

**BOROUGH OF HOPEWELL
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
APPROVED: 3/1/2018**

**REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 1, 2018**

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 February 1, 2018. Ms. Hovan 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. Hovan called the roll and the following members of the Borough Council were present: Mr. Chris Fossel, Mr. Ryan Kennedy, Mr. David Mackie and Mr. C. Schuyler Morehouse. Ms. Debra Lehman and Ms. Shelby Tewell were absent. Borough Attorney Joseph Tauriello and Borough Administrator/Clerk Michele Hovan were also present. There were seven members of the public present.

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

Discussion – Borough Dog Park

Mayor Anzano announced that he received a request from a resident about putting a dog park on Somerset Street in the vacant lots and said he wanted to discuss the idea with the neighbors. Mayor Anzano said that the Borough discussed the same issue five years ago and that it was not supported at that time. He added that he and Ms. Hovan had a conversation with a Rockwell representative recently, in passing, about the prospect of using their land for that purpose. He said that company would be willing to discuss future uses of the land once the remediation was complete and that there is no firm timeline for that. Mayor Anzano stated that there was no plan for or design of a Borough dog park.

Ms. Doris Galuchie, 26 Elm Street and President of the Hopewell Woods Homeowner’s Association, noted that the association was contacted about the discussion and that the members took an informal poll and felt that there was no need for a dog park. Ms. Galuchie explained that unlike some urban centers, there are plenty of areas to take dogs already in the Borough. She said that many of the association members were dog owners and even they expressed concerns about unhealthy conditions if other dog owners aren’t responsible. Ms. Galuchie said that the neighborhood already “took a hit” from the Rockwell groundwater issue and felt it was too much to ask that they be asked to endure the potential change a dog park could bring to their quality of life. Ms. Galuchie said that the ideal scenario for the neighbors would be to leave the area untouched, as open space, and that the association might even be willing to buy the parcels from Rockwell if or when they may be interested in selling.

Ms. Beth Young, 32 Elm Street, said that her property backs up to the Rockwell lots and that she just didn’t see a need for the Borough to make a move or decide anything at this point. Mayor Anzano repeated that there was no plan for a dog park and that this was just a discussion. He added that New Jersey Transit may still reactivate the West Trenton Line (though he doubts it will happen for many years, if ever) and that if they do, the likelihood of the Rockwell lots remaining open lots is greatly reduced. Mr. Mackie stated that the lots were included in the Planning Board’s report to determine an area in need of development and that the process for that would grant plenty of opportunity for public comment if the landowners decided to redevelop it in any way. A brief discussion ensued regarding possible future uses. Mayor Anzano concluded the discussion by thanking everyone for their time.

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Elizabethtown Gas Franchise – Petition for Municipal Franchise

Mr. Richard Valenti, attorney for Elizabethtown Gas, explained that the utility was reviewing all of the municipal franchises and discovered some had expired, like Hopewell Borough's. Mr. Valenti said that the lease terms are 25 years and that the last one expired in 2009. He further explained that the petition and ordinance provided were in accordance with the BPU guidelines and that they had been properly advertised. Ms. Hovan confirmed that the petition and ordinance were posted in five locations in the Borough, also in accordance with the regulations. In response to a question raised by Mayor Anzano, Mr. Mark Kelly, Area Manager for Elizabethtown, said that there was no direct competitor for natural gas in the Borough. A general discussion followed regarding certain areas in town that did not have gas service as well as infrared technology for street opening permits.

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

Resolution No. 2018-29 on the Petition for Municipal Franchise as filed in the Municipal Clerk's Office, was adopted on motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Fossel, and carried.

Ordinance No. 813 – First Reading

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

Having already been briefed on the Ordinance content, Ms. Hovan next read Ordinance 813 by title. Resolution No. 2018-30, as filed in the Municipal Clerk's office to introduce Ordinance No. 813, was adopted on motion of Mr. Fossel, seconded by Mr. Morehouse and carried.

Roll Call:

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

MINUTES – the meeting minutes from the January 2, 2018 reorganization and regular meeting were accepted on motion by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Mackie, and carried.

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REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS – there were no comments or questions regarding the Director’s submitted report. Mayor Anzano said that the police ticketed cars parked on the street in the recent storm.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF WATER AND SEWERS- Mr. Mackie commended the water and sewer team for their extra efforts in resolving the East Broad Street main issue.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH ENGINEER – there was no report offered by the Borough Engineer.

ORDINANCE NO. 812 – SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HOPEWELL IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING "THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF HOPEWELL, 1975," AS AMENDED BY REPLACING CHAPTER II (ADMINISTRATION), SECTION 29 ENTITLED “PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEES” WITH CHAPTER II (ADMINISTRATION) SECTION 29 ENTITLED “RECREATION COMMITTEE”

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance 812 by title and explained that the ordinance expands the recreation committee membership by two and dissolves the defunct parks committee. 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. Kennedy and carried.

Resolution No. 2018-31, as filed in the Municipal Clerk’s office to adopt Ordinance No. 812 was adopted on motion of Mr. Kennedy seconded by Mr. Fossel and carried.

Roll Call:

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

RESOLUTIONS

Ms. Hovan spoke in brief summary about the offered resolutions. Resolution Nos. 2018-32 through 2018-36, as filed in the Municipal Clerk’s Office, were adopted on motion of Mr. Mackie, seconded by Mr. Morehouse, and carried.

2018-32	Refund – Train Station Rental
2018-33	Personnel – Planning Board Secretary
2018-34	Budget Transfers
2018-35	Tax Overpayment Refund, Block 21, Lot 8
2018-36	Emergency Temporary Budget

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Roll Call:

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

Departmental Reports

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

Health	January	\$ 75.00
Municipal Court	December	\$ 2,775.88
Pet Licensing	January	\$ 1,958.00
Facility Rentals	January	\$ 650.00
Zoning	January	\$ 100.00

Proclamation – Hopewell Valley’s Night Off – March 1, 2018

Mayor Anzano jokingly noted that the Borough Council meeting on March 1st would be brief in acknowledgment of the traditional night off.

Claims for Payment

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

Roll Call:

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

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. Fossel and carried.

Council Liaison Reports

Mr. Kennedy announced that Restaurant Week is scheduled for the week after Council’s next meeting and that the Economic Development Committee was exploring new ideas to pursue in the coming year. Mr. Kennedy said that part of the research will include contacting other towns and also investigating grant opportunities. Mr. Kennedy said that the Hopewell Valley Green Team is conducting a Styrofoam collection event on Saturday.

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Mr. Fossel said that the Township is looking at reducing meeting times for staff which would affect the senior committee.

Mr. Morehouse announced that the fire elections, paper ballots and collection box and all, were scheduled for this Saturday. He also noted the increase in worker's compensation costs for the fire department due to three accidents involving firefighters. Mayor Anzano suggested that the Fire Commissioners explore entering a high-risk pool in a joint insurance fund. Mr. Morehouse also announced that the Borough would be replacing the library roof and that everything was "flowing fine" with the sewerage authority.

Mayor Anzano said that he would be attending the mayor's conference next week and said the Borough was assigned a new government affairs liaison that used to work for Bonnie Watson Coleman.

Mr. Morehouse said that he visited the new laboratories at Mercer County Community College and that they were brand new and very impressive.

Executive Resolution No. 2018-37- on motion by Mr. Morehouse, seconded by Mr. Fossel and carried, the resolution to enter executive session (and adjourn from executive session) to discuss litigation, Verizon New Jersey, Inc. v. Borough of Hopewell, was adopted at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Hovan
Borough Administrator/Clerk