canceled.

Councilmember Bluth- Light Up The Lake will be happening on Saturday, Oct. 29.

Peggy Riggio, Clerk- The Clerk's Office is getting ready for the end of the year and reorg, and asked Council to review past professional services to prepare requests for next year. A special events checklist is in progress. Taxi licenses and dog and cat licenses will be going out soon, and the date for Rabies Clinic will be posted on the website as soon as it is confirmed by the health department.

George Lang, CFO- Bids on bond anticipation notes will be coming in. There will hopefully be a full report next meeting about what the rates are for the coming year.

Dimitri Musing, Administrator- Reported that he will reach out to the owners of the rug mill and inquire about the truck parked there. Regarding Porch Fest, both he and Chief Gendron had safety concerns; many locations would have been on county and state roads, and the Borough would not be covered under liability insurance, meaning the event could not continue.

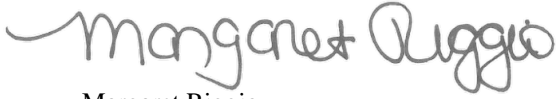
Fred Raffetto, Borough Attorney- He and Mayor Quattrone will be meeting with the Housing Authority.

Mayor Quattrone- He reaffirmed his concerns related to safety for Porch Fest. He also confirmed that he and Mr. Raffetto will be meeting with the Housing Authority regarding a crosswalk. Mayor Quattrone reported that he has been trying different things to lower taxes in town.

ADJOURNMENT 7:43 p.m.

Moved by Councilmember Montferrat; Seconded by Councilmember Cicalese. All ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret Riggio". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned to the left of the printed name.

Margaret Riggio
Borough Clerk

Approved by Hightstown Borough Council: November 21, 2022