

**BOROUGH OF HOPEWELL
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
APPROVED: 6/6/2019**

**REGULAR MEETING
MAY 2, 2019**

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 May 2, 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, Mr. C. Schuyler Morehouse and Ms. Debra Stuhler. Borough Administrator Michele Hovan and Chief Financial Officer Diane McDaniel were also present. There were 2 members of the public present.

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.

Proclamations:

Older Americans Month

Ms. Rosaline Fleming, Hopewell Borough representative to the Senior Advisory Board, read aloud the proclamation declaring May as Older Americans Month. She noted that Ms. Joanne Stransky, East Prospect Street, normally accompanies her for the annual declaration but was unable to attend. Mayor Anzano thanked Ms. Fleming and the Board for the work that they do.

Gun Violence Prevention

Mayor Anzano noted that June 7, 2019 has been designated as “Wear Orange Day” in support of Gun Violence Awareness and encouraged participation.

Presentation – HVRSD 2019-2020 School Budget – this agenda item was pulled due to the unavailability of the presenters to attend. Mayor Anzano stated that the school budget will have a severe impact on the Borough and that he and the other Hopewell Valley Mayors issued a statement expressing their concerns. Mayor Anzano announced that the public hearing for the school budget was pending. Mr. Kennedy stated it was a bad year for the district to not be utilizing surplus sufficiently to promote tax relief. A brief discussion followed regarding representation on the school board and declining enrollment. Mr. Kennedy offered that there are small steps, like swings in the Director’s ratio that can affect the impact on the individual towns. He commented that Ms. Hovan worked with the County Tax Administrator to try and identify areas that the Borough could monitor and challenge when large swings in the ratio are present.

Presentation – Annual Health Department Report by Devangi Patel, Montgomery Health Educator

Ms. Patel discussed the Health Department’s annual report, highlighting certain programs and accomplishments, such as Vote ‘n’ Vax, data collection for communicable diseases, food licensing, and the GMTA Vision Zero initiative aimed at reducing traffic fatalities to zero. In response to questions raised, Ms. Patel elaborated on the communicable disease types; tick, food borne, Hepatitis B & C, influenza, etc. A discussion ensued regarding anti-vaccination positions that some parents take and how vaccines prevent disease. In response to a question raised by Mr. Morehouse, Ms. Patel said that the department works to raise awareness about hepatitis and that they monitor to guard against epidemic through education. Mr. Kennedy inquired if the department would be interested in participating in Safety Town with educational offerings for the school children. Mayor Anzano commented that he only ever hears positive feedback about the health department and thanked Ms. Patel and her team for it.

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Mayor Anzano re-opened the meeting to the public. Mr. Mark Bovenizer, West Prospect Street, said that he was eager to work on the education component for the plastic bag ban and said that while he was once against it, he is now supportive of it. Mr. Bovenizer said that he was in contact with Loggerhead Marine Life regarding aluminum water bottles and distributed samples. He said that he was in contact with the Watershed regarding the reusable bag program they are planning and requested that the 9-month window to implement be extended due to summer vacations, etc. Mr. Kennedy thanked Mr. Bovenizer for his interest and efforts and said that he was hoping to discuss the program with the Watershed and the Economic Development Committee. After more discussion, Mr. Morehouse invited Mr. Bovenizer and Mr. Waltman of the Watershed to his house to discuss program ideas further. There being no further discussion, the meeting was closed to the public on motion by Ms. Stuhler, seconded by Mr. Morehouse and carried.

MINUTES – the meeting minutes from the April 4, 2019 regular meeting were accepted on motion by Mr. Fossel, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, and carried unanimously.

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

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF WATER AND SEWERS- there were no questions regarding the director’s submitted report.

Ordinance No. 829 – 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 829 by title and explained that the ordinance permits the cost-of-living adjustments to the cap level. 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 unanimously.

Resolution No. 2019-51, as filed in the Municipal Clerk’s office to adopt Ordinance No. 829, was adopted on motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Ms. Stuhler and carried unanimously.

Roll Call:

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

Ordinance No. 830 – Second Reading/Public Hearing

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

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Ms. Hovan read Ordinance 830 by title and explained that the adjustment was required to restore self-liquidating status to the utility following the lower-than-anticipated revenue receipts due to the very wet year. 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 unanimously.

Resolution No. 2019-52, as filed in the Municipal Clerk's office to adopt Ordinance No. 830, was adopted on motion of Mr. Morehouse, seconded by Mr. Fossel and carried unanimously.

Roll Call:

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

Ordinance No. 831 – 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

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance 831 by title and explained that the impact of the wet year also affected the sewer utility with greatly increased flow and treatment of it, largely because of I&I. 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 unanimously.

Resolution No. 2019-53, as filed in the Municipal Clerk's office to adopt Ordinance No. 831, was adopted on motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Fossel and carried unanimously.

Roll Call:

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-54 – ADOPTION OF 2019 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Mayor Anzano introduced Ms. McDaniel who discussed budget highlights, including increased revenues, debt paydowns and surplus management. Mayor Anzano thanked Ms. McDaniel, Ms. Hovan and the finance committee for their work on the budget.

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

Resolution No. 2019-54, as filed in the Borough Clerk's office to adopt the 2019 municipal budget, was adopted on motion by Mr. Morehouse, seconded by Mr. Fossel and carried unanimously:

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Roll Call:

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

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution Nos. 2019-55 through 2019-57, as filed in the Municipal Clerk's Office, were adopted on motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Ms. Stuhler, and carried unanimously. Ms. Hovan briefly explained that the grant application for the train station is an excellent opportunity for the Borough to fund repairs, if awarded.

2019-55	Contract Award – East Prospect Street Improvements Phase III
2019-56	Statement of Assurance to Fund Grant Match under New Jersey Historic Trust Fund Capital Level II Program (Repairs to Hopewell Railroad Station)
2019-57	Authorization to Submit Grant Application to New Jersey Historic Trust (Repairs to Hopewell Railroad Station)

Roll Call:

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

Mayor Anzano announced the following appointment:

Economic Development Committee - Karan Patel – unexpired term to expire 12/31/20

Departmental Reports

The following departmental reports were accepted on motion by Mr. Morehouse, seconded by Mr. Kennedy and carried unanimously.

Municipal Clerk	April	\$ 1,350.00
Tax Collector	April	\$ 1,438,942.02
Registrar	April	\$ 86.00
Zoning	April	\$ 700.00
Facility Rentals	April	\$ 135.00
Pet Licensing	April	\$ 90.00

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Claims for Payment

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

Roll Call:

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

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. Fossel and carried unanimously.

Council Liaison Reports

Mr. Kennedy announced that Cruise Night would be held the following evening, that activity at the Planning Board was light and the Hopewell Valley Open Space Committee was working on a list of parcel priorities, including one in the Township that D&R was purchasing just north of the Borough.

Mr. Morehouse reported that the I&I issue remains a concern for the Borough and the sewerage authority.

Ms. Stuhler reported that the Shade Tree Committee met and walked areas of town, discussed requests for the County shade tree division and completed the Arbor Day planting. Mr. Morehouse added that he was donating a weeping rosebud tree to be planted by the bow bridge at the park.

Ms. McAuliffe said that the Green Team would have a table at Pennington Day.

Mr. Mackie briefly discussed an application at the Planning Board that involved impervious coverage and that an application on Seminary with parking issues was approved.

Mayor Anzano announced the Volunteer Appreciation event planned for May 26th, adding that RWJ was donating food and covering other expenses. He said that Ms. Shelby Tewell was working hard to coordinate the effort and that they were planning a giveaway for the attendees. Mayor Anzano also announced that June 10th is the 10th anniversary of the playground and that a celebration for it was in the planning stages. He also announced that he was working with legislators on a bill that would enable the Borough to recoup legal fees from the Verizon case and that 100 other communities could potentially benefit from the statutory change. Mayor Anzano also reported that the bridge work was proceeding nicely, subdeck in, pedestrian walls up, etc., and that there was an incident over the weekend with the detour signs being removed. He said that he is in contact with the County Executive to help accelerate the work if at all possible.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm on motion by Mr. Morehouse, seconded by Mr. Fossel and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Hovan
Borough Administrator/Clerk