

**BOROUGH OF HOPEWELL  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
APPROVED: 6/1/2017**

**REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 4, 2017**

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Hopewell was called to order by Mayor Paul Anzano at 7:05 pm on May 4, 2017. Borough Administrator/Clerk Michele Hovan read the “Sunshine Statement” indicating the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act and Mayor Paul Anzano led the flag salute.

Ms. Hovan called the roll and the following members of the Borough Council were present: Mr. Chris Fossel, Mr. Robert Lewis, Mr. David Mackie, Mr. C. Schuyler Morehouse and Ms. Shelby Tewell. Ms. Debra Lehman was absent. Borough Engineer Dennis O’Neal and Chief Financial Officer Diane McDaniel were also present. There were four members of the public present.

Mayor Anzano opened the meeting to the public. Joann Stransky, 85 E. Prospect Street, inquired of the status of Hopewell Borough as a Sanctuary City as she said she was of the belief the resolution would be amended. Mayor Anzano replied that he previously stated that the resolution may be amended if the County Prosecutor requests technical changes but no such request has been received to date. Mayor Anzano said that if the resolution was changed, it would be to comport with the law only. Referring to the immigration reform resolution on the agenda, Mayor Anzano said it was drafted as an offshoot from the Sanctuary City discussion, whereby the Borough would request action on behalf of the citizens. Ms. Stransky read aloud the Oath of Office that elected officials take. Mayor Anzano thanked Ms. Stransky and said he believed the Oath he took is consistent with the Sanctuary City resolution; that the federal government enforces immigration law and that the Borough does not. Mayor Anzano said he believes the issue is a state’s rights one and that it is consistent with the U.S. Constitution and the NJ State Constitution. There being no additional comments or questions the meeting was closed to the public on motion by Mr. Morehouse, seconded by Mr. Fossel and carried.

**PROCLAMATION – OLDER AMERICANS MONTH**

Ms. Rosaline Fleming, 2 Eaton Court and Vice President of the Hopewell Valley Senior Advisory Board, read the text of the Older Americans Month Proclamation, and Mayor Anzano read the ending, to formally “proclaim” the month’s designation.

**RESOLUTION No. 2017-51 – Urging Federal Action on Immigration Reform**

Mayor Anzano said that the resolution to petition Congress and the Administration to address immigration reform was prepared for discussion. Mr. Lewis said he would like to push off any action until the following month so that everyone could read it. Mayor Anzano urged everyone to do their own research on the subject and hoped that Congress could find solutions to the issue other than building a wall. Mr. Lewis said that he voted against the Sanctuary City resolution and also believes that immigration reform is needed. Mayor Anzano said the discussion would continue next month.

**MINUTES** – The meeting minutes from the April 6, 2017 regular meeting (Mr. Morehouse abstaining due to absence) were accepted on motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Tewell, and carried.

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

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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 the Streetscape III preconstruction meeting was held and that work would commence on or about May 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. O'Neal explained that the contractor is aware of the need to minimize disturbance to the residents/businesses and that no more than two sites will be constructed at once. Mr. Morehouse asked that a project map of locations be posted, including perhaps at the post office.

Mr. O'Neal also announced that the East Prospect Street Phase I project would be underway with Elizabethtown Gas installing the gas main first. Mr. Mackie noted that he was fascinated that Earle Asphalt was the successful bidder, and the sole bidder, and while pleased, wondered if other contractors were held up because of the NJDOT work suspension last year.

Mr. O'Neal said he was working on some pedestrian safety issues with the County Traffic Engineer and that the crosswalk at Broad and Maple is scheduled for enhancement and some signage would be replaced. Mr. O'Neal also explained that in response to a resident request, he inquired of the County's position on in-street warning signs at Mercer, and described the logistical challenges with that location due to turning ratios, parking and parking lot activity – all of which resulted in the County's objection to the in-street signs.

Mr. O'Neal also reported on the storm drain issue on Somerset and that PSE&G replaced the pedestrian-scale light on West Broad. Mr. O'Neal also provided an estimate for the crosswalk at Hart and N. Greenwood. Ms. Hovan said that the crosswalk was tabled at an earlier point because Council wanted to see the effectiveness of the "your speed is" sign.

Ms. Kate Elliot, 46 N. Greenwood, said that she was surprised how many people commented about the need for a crosswalk on N. Greenwood during a recent meeting and discussion ensued regarding the location of school bus stops. Ms. Elliot said that in the absence of a crosswalk, pedestrians cross in a diagonal fashion and said a bold crosswalk with increased police presence would make the area safer. Mr. Morehouse asked Mr. O'Neal to provide a sketch of the area.

MINUTES – The meeting minutes from the April 6, 2017 regular meeting (Mr. Morehouse abstaining due to absence) were accepted on motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Tewell, and carried.

**ORDINANCE NO. 802 – SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING**

**AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR AND DETERMINE A SCHEDULE OF MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM SALARIES FOR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF HOPEWELL, COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY**

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance 802 by title and explained that the ordinance was last updated three years ago and that it provides ranges by position, adding that the actual salary resolution appears later on the agenda.

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

Resolution No. 2017-52, as filed in the Municipal Clerk's office to adopt Ordinance No. 802 was adopted on motion of Mr. Morehouse, seconded by Ms. Tewell and carried.

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** FOSSEL, LEWIS, MACKIE, MOREHOUSE, TEWELL

**NAYS:** NONE

**ABSENT:** LEHMAN

**ABSTAIN:** NONE

**ORDINANCE NO. 803 – SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING**  
**ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS**  
**AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance 803 by title and explained that the Ordinance permits the annual State-assigned adjustment and permits the banking of cap dollars unused. Mayor Anzano opened the meeting to the public. There being no questions or comments the meeting was closed to the public on motion by Mr. Morehouse, seconded by Mr. Lewis and carried.

Resolution No. 2017-53, as filed in the Municipal Clerk's office to adopt Ordinance No. 803 was adopted on motion of Ms. Tewell, seconded by Mr. Fossel and carried.

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** FOSSEL, LEWIS, MACKIE, MOREHOUSE, TEWELL

**NAYS:** NONE

**ABSENT:** LEHMAN

**ABSTAIN:** NONE

**ORDINANCE NO. 804 – SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING**  
**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HOPEWELL IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF**  
**NEW JERSEY RELATING TO SEWER RATES AND AMENDING "THE REVISED GENERAL**  
**ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF HOPEWELL, 1975," AS AMENDED**  
**(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance 804 by title and explained that the Ordinance represents a 2% increase in keeping with rising costs for the utility, using the every-other-year formula that has been in place for several cycles. Ms. Hovan explained that it was the sewer utility's "turn," with water last adjusted in 2016.

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

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Resolution No. 2017-54, as filed in the Municipal Clerk's office to adopt Ordinance No. 804 was adopted on motion of Mr. Morehouse, seconded by Ms. Tewell and carried.

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** FOSSEL, LEWIS, MACKIE, MOREHOUSE, TEWELL

**NAYS:** NONE

**ABSENT:** LEHMAN

**ABSTAIN:** NONE

**ORDINANCE NO. 805 – FIRST READING**

**CAPITAL ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE ROAD REPAIR WORK, INCLUDING LABOR AND MATERIALS, ON VARIOUS ROADWAYS WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF HOPEWELL, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF HOPEWELL, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, AND THE EXPENDITURE OF \$40,000.00 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE FINANCING THEREOF**

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance 805 by title and explained that the funds would cover material costs for Princeton Avenue repaving, the storm drain repair on Somerset and elsewhere as needed, if available. Resolution No. 2017-55, as filed in the Municipal Clerk's office to introduce Ordinance No. 805 was adopted on motion of Mr. Mackie, seconded by Mr. Lewis and carried.

**2017 MUNICIPAL BUDGET – PUBLIC HEARING/ADOPTION**

Ms. Hovan provided brief budget highlights including the 2.5 cent increase per \$100 in assessed valuation over 2016, the organization of Borough debt and the utilization and replenishment strategies for surplus. A brief Q&A followed. Ms. Hovan praised Ms. McDaniel for her hard work on the budget and Mr. Morehouse echoed his appreciation. Mayor Anzano opened the meeting to the public. There being no questions or comments the meeting was closed to the public on motion Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Morehouse and carried. Ms. Hovan also explained the budget amendment, noting the shifting of \$3,000 in pensions due to a recommendation during State review.

Resolution No. 2017-56 – amendment to 2017 Budget – as filed in the Municipal Clerk's Office, was adopted on motion of Mr. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Tewell, and carried.

Resolution No. 2017-57, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office to adopt the 2017 municipal budget, was adopted on motion by Mr. Morehouse, seconded by Mr. Mackie and carried unanimously:

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** FOSSEL, LEWIS, MACKIE, MOREHOUSE

**NAYS:** NONE

**ABSENT:** LEHMAN

**ABSTAIN:** NONE

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RESOLUTIONS

Resolution Nos. 2017-58 through 2017-61, as filed in the Municipal Clerk's Office, were adopted on motion of Mr. Morehouse, seconded by Ms. Tewell, and carried. Mr. Morehouse presided over an extended discussion regarding angioplasty facilities. It was noted that Mayor Anzano was recused on the matter due to a professional conflict.

2017-58	RELEASE OF MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE – BRICK FARM MARKET
2017-59	RELEASE OF MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE – BRICK FARM CREAMERY
2017-60	2017 SALARIES
2017-61	SUPPORT FOR A-1834/S-178 – LICENSURE OF ADDITIONAL ANGIOPLASTY FACILITIES

ROLL CALL:

AYES: FOSSEL, LEWIS, MACKIE, MOREHOUSE, TEWELL

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: LEHMAN

ABSTAIN: NONE

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

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

VITAL STATISTICS	APRIL	\$ 188.00
ZONING	APRIL	\$ 150.00
HEALTH	APRIL	\$ 110.00
ANIMAL LICENSING	APRIL	\$ 111.00
MUNICIPAL CLERK	APRIL	\$ 2,063.59
COURT	APRIL	\$ 3,064.50
TAX COLLECTOR	APRIL	\$ 600,613.96
FACILITY RENTALS	APRIL	\$ 760.00

CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT

The Claims for Payment, as attached, were approved on motion of Mr. Morehouse, seconded by Ms. Tewell and carried.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: FOSSEL, LEWIS, MACKIE, MOREHOUSE, TEWELL

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: LEHMAN

ABSTAIN: NONE

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Mayor Anzano opened the meeting to the public. Ms. Kim Johnson, Hopewell Township and representing the Hopewell Valley Seniors, which she described as a 501c3 organization with an 8-member board, said she was seeking support for an adequate senior center for the community and said that the foundation would like to work with all the towns to identify a viable facility solution. Mr. Fossel questioned if the advisory council voted against the Pennington center upgrades and asked if the senior lunch program would be discontinued if the building closes, noting the average 18 lunch attendees. Mayor Anzano said he met with the County Executive on the issue and that Hopewell Township is taking the lead with an area by the Pennington Circle and also noting that Pennington has a list of repairs unmade since 2002 although they accepted \$300,000 to make them. Discussion followed regarding other sites previously mentioned, including the Pennington Firehouse, which Mr. Morehouse and Mayor Anzano commented was a viable site worth exploring.

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.

**COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS**

Ms. Tewell reported that she was working with Mr. O'Neal and Ms. Hovan regarding pedestrian safety issues and described a public relations campaign in the works that she and Ms. Roxanne Klett were now researching artwork for. Ms. Tewell described the "Heads Up Hopewell" theme, with announcements on coffee sleeves and flyers to remind everyone that "safety doesn't happen by accident." Ms. Tewell said they've identified costs to be minimal, perhaps even funded by donations and that part of the awareness effort would include the schools and driver's education programs. Ms. Elliot, resident, said that she was aware of a flag/street-crossing program in Delaware that was effective, noting that many people would not carry a flag but some, especially children, would. Ms. Elliot said that she could work with the local girl scout troop to cover the costs. Ms. Tewell said that she would continue the research and report back as more information is collected.

Mr. Morehouse said that he had three topics to discuss. In response to a comment regarding lawn signs, Ms. Hovan said that many are permitted by ordinance and some were in violation and that she would follow up with the zoning officer accordingly. Mr. Morehouse reported that he attended a redevelopment seminar and was surprised at the ability of towns/developers to manipulate the tax abatement feature for beneficial purposes. Mr. Morehouse also floated the prospect of a pilot to use reverse osmosis to create a potable water system from the sewer system and be perhaps the first community in the U.S. to create a fully sustainable system. Mr. Morehouse noted the challenges of such a prospect while adding that Stony Brook might secure a grant for such research.

Mr. Mackie reported that there was no Planning Board meeting last month due to a lack of business and said he appreciated Ms. Tewell's work on the pedestrian safety education campaign. Mr. Mackie noted that a recurring problem is delivery trucks in crosswalk areas and said he recently approached a driver for the Boro Bean along with a worker inside and felt frustrated by the indifference expressed. Ms. Hovan said that the issue is not getting better with time; that trucks park wherever they want to even though the police are also aware of the issue. Mr. Mackie asked that the business owners be reminded to remind their delivery drivers to utilize legal spaces, and in the case of deliveries in the Broad/Blackwell area, to use Blackwell and not Broad.

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There being no further reports or comments, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm on motion by Mr. Mackie, seconded by Ms. Tewell and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Hovan  
Borough Administrator/Clerk