

**BOROUGH OF HOPEWELL  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
APPROVED:**

**REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 2, 2017**

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Hopewell was called to order by Mayor Paul Anzano at 7:08 pm on March 2, 2017. Deputy Clerk Regina Toth read the "Sunshine Statement" indicating the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act and Mayor Anzano led the flag salute.

Ms. Toth called the roll and the following members of the Borough Council were present: Mr. Chris Fossel, Ms. Debra Lehman, Mr. Robert Lewis, Mr. David Mackie, Mr. C. Schuyler Morehouse and Ms. Shelby Tewell. Borough Administrator/Clerk Michele Hovan, Deputy Borough Clerk Regina Toth and Borough Engineer Dennis O'Neal were also present. There were over 100 members of the public present.

Mayor Anzano opened the meeting to the public by stating that the evening's discussion of Hopewell Borough's sanctuary city status was intended to give as many people as possible the opportunity to speak. He requested that people not repeat what's already been said, and stated that Council wouldn't be engaging with the speakers but would rather give individual opinions at the end of the public portion.

Thomas Van Essen, 59 N. Greenwood Avenue, member of "Hope Rises Up"

He said the issue was personal to him because his father was an economic refugee and he is an immigrant who has lived in Hopewell over 30 years. He said he feels strongly that the community needs to support and protect all its members and that the most important reason is to have a more trusting relationship between police and the immigrant community. To the applause that followed, Mayor Anzano asked that there not be outward demonstrations so as to keep the meeting professional and respectful.

Councilwoman Tewell invited people standing in the hallway to come into the courtroom so as to better hear the proceedings.

Jeannine Vaccarino, 66 Hart Avenue, expressed her concern that last month's resolution was passed on a rushed and partisan basis, with not enough time for public input. She said she has many military and federal law enforcement family members and that she has compassion for illegal immigrants. She added it's important for everyone to follow the law and that you can change the law if you don't like it, but you can't just choose to ignore it. Ms. Vaccarino then read a letter from Mr. Patrick McAlinden, 88 East Prospect Street, which stated his strong opposition to the sanctuary city status because he believes the power governing borders and legal status belongs to Congress, not local government. Ms. Vaccarino also read a letter from Carol Phister, 59 ½ Hart Avenue, expressing opposition to sanctuary city status.

Beverly Kidder, 52 Railroad Place, said that former President Obama's administration threatened to take away school funds if their transgender policies were not followed. She stated the Borough received \$97,627.87 from the Federal government and Hopewell Valley schools received \$1,239,512 in federal funding and asked how the Borough would make up that shortfall if funds were withheld.

Woody Carsky-Wilson, 79 W. Broad Street, expressed his strong support for the sanctuary city resolution, stating that while national policies were a disgrace, Hopewell Borough has community cohesion and treats people well. He stated he has no animosity toward those disagreeing with him and that the law is sometimes wrong and needs to be refuted. He said some immigrants appear afraid of him, keeping their heads down when passing because to them it feels like the Gestapo is coming after them with no one to

**BOROUGH OF HOPEWELL  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
APPROVED:**

**REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 2, 2017**

protect them. He stated that we need to heed the words of the Pledge of Allegiance recited at the beginning of the meeting which states “liberty for all.”

Jennifer Garrow, 62 Lafayette Street, said no one is against immigrants, but rather against illegal immigrants. She stated she feels the resolution was passed in a sneaky manner, listed only as a discussion item on the agenda, and that the community should have had time to weigh in on this highly debated issue. She asked that Council consider the division the resolution has brought to a formerly friendly community. She added that citizens don’t get to decide which laws to follow, and that law is a great equalizing factor for society.

Mayor Anzano stated there were serious inaccuracies with her statement: that the law was followed in noticing the February meeting, that the resolution was listed for discussion, and that she should have come to the meeting. The mayor then requested no recording of the meeting be made without the permission of those being taped. Council members gave permission to an audience member requesting permission to tape them.

Barb Reale, 20 Hart Avenue, stated her support of the resolution, saying we all need nurturing and support, which is the fabric of community and society. She said values are the foundation of law, sanctuaries are moral institutions, and we should make peace with our neighbors.

Hanna McCullum, 23 N. Greenwood Avenue, said she takes great pride that her new community named itself a sanctuary city and thanked Borough Council for doing so. She said Holocaust research has shown that innocents weren’t protected, resulting in 12 million deaths. She added the current president has created a hateful and xenophobic attitude in the country.

Heidi Wilenius, 93 W. Prospect Street, offered her support for the resolution and submitted a petition from Hope Rises Up with 131 signatures also in support of the resolution.

Mark Bovenizer, 114 W. Prospect Street, stated he is a fire commissioner in the Borough and that he received much information from his OPRA requests and encouraged the public to do the same. He said the resolution will save the Borough money and that it’s not the Borough’s job to enforce immigration laws.

Kim McAlinden, 88 E. Prospect Street, said she thinks of Hopewell Borough as Mayberry (from the old television series) where everyone knows and likes each other, but said after this resolution was passed residents in town became divided. She stated we can’t decide to ignore Federal law and that if you disagree with a law you need to work to change it. She said Council’s job is to follow the law, not make it up, and she reiterated that the sanctuary city resolution was tearing Hopewell Borough residents apart.

Regan Kramer, 37 Railroad Place, said she was temporarily an illegal immigrant for a month when her visa expired while traveling in France, and thought she received preferential treatment due to white privilege. She added that laws are not applied equally and that it’s important to show there’s no need to be afraid in the Borough. She added the resolution should be called “safe and welcoming” instead of sanctuary city.

**BOROUGH OF HOPEWELL  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
APPROVED:**

**REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 2, 2017**

JoAnne Stransky, 85 E. Prospect, said her parents were legal immigrants and would be appalled at illegals being used for political purposes. She added it's not hate to be against the resolution and that any money used to support illegal immigration should instead go to support veterans. She also stated the best way to help immigrants would be to find a fast track to citizenship.

Mark Peters, 9 Princeton Avenue, quoted Councilman Morehouse who said "it's not our fight." Mr. Peters said the resolution angered residents on both sides of the issue (who each complain about taxes), and added that we don't know at this point how it will affect taxpayers.

Sheila Reynertson, 42 Model Avenue, stated immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility, and that it would be unconstitutional to withhold federal funds. She said there were 25,000 undocumented immigrants in Mercer County and 500,000 in New Jersey. She said the resolution creates a protective umbrella around neighbors.

Keith Perske, 29 E. Broad, said it's not about money but rather about being inclusive and embracing immigrants, and that we are in good company as New York, Houston, etc. are sanctuary cities. Amy Reiger, 8 Hamilton Avenue, said many people are scared and that she supports the resolution. Ian Burrow, 114 Taylor Terrace, said he, his wife and his daughter are immigrants and he is concerned his Peruvian daughter will be singled out. He supports the resolution but thinks there are valid opposing points. William Taylor, Flemington, said citizens have a moral obligation to resist laws that are wrong and suggested the resolution makes him want to move to Hopewell. Jeff Hoagland, 57 Taylor Terrace, thanked the Council and stated it's not about law but about morality. Aaron Brown, 9 Eaton Place, supports the resolution and said we have more in common than divides us and he loves that the community came together for the meeting and regrets that there's less feeling these days that we're all Americans.

**Council Comments:**

Ms. Tewell agreed that the town has been divided and believes rather than "sanctuary" the word "compassionate" should be used, and added that the resolution should have been more thoughtfully drafted so as to address issues on both sides.

Ms. Lehman wholeheartedly agrees with everything in the resolution and stated it's not nullifying law but rather choosing not to spend our money on this issue. She added that illegal immigrants have children in our schools and asked: if the parents are deported, where does that leave the children?

Mr. Fossil is proud of the resolution and was pleased with the meeting because it gave a better understanding of funding and legalities. He said it's an issue of compassion and helping each other, and stated we're not breaking the law and will not lose funding.

Mr. Lewis said he voted against the resolution because he took a vow to uphold the Constitutions of New Jersey and the United States, and the Borough doesn't have the infrastructure to come through on the implied promise of the resolution. He added that he never sees hate in this town, that we come together on various levels to support one another. He also stated that he works with illegal immigrants and not all of them want to assimilate but some desire to be here only temporarily. He added that we should work to make changes to the US immigration laws to make it easier for people to come here legally.

**BOROUGH OF HOPEWELL  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
APPROVED:**

**REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 2, 2017**

Mr. Mackie said it was never the intention of Council to rush passing the resolution nor was it done in secret, but because it was a 3/3 vote, maybe they should have further discussion in order to bring more people on board. He added that the resolution is not law but rather a policy statement and declaration of intent. He said the government cannot withhold funds and that the Country needs balanced immigration reform. He said he was proud of the diversity of viewpoints of council as that leads to the best decisions.

Mr. Morehouse thanked members in the audience for speaking. He clarified his statement from February's meeting, "it's not our fight" to mean it's not a local government issue but rather the federal government's responsibility, and he hopes Congress will address the issue as he believes we have not had intelligent discussion about immigration in a long time. He added that it is the President's responsibility to stand by the law as written, and citizens' responsibility to speak up to change laws they don't like. He said he appreciated the conversation held tonight and that until the law is changed he is a "rule of law" person and his opinion remains against the resolution.

Mayor Anzano thanked members of the public for attending the meeting and encouraged those who were not able to speak, because of time constraints, to put their thoughts in writing to further the discussion. He added his opinion that the majority of citizens think the immigration system is broken and he believes resolutions like the one passed in February should encourage Congress to make better laws. He said federal funds will not be taken away because of the "sanctuary city" designation and that it is Council's role to make our citizens' voices heard in order to fix the system. Mayor Anzano then called for a ten minute recess at 9:02 pm. The meeting was resumed at 9:11 pm.

Melissa Cookman, 35 Broad Street, stated neon signs are becoming more numerous in town, which she considers illegal as well as unfair, as she fought hard to get her legal sign approved in the proper manner. She also asked that police be hired for cruise nights and said she spent 45 minutes helping children cross the street at the last one. Mayor Anzano told Ms. Hovan that many people have complained to him about the neon signs, and Ms. Hovan stated the zoning officer has been out sick the past several weeks but that the issue is being worked on. Mr. Morehouse commented that the fire department may be able to help out with the crosswalk issue on cruise nights and he will speak to them about it.

Gerald McAlinden, 88 E. Prospect Avenue, stated that he is a "slum lord" who has rented to illegal immigrants for 15 years and that they are not paying taxes.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS – there were no comments or questions regarding the Director's submitted report.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF WATER AND SEWERS- there were no comments or questions regarding the Director's submitted report.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH ENGINEER – Mr. O'Neal reported that he had the Streetscape inspection consultant in place to satisfy DOT requirements and that we will close out Earle for the W. Prospect Street project. He added that we will be advertising in March for the E. Prospect Street project, and that he is talking to PSE&G regarding the light pole struck on Broad Street last summer.

**BOROUGH OF HOPEWELL  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
APPROVED:**

**REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 2, 2017**

MINUTES – Mr. Lewis asked that an amendment be made to the February minutes, his council liaison portion, to say “many” illegal immigrants don’t want to assimilate, not “all.” Ms. Hovan made the requested change, and the meeting minutes from the February 2, 2017 regular meeting were accepted on motion by Mr. Fossel, seconded by Mr. Lewis, and carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution Nos. 2017-34 through 2017-38, as filed in the Municipal Clerk’s Office, were adopted on motion of Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Fossel, and carried unanimously.

2017-34	SHARED SERVICES – SENIOR CENTER CLEANING SERVICES
2017-35	ACCEPTANCE OF MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE/RELEASE OF RETAINAGE – WEST PROSPECT ST. ROAD IMPROVEMENTS
2017-36	RAFFLE LICENSE – ST. ALPHONSUS
2017-37	BINGO LICENSE – ST. ALPHONSUS
2017-38	TEMPORARY EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS

**ROLL CALL:**

AYES: FOSSEL, LEHMAN, LEWIS, MACKIE, MOREHOUSE, TEWELL  
 NAYS: NONE  
 ABSENT: NONE  
 ABSTAIN: NONE

**APPOINTMENT**

Mayor Anzano appointed Beverly Kidder to the Economic Development Committee to fill an unexpired term to expire 12/31/2018.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

The following Departmental Reports were accepted and approved on motion by Mr. Morehouse, seconded by Mr. Lewis and carried unanimously:

MUNICIPAL CLERK	FEBRUARY	\$	1,639.00
LICENSING OFFICIAL	FEBRUARY	\$	1,786.00
MUNICIPAL COURT	JANUARY	\$	1,555.04
TAX COLLECTOR	JANUARY	\$	714,037.17
TAX COLLECTOR			
2016 ANNUAL REPORT		\$	9,090,162.00
RAILROAD STATION FEES	FEBRUARY	\$	200.00

**BOROUGH OF HOPEWELL  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
APPROVED:**

**REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 2, 2017**

Mayor Anzano opened the meeting to the public. There being no further questions or comments, the meeting was closed to the public on motion by Mr. Morehouse, seconded by Mr. Lewis and carried unanimously.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS

Mayor Anzano said he has still not received a letter from the prosecutor regarding sanctuary city status and would like a brief discussion at the next council meeting to consider recommending changes to federal law. He once again thanked the Council and all in attendance for the thorough discussion just concluded.

There being no further comment, the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 pm on motion by Mr. Mackie, seconded by Mr. Lewis and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina Toth  
Deputy Borough Clerk