

**BOROUGH OF HOPEWELL
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
APPROVED: 4/4/2019**

**REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 4, 2019**

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Hopewell was called to order by Mayor Paul Anzano at 7:09 pm on March 4, 2019. 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, Ms. Samara McAuliffe and Ms. Debra Stuhler. Mr. C. Schuyler Morehouse was absent. Borough Administrator Michele Hovan was also present. There were seven members of the public present.

Mayor Anzano opened the meeting to the public. Boy Scout Aiden Brown of Troop 207 approached the microphone. Mayor Anzano asked which badge he was seeking and began a discussion about civics. Mr. Brown asked Mr. Kennedy what his job was. Mr. Kennedy replied that he is one of six members of the legislative body and said that the mayor runs the meeting and votes in the case of a tie. Mr. Kennedy said that the mayor and council help to run the town. Mr. Brown asked Mayor Anzano what is the most exciting part of the position and the Mayor replied engaging with young people (like Mr. Brown) as well as officiating wedding ceremonies and working with the Borough Council to form legislation and rules. Mr. Brown continued the Q&A. Mr. Fossel praised Mr. Brown as an admirable young man. In response to a question raised by Mayor Anzano, Mr. Brown said that he wanted to help people. There being no additional comments or questions the meeting was closed to the public on motion by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Fossel and carried.

Presentation – The Watershed Institute - Water Quality Restoration Grant “Restoration of the Beden Brook Watershed”

Mr. Jim Waltman, Executive Director of the Watershed Institute and Columbia Avenue resident, provided the governing body with an update on the grant received to implement stormwater solutions in Hopewell Borough. Mr. Waltman discussed the record rainfall of 2018 and its impact on the environment. Mr. Waltman discussed sites such as the Peasant Grill, Borough Hall and the lumberyard redevelopment sites as planned areas of improvement. He said that plans were nearly finalized for the first phase and that they are working with Rutgers Nursery for native plant designs for the rain gardens. General discussion regarding stormwater and the environment and community education ensued. In response to a question raised by Mayor Anzano, Mr. Waltman addressed the “Rain Tax,” stating that in all but 10 states the utilities have to manage stormwater and that New Jersey is working to manage existing stormwater features or build new ones with the legislation. After more discussion, Mr. Waltman commented that the DPW crew did a great job with the roads in the recent storm.

Mayor Anzano re-opened the public portion to accommodate another Boy Scout that arrived. The young man, Logan, said he lived on Westcott Blvd and in response to questions raised by Mr. Kennedy, said that he was interested in safety by wearing a bicycle helmet and looking both ways for traffic. On motion by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Mackie and carried, the meeting was closed to the public.

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MINUTES – the meeting minutes from the February 4, 2019 reorganization and regular meeting were accepted on motion by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Ms. Stuhler, and carried, with Mr. Fossel abstaining because he said they were late in arriving.

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- Mr. Mackie commented that the water department did a good job with repairing the leak on Broad Street. There were no additional comments or questions regarding the Director’s submitted report.

Ordinance No. 828 – Second Reading/Public Hearing

CAPITAL ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE SECTION 20 EXPENSES, INCLUDING ENGINEERING SERVICES, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PREPARATION OF AN ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN AS REQUIRED UNDER THE “WATER QUALITY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT” BY THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HOPEWELL BOROUGH WATER UTILITY, BY THE BOROUGH OF HOPEWELL, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, AND THE EXPENDITURE OF \$20,000.00 FROM THE WATER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE FINANCING THEREOF

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance 828 by title and said that the ordinance funds the engineering analysis for the NJDEP-mandated report. 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. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Fossel and carried.

Resolution No. 2019-38, as filed in the Municipal Clerk’s office to adopt Ordinance No. 828, was adopted on motion of Ms. Stuhler, seconded by Mr. Kennedy and carried.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Fossel, Kennedy, McAuliffe, Mackie, Stuhler
Nays: None
Absent: Morehouse
Abstain: None

Discussion – Improvement to Broad Street and Greenwood Avenue Intersection

Ms. Hovan explained that the prepared resolution codifies the governing body’s request to the County for enhancements to the intersection that would include a 4-way “No Turn on Red,” separate turning lanes for right turns onto Greenwood, improved signage and a full stop for vehicles when pedestrian lights are activated.

Resolution No. 2019-39 – Improvements to Broad St & Greenwood Ave Intersection, as filed in the Municipal Clerk’s Office, was adopted on motion of Mr. Fossel, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, and carried.

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Ayes: Fossel, Kennedy, McAuliffe, Mackie, Stuhler
Nays: None
Absent: Morehouse
Abstain: None

Resolution No. 2019-40, Temporary Appropriations, as filed in the Municipal Clerk's office, was adopted on motion of Ms. Stuhler, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, and carried.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Fossel, Kennedy, McAuliffe, Mackie, Stuhler
Nays: None
Absent: Morehouse
Abstain: None

Proclamation – Red Cross Month – Mayor Anzano noted the annual proclamation.

Appointment:

Mayor Anzano announced the appointment of Julie Drawbridge to the Board of Health (Unexpired Term to Expire 12/31/2020)

Departmental Reports

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

Municipal Clerk	February	\$ 90.00
Tax Collector	February	\$ 1,587,434.18
Registrar	February	\$ 60.00
Zoning	February	\$ 50.00
Facility Rentals	February	\$ 450.00
Pet Licensing	February	\$ 405.00
Tax Collector – 2018 Annual Report		\$ 8,585,289.92

Claims for Payment

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

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Ayes: Fossel, Kennedy, Mackie, McAuliffe, Stuhler
Nays: None
Absent: Morehouse
Abstain: None

Mayor Anzano opened the meeting to the public. Ms. Shelby Tewell, 11 N. Greenwood Avenue, thanked the Mayor and Council for their efforts to improve the safety at the intersection of Broad and Greenwood and discussed plans to continue “Heads Up Hopewell” in a spring campaign. There being no further questions or comments, the meeting was closed to the public on motion by Mr. Fossel, seconded by Mr. Kennedy and carried.

Council Liaison Reports

Ms. McAuliffe announced that the Green Team was hosting an event on March 16th known as “Green Fest.” Ms. Stuhler reported that the Board of Health had to reschedule their meeting due to a lack of quorum and said that the Shade Tree committee was hosting a talk on April 24th with the library as part of the Arbor Day/Earth Day celebration.

Mr. Mackie mentioned that an application for 11 Seminary was approved for apartments but he was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Kennedy also noted the approval.

Mr. Kennedy announced that Restaurant Week was currently running and that the open space committee is working on a list of prioritized preservation sites though none were in the Borough.

Mr. Fossel announced a program at the high school about diversity and discussed the book True Grit /and a grant for 288 books that was received. Mr. Fossel said that a calendar was coming out that including period material. Mr. Fossel said that he sat in on a rehearsal for the play “Chicago” and that the students were very talented.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm on motion by Mr. Fossel, seconded by Mr. Kennedy and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Hovan
Borough Administrator/Clerk