

Meeting Minutes
Hightstown Borough Council
October 17, 2022
6:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Bluth at 6:30 p.m. and she 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.

The Flag Salute followed roll call.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councilmember Jackson; Seconded by Councilmember Fowler.

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

Agenda approved 6-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 20, 2022 Public Session and June 20, 2022 Executive Session

Moved by Councilmember Misiura; Seconded by Councilmember Cicalese.

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

Minutes approved 4-0 with 2 abstentions.

July 5, 2022 Public Session and July 5, 2022 Executive Session

Moved by Councilmember Fowler; Seconded by Councilmember Cicalese.

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

Minutes approved 5-0 with 1 abstention.

July 12, 2022 Budget Workshop, July 18, 2022 Public Session and July 18, 2022 Executive Session

Moved by Councilmember Montferrat; Seconded by Councilmember Cicalese.

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

Minutes approved 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Bluth opened the public comment period and the following individuals spoke:

Michael Bollentin, 203 Maxwell Avenue - Stated the he is in possession of a draft of the soon to be filed \$44 million lawsuit against the Borough for several violations of due process to include failing to respond to a complaint of redress and demand. Feels it is possible for the Council to prevent this action for moving into the court and save the residents of the Borough the potential burden of paying for the inaction of the Borough Council by amending the agenda this evening so that Council can address and discuss the matter. Stated that he is a Mayoral candidate in Novembers election and would like to schedule a debate so the voters can make an informed decision before they cast their votes.

Eugene Sarafin, 628 South Main Street – Stated that Mr. Bollentin cannot be campaigning during public comment. Also commented that Mr. Bollentin wants to try to talk about a lawsuit in public. This should be left to the attorneys and courts. Spoke against the republican party. Commented about the article in The Trenton Times about Hightstown and Doug Mastriano, Candidate for Governor in Pennsylvania.

Bryan Fort, 43 Norton Ave – Stated that he believes the Wycoff Mills Road closure has been very effective. Truck traffic is disappearing from Wycoff Mills Road and North Main Street. He suspects that the trucks are taking the bypass, as they should. He supports this decision and believes that many others do too. He thanked Council for taking this measure. He inquired as to what Council is doing to reduce taxes. He asked why Councilmembers why abstaining on voting. Commented that he does not understand why Council is still conducting Zoom meetings and asked when meetings will return to public.

Barbara Klapsageorge, 418 North Main Street – Wanted to share a positive comment about the change on Wycoff Mills Road. She stated that in just one week she has seen a difference on North Main Street. She believes that pedestrians are safer, bicyclists are safer and there are fewer cars using the bike lane as a speedy way to pass stopped traffic waiting to turn left on Wycoff Mills Road. The amount of vehicles has instantly decreased as Wycoff Mills Road was a convenient bypass. These drivers now need to be directed to stay on route 133, The convenient official bypass straight to route 33. Thanked Council and staff for all the time and effort put into making this wise decision.

There being further comments, Council President Bluth closed the public comment period.

George Lang, CFO, joined at this time.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2022-185 Authorizing Payment of Bills

Moved by Councilmember Cicalese; Seconded by Councilmember Fowler.

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

Resolution adopted 6-0.

Resolution 2022-185
*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 \$2,022,879.32 from the following accounts:

Current		\$1,897,363.55	
W/S Operating		46,002.23	
General Capital		202.50	
Water/Sewer Capital		0.00	
Grant		96.50	
Trust		0.00	
Unemployment Trust		434.90	
Animal Control		0.00	
Law Enforcement Trust		0.00	
Tax Lien Trust		76,534.14	
Public Defender Trust		0.00	
Housing Trust		0.00	
Escrow		<u>2,245.50</u>	
Total		<u>\$2,022,879.32</u>	

Resolution 2022-186 Authorizing Change Order No. 2 – Allied Painting, Inc. (Water Tank Painting and Repair at First Avenue, Leshin Lane and Cranbury Station Road

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 2022-186

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

**AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #2– ALLIED PAINTING, INC. (WATER TANK
PAINTING AND REPAIR AT FIRST AVENUE, LESHIN LANE AND CRANBURY
STATION ROAD)**

WHEREAS, on May 16, 2022, the Borough Council awarded a contract for the Water Tank Painting and Repairs at First Avenue, Leshin Lane and Cranbury Station Road to Allied Painting Inc., of Cherry Hill, New Jersey at the price of \$427,300.00; and

WHEREAS, the contractor has submitted Change Order No. 2 which includes removing the existing cathodic protection system and furnishing and installing a new cathodic protection system at the Leshin Lane Water Tower; and

WHEREAS, Change Order No. 2 increases the contract amount by \$40,000.00, or 9% of the original awarded amount; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer has recommended approval of Change Order No. 2; and

WHEREAS, the CFO had certified availability of the funds for the \$40,000.00 change order.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that Change Order No. 2 to Allied Painting, Inc., of Cherry Hill New Jersey for is hereby approved as detailed herein.

DISCUSSION

Capital Budget Meeting Dates

Mr. Musing stated that we need to have a meeting to discuss the Capital Budget. Mr. Musing and Ms. Riggio will look for dates to schedule a special capital budget meeting.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Councilmember Montferrat

- Stated that he abstained from voting on minutes as he was on vacation for the meetings being voted on.
- BethelLight Foundation held their music festival and all went well.

Councilmember Misiura

- Planning Board
 - The Americana application was approved with multiple conditions.
 - There was a minor subdivision on Wilson Avenue was approved
 - Planning Board was directed to undertake a study for an area in need of redevelopment. Planning Board would like Council to consider amending this resolution removing the language for eminent domain.

Councilmember Cicalese

- Board of Health – met last week. They are continuing to track the Covid cases in Hightstown. The Health Department had a flu clinic last week and another one is scheduled for November 3rd.

Councilmember Jackson

- HPC meets this week.

Councilmember Fowler

- Environmental Commission meets next week. They are still in need a one commissioner.
- Planning has started for the 2023 Memorial Day Parade.
- She was sick for the June 20th meeting so abstained from voting on the minutes.

Peggy Riggio, Borough Clerk

- 10/18 is the last day to register to vote in the November election
- Election Day – November 8th. Vote by mail and Early Voting information can be found on the Borough website.
- Special events permits is being worked on
- Borough offices are open by appointment only. All staff is present 5 days a week from 8:30 – 4:30.
- Rabies Clinic will take place in December. Check the Borough website for information

Dimitri Musing, Borough Administrator

- Currently working on updating some ordinances and Council will be updated when they are ready.

Council President Bluth

- Cultural Arts Commission – Light up the Lake will take place October 29th at 6:00 at Memorial Park. BethelLight will be hosting painting and carving of pumpkins during the day. There will be a children’s activity at the park from 4:00 – 6:00.
- In Person Council Meetings
 - Councilmember Bluth stated that she would like to see Council return to in person meetings. Discussion ensued. Council unanimously agreed to return to in person meetings as soon as possible. Ms. Riggio will work with the Fire House to secure the dates and will advise Council when they can resume meetings at the firehouse.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 187 Authorizing a Meeting that Excludes the Public

Moved by Councilmember Montferrat; Seconded by Councilmember Fowler.

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

Resolution adopted 6-0.

Resolution 2022-187

*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 October 17, 2022, 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

Contract Negotiations - EWRSD Leshin Lane Water Tower Agreement

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 January 3, 2023, 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.

Adjourn to Executive Session 7:10 p.m.

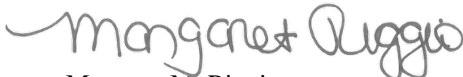
Moved by Councilmember Jackson; Seconded by Councilmember Cicalese. All ayes.

Council returned to public session at 7:41 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT 7:42 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Margaret M. Riggio
Borough Clerk

Approved by Hightstown Borough Council: **12/05/2022**