

**BOROUGH OF HOPEWELL
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
APPROVED: 5/3/2018**

**REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 5, 2018**

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Hopewell was called to order by Council President C. Schuyler Morehouse at 7:08 pm on April 5, 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, Ms. Debra Lehman, Mr. David Mackie, Mr. C. Schuyler Morehouse and Ms. Shelby Tewell. Mayor Paul Anzano and Mr. Ryan Kennedy were absent. Borough Administrator/Clerk Michele Hovan and Borough Engineer Dennis O’Neal were also present. There were three members of the public present.

Council President Morehouse opened the meeting to the public. Ms. Gail Samse, 96 West Broad Street, said her garage faces N. Lanning and that if she parks in her driveway, the sidewalk is blocked. Ms. Samse said that she had an arrangement with the police for her to park alongside N. Lanning, up off the street as much as possible when snow covered. She said that she received a ticket during the last storm, which she intends to fight, but wanted to resolve the issue permanently by asking Council to pass an ordinance to allow her to continue parking almost off the road. She said she has nowhere else to park when it snows.

Mr. Morehouse noted that residents often work together in snow storms, sharing driveway space, etc. Ms. Hovan added that parking is available at the train station and at Borough Hall in storms, although those locations are not always convenient for many. Ms. Tewell asked Ms. Samse why she didn’t park in her garage and Ms. Samse said that she uses the garage for storage. Mr. Mackie suggested that she consider using the garage for her vehicle instead of storage to alleviate the problem.

Ms. Samse also mentioned a program that Montgomery Township recently implemented called “Shop Montgomery” whereby residents would receive rebates on their property taxes by shopping local and asked if Hopewell could do something similar. Ms. Hovan said that the three Hopewell Valley towns had talked about it but that nothing has come to pass due to logistics, including that the third-party vendor for the program would receive payments from the merchants by way of fees, and that if nothing else, the program should be bid to seek the highest benefit/lowest surcharge possible.

Ms. Christine Wetzel, 37 East Broad Street said she was a tenant and was appearing on behalf of herself and her neighbors that are bothered by the plethora of orange cones set in place by one neighbor. Ms. Wetzel asked if the cones were legal and said she spoke to the business owners in the area about it. Ms. Wetzel also asked if businesses were required to recycle. Ms. Hovan said that all property owners are, but that there isn’t a penalty assigned if someone doesn’t. Ms. Hovan added that Hopewell Borough has an extremely high cooperation and participation rate for recycling. Ms. Wetzel suggested that the Borough pursue Terracycle, a company that she had heard good things about.

There being no additional comments or questions the meeting was closed to the public on motion by Ms. Lehman, seconded by Ms. Tewell and carried.

Presentation of Devangi Patel, Montgomery Health Educator

Ms. Devangi Patel, Montgomery Township Health Educator, distributed the Annual Health Report and entertained questions as she discussed responsibilities and accomplishments of the department, noting that Montgomery serves Pennington and Rocky Hill in addition to Hopewell. Ms. Patel highlighted statistics for

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food establishment inspections/licensing, infectious disease monitoring, animal control, vaccinations, public education initiatives by the Board of Health, etc. Considerable discussion landed on e-cigarettes, vaping and “juuling,” a new technique in use for tobacco and other chemicals in what looks like a flash drive and is virtually undetectable. Ms. Patel said that Montgomery and Pennington adopted ordinances to license e-cigarette retailers and said the department encourages Hopewell to consider a similar step. Ms. Patel noted that while the State raised the age to purchase tobacco products, it does not license e-cigarettes as it does traditional ones. Mr. Morehouse thanked Ms. Patel and her team for the service they provide to the Borough.

MINUTES – the meeting minutes from the March 1, 2018 regular meeting were accepted on motion by Mr. Mackie, seconded by Ms. Lehman, and carried (Ms. Tewell abstaining due to absence).

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

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 some of the sidewalks on West Prospect have cracked and that the Contractor will be addressing the repairs under the existing maintenance bond. Mr. O’Neal added that a similar problem is beginning on East Prospect which is also being addressed. Mr. O’Neal said that his office was working on a proposal to install solar power to the reservoir to increase efficiency when power is lost in storms. Mr. O’Neal said he is working on amendments to the stormwater ordinance and announced the bid opening for East Prospect Street Phase II was scheduled for April 11th.

Mr. O’Neal announced that effective April 20th he would be retiring, or “semi-retiring” by reducing his work week to one day, with the balance of days covered by Denis Pollak from his office, plus the existing Ferriero office team. Mr. O’Neal said that he’d been planning the step for a long time and worked to ensure that the service to the community would continue as the Borough would expect, and that he would be overseeing the office as he does right now. Mr. O’Neal thanked the governing body and the ones preceding them, for the confidence and support they’ve offered for the past 29 years. Mr. Mackie thanked and praised Mr. O’Neal for his dedication to the community and for planning an “exit” that is respectful of the Borough’s needs. Mr. Morehouse stated that the Borough should solicit a RFP for engineering services.

Mr. Morehouse said that he met with the Hopewell Museum and welcomed them to become a part of the community and said that the stepping stone was one issue and that the curbing was a significant concern, too. Regarding the stepping stone, Mr. O’Neal showed pictures of the construction with dates that were contrary to the allegations made in the museum’s letter. Discussion followed regarding the stone and possible theories regarding its disappearance. Ms. Tewell said that she saw a stone similar to the one in the picture on Hart Avenue. Mr. Morehouse said that he intended to apologize to the Museum Board for the misunderstanding. Ms. Lehman asked what the apology is for. Ms. Tewell said that she had a hard time supporting an apology when there did not appear evidence that the Borough did anything wrong.

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Ordinance No. 814 – First Reading

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 814 by title and explained that the ordinance permits the cost of living allowing in the budget to up to 3.5%. Resolution No. 2018-48, as filed in the Municipal Clerk's office to introduce Ordinance No. 814 was adopted on motion of Ms. Lehman, seconded by Mr. Mackie and carried.

Roll Call:

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

Ordinance No. 815 – First Reading

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO WATER RATES AND AMENDING THE "REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF HOPEWELL, 1975," AS AMENDED

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance 815 by title and explained that the water rates were scheduled for adjustment in 2018, at 2%, in accordance with policy and need. Resolution No. 2018-49, as filed in the Municipal Clerk's office to introduce Ordinance No. 815 was adopted on motion of Ms. Lehman, seconded by Ms. Tewell and carried.

Roll Call:

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-50 – INTRODUCTION OF 2018 MUNICIPAL BUDGET, as filed in the Municipal Clerk's Office, was adopted on motion of Ms. Tewell, seconded by Mr. Mackie, and carried. Ms. Hovan provided a brief summary of budget highlights, noting the .280 cent increase over 2017 per \$100 in assessed valuation, the very strong surplus performance history that is in accordance with the recently adopted surplus management plan, adding that while no major service or operational changes were being funded in 2018, certain priorities are addressed, such as funding for the Verizon trial, redevelopment planning costs, etc. Ms. Hovan announced that the public hearing on the budget would be held on May 3, 2018.

Roll Call:

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

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RESOLUTIONS

Ms. Hovan summarized the offered resolutions. Resolution Nos. 2018-51 through 2018-56, as filed in the Municipal Clerk's Office, were adopted on motion of Ms. Tewell, seconded by Ms. Lehman and carried.

2018-51	Authorization to File Recycling Tonnage Grant
2018-52	Shared Services Agreement – Senior Building Cleaning
2018-53	Refund of Tax Overpayment – B26, L3
2018-54	Personnel – Tax Collector
2018-55	2018 Salaries
2018-56	Emergency Temporary Appropriation

Roll Call:

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

Proclamations:

Mr. Morehouse acknowledged the proclamations drafted for Heidi Kahme, Municipal Alliance Coordinator, and Arbor Day 2018

Appointment

The following mayoral appointment was confirmed:
 Economic Development Committee
 Nathalie Cassion – unexpired one-year term to expire 12/31/20

Departmental Reports

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

Health	March	\$	90.00
Tax Collector	March	\$	78,756.44
Municipal Court	February	\$	3,741.67
Municipal Clerk	March	\$	1,343.00
Registrar	March	\$	100.00
Pet Licensing	March	\$	40.00
Facility Rentals	March	\$	450.00
Zoning	March	\$	150.00

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Claims for Payment

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

Roll Call:

Ayes: Fossel, Lehman, Mackie, Morehouse, Tewell
Nays: None
Absent: Kennedy
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. Mackie, seconded by Ms. Tewell and carried.

Council Liaison Reports

Ms. Tewell announced that the Shade Tree Committee was organizing a joint Arbor Day/Earth Day event and said that the park clean-up day on April 14th would be the kickoff for it. Ms. Tewell said that the group was working with the library on a tree talk and that they secured a speaker. Ms. Tewell said that the annual Arbor Day planting with the kindergarteners would be held as well. Ms. Tewell reported that she received approval for "Heads Up Hopewell" to be included in "Safety Town" events this year and that it would be held on June 25th.

Mr. Morehouse discussed dam needs for the park clean-up day. Ms. Lehman said that the Board of Health was working on the e-cigarette ordinance that was discussed earlier in the meeting. Mr. Mackie said that the Planning Board discussed lighted or neon "open" signs that are currently prohibited by ordinance and took no action following the discussion.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm on motion by Ms. Tewell, seconded by Ms. Lehman and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Hovan
Borough Administrator/Clerk