

**BOROUGH OF HOPEWELL
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
APPROVED: 4/5/2018**

**REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 1, 2018**

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Hopewell was called to order by Council President C. Schuyler Morehouse at 7:02 pm on March 1, 2018. Ms. Hovan read the “Sunshine Statement” indicating the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act and Council President Morehouse led the flag salute.

Ms. Hovan called the roll and the following members of the Borough Council were present: Mr. Chris Fossel, Mr. Ryan Kennedy, Ms. Debra Lehman, Mr. David Mackie and Mr. C. Schuyler Morehouse. Mayor Paul Anzano and Ms. Shelby Tewell were absent. Borough Administrator/Clerk Michele Hovan and Borough Engineer Dennis O’Neal were also present. There were two members of the public present.

Council President Morehouse opened the meeting to the public. There being no comments or questions the meeting was closed to the public on motion by Mr. Mackie, seconded by Mr. Kennedy and carried.

Ordinance No. 813 – Second Reading/Public Hearing

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING PIVOTAL UTILITY HOLDINGS, INC. D/B/A ELIZABETHTOWN GAS COMPANY, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, TO CONSTRUCT, LAY, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE FOR A PERIOD OF 25 YEARS, THE NECESSARY MAINS, CONDUCTORS, PIPES AND CONCOMITANT APPURTENANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONVEYING, STORING, SUPPLYING, AND DISTRIBUTING GAS FOR LIGHT, HEAT, POWER AND OTHER PURPOSES FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE USE AND CONSUMPTION ALONG AND UNDER ALL THE STREETS, AVENUES, PARKS, PARKWAYS, HIGHWAYS OR OTHER PUBLIC PLACES WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF HOPEWELL IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER AND THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance 813 by title and explained that the Ordinance renews Elizabethtown’s natural gas franchise in the Borough for 25 years and that the public hearing on the franchise petition was conducted on February 1, 2018. Mr. Morehouse opened the meeting to the public. There being no questions or comments the meeting was closed to the public on motion by Mr. Mackie, seconded by Mr. Kennedy and carried.

Resolution No. 2018-38, as filed in the Municipal Clerk’s office to adopt Ordinance No. 813 was adopted on motion of Mr. Mackie, seconded by Mr. Fossel and carried.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Fossel, Kennedy, Lehman, Mackie, Morehouse
Nays: None
Absent: Tewell
Abstain: None

MINUTES – the meeting minutes from the February 1, 2018 regular meeting were accepted on motion by Mr. Mackie, seconded by Mr. Fossel, and carried.

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

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

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH ENGINEER – Mr. O'Neal reported that the East Prospect Street Phase II project was ready for advertisement and explained that it will improve the section between Maple and the township line. Mr. O'Neal said that the public information session for the project produced just one attendee. Mr. O'Neal reported that the County added the CR518 sign to the mast arm of the traffic signal at Louellen, as promised. There was a brief discussion about timing road projects to end before school starts.

Mr. Mackie distributed the recent speed study results from the County and led the discussion of the findings, which were consistent with prior studies, as he and Mr. O'Neal noted. Mr. O'Neal described the 85th percentile measure for traffic studies, road features that contribute to speed, etc. General discussion ensued. Mr. Kennedy inquired if the addition of white lines along the street edge would be a benefit by narrowing the cartway and Mr. O'Neal cautioned that the lines are sometime mistaken for lanes. Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Fossel said that they appreciate the County's response to the Borough's request for continued monitoring.

RESOLUTIONS

Ms. Hovan summarized the offered resolutions. Resolution Nos. 2018-39 through 2018-47, as filed in the Municipal Clerk's Office, were adopted on motion of Ms. Lehman, seconded by Mr. Kennedy and carried.

2018-39	Contract Award – Defense of Tax Appeals
2018-40	Contract Payment No. 3 – Streetscape III and Final Project
2018-41	Contract Payment No. 4 - East Prospect St. Phase I Road Improvements
2018-42	Emergency Temporary Appropriations
2018-43	Shared Services Agreement – EMS Dispatch
2018-44	Raffle License – St. Alphonsus
2018-45	Bingo License – St. Alphonsus
2018-46	Fund Balance Policy
2018-47	Personnel - Court Security Officer

Roll Call:

Ayes: Fossel, Kennedy, Lehman, Mackie, Morehouse
 Nays: None
 Absent: Tewell
 Abstain: None

Appointments/Clarifications

The following mayoral appointments were confirmed:

Recreation Committee

Susan Pollara – unexpired one-year term to expire 12/31/18

Michelle Downie – unexpired one-year term to expire 12/31/18

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Planning Board

Lou Young – Alternate #1 - unexpired two-year term to expire 12/31/2020 (mistakenly listed as Alternate #2 on January 2 agenda)

Borough Council Subcommittees

Hopewell Valley Green Team - Chris Fossel – unexpired one-year term (was initially appointed to Hopewell Valley Open Space Committee)

Hopewell Valley Open Space Committee – Ryan Kennedy – unexpired one-year term (was initially appointed to Hopewell Valley Green Team)

Departmental Reports

The following Departmental Reports were accepted and approved on motion by Ms. Lehman, seconded by Mr. Kennedy and carried:

Health	February	\$ 60 .00
Tax Collector	January	\$1,212,282.80
Tax Collector	Yearly Report	\$9,435,916.24
Municipal Court	January	\$ 1,967.70
Municipal Clerk	February	\$ 3.00
Pet Licensing	February	\$ 591 .00
Facility Rentals	February	\$ 537.50
Zoning	February	\$ 50 .00

Proclamation – American Red Cross Month

Mr. Morehouse noted the annual proclamation for the record.

Claims for Payment

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

Roll Call:

Ayes: Fossel, Kennedy, Lehman, Mackie, Morehouse
Nays: None
Absent: Tewell
Abstain: None

Council President Morehouse opened the meeting to the public. There being no further questions or comments, the meeting was closed to the public on motion by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Ms. Lehman and carried.

Council Liaison Reports

Mr. Morehouse led an extended discussion regarding a letter received from the Hopewell Museum President expressing displeasure that curbs along Broad Street at their location were not replaced and that

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the stepping stone that was promised to be re-set by the Borough as part of the Streetscape III project work was missing. Ms. Hovan said that quite unfortunately, no one knows what happened to the stone, that the contractor said he didn't touch it and the construction inspector said it wasn't touched, either. Ms. Hovan and Mr. O'Neal said that they tried to find out what happened and do not know what did. Regarding the curbing, Mr. O'Neal and Ms. Hovan said that the curbing was never part of the grant except abutting where ADA-compliant ramps were installed. Mr. O'Neal said that there are many sections of Broad Street that could benefit from new curbing but there has not been funding allocated for that large project. Considerable discussion followed. Mr. Mackie asked Mr. O'Neal to join him on a field inspection about the curbing needs. Mr. Morehouse said that he would draft a response to the Museum letter and work with Mayor Anzano on it.

Mr. Mackie reported that Jim Waltman, Executive Director of the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed, made a presentation before the Planning Board regarding a stormwater grant that they secured to improve stormwater measures in the Borough. Mr. Mackie said that the Watershed initially met with Mr. O'Neal and Ms. Hovan and were offered a list of potential sites, including the redevelopment areas and other lots slated for improvements. Mr. Mackie said that he met with Mr. Waltman as well and that the project was very positively received by the Planning Board. Mr. Morehouse said that the public was not well aware of the grant opportunity and appreciated that the Watershed made the presentation to the Planning Board. Mr. Mackie said he looked forward to the project and that the Borough could benefit greatly from it.

Mr. Morehouse said he received a letter about the conditions at Boro Collision and hoped the lot could be cleaned up so that it was not an eyesore to neighbors. Mr. Kennedy said that he had received complaints about it as well, particularly with the cars parked on the side lot. Ms. Hovan said that she would speak to the owners to see what can be done.

Mr. Kennedy said that the Economic Development Committee did not meet but announced that Restaurant Week begins on March 5th. Mr. Kennedy also reported that the Green Team collected about 5lbs of Styrofoam at their recent collection event. Mr. Kennedy added that the Planning Board began discussions about amendments to the stormwater ordinance and that the Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space were hosting a symposium about deer management.

Mr. Fossil reported that repairs at the senior center were underway, that repair estimates were received and that funds were available from the county grants, adding that the parking lot was already improved.

Mr. Morehouse reported that the fire budget passed and that the SBRSA budget process was underway.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm on motion by Ms. Lehman, seconded by Mr. Mackie and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Hovan
Borough Administrator/Clerk