

**BOROUGH OF HOPEWELL  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
APPROVED: 7/1/2019**

**REGULAR MEETING  
JUNE 6, 2019**

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Hopewell was called to order by Mayor Paul Anzano at 7:05 pm on June 6, 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 and Ms. Samara McAuliffe. Mr. C. Schuyler Morehouse and Ms. Debra Stuhler were absent. Borough Administrator Michele Hovan was also present. There were 27 members of the public present.

Proclamation - Gun Violence Prevention

Mayor Anzano announced that June 7, 2019 has been designated as "Wear Orange Day" in support of Gun Violence Awareness, adding that the proclamation was also declared at the last meeting to help further encourage participation. More than 25 members of the Mom's Demand Action of Mercer County group were in attendance, all in orange, many with signs supporting the campaign. The group was appreciative of the Council's support. Mr. Kennedy thanked them for their efforts and Ms. McAuliffe expressed appreciation as a council member and a mother. Mayor Anzano said that he has been involved in similar initiatives since the Million Mom March. After a bit of informal dialogue regarding the messaging (posting of flyers, wearing orange, lapel pins, etc.), the group members and governing body posed for a picture to memorialize the passage of the proclamation.

Mayor Anzano opened the meeting to the public. Mr. Chris Weaver, 19 North Greenwood Avenue, said that he returned to ask what measures have been implemented to address speeding in the area, adding the he or his wife have tried to attend each meeting and plan to continue. Mr. Weaver said that he thinks there is insufficient police presence. Ms. Hovan explained the improvements that are planned for the intersection of Broad and Greenwood to maximize pedestrian safety and also cautioned that once the road is repaved next summer, there may be additional issues as smoother surfaces tend to increase speed rates. Regardless, she and Mayor Anzano said that they would alert the police to the continued concerns. Mr. Mackie added that the Borough constantly strives to improve public safety throughout town.

Mr. Jon McConaughy, 20 Long Way, Hopewell, said he wanted to discuss the bridge construction project and his concerns about the Borough's level of engagement with the businesses and said that he thinks the Borough and the County have done the legal minimum, nothing more, to aid businesses in what he described as a crisis. Mr. McConaughy said that the bridge could have been completed in 5 days using the Accelerated Bridge Construction technique, not 150 days, and that the Borough should look to Hackettstown as an example of a community that "got it right." Mr. McConaughy said that things haven't gotten better for businesses with time and that the monetary loss is severe and that it would have been nice to have support from the town. He added that it was the wrong time to start a fundraising campaign with the Mayor's bobblehead, and that "shaking down" the people affected most by the bridge closure shows how tone deaf he believes the Borough is. Mayor Anzano strongly objected to the "shakedown" charge and defended the intent of the bobblehead project, which is to raise funds and awareness for the train station rehabilitation effort. He and Mr. McConaughy engaged in a brief, but heated exchange. Mr. McConaughy asserted that the Borough did not advocate on behalf of the businesses and that no one has talked to the business owners. Mayor Anzano responded that he personally spoke to the businesses and vendors, as did others, as well as to the County regarding the project and the issues associated with it. The bickering

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continued, with Mr. McConaughy listing ways he thought the Borough could have helped, and he spent several more minutes expressing his dissatisfaction.

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

MINUTES – the meeting minutes from the May 2, 2019 regular meeting were accepted on motion by Mr. Fossel, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, and carried.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS – there were no questions regarding the director’s submitted report. Mayor Anzano noted that the report was Mr. Ruehle’s final report, having retired at the end of June.

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

Ordinance No. 832 – First Reading

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS TO NORTH GREENWOOD AVENUE IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF HOPEWELL, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$560,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$560,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance 832 by title and explained that the bond is for the resurfacing of North Greenwood Avenue, including curbing and a crosswalk at Greenwood and Hart Avenue. Resolution No. 2019-58, as filed in the Municipal Clerk’s office to introduce Ordinance No. 832, was adopted on motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Mackie and carried.

Roll Call:

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

Ordinance No. 833 – First Reading

AN ORDINANCE BY THE BOROUGH OF HOPEWELL, COUNTY OF MERCER, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY ACCEPTING A RIGHT-OF-WAY DEDICATION FROM 11-13 SEMINARY, LLC ON BLOCK 28, LOT 6 HOPEWELL BOROUGH TAX MAP AS AUTHORIZED BY N.J.S.A. 40A:12-1 ET SEQ

Ms. Hovan read Ordinance 833 by title and explained that the ordinance enables the right-of-way dedication for a portion of 11 Seminary, a condition of approval by the Planning Board for the site. Resolution No. 2019-59, as filed in the Municipal Clerk’s office to introduce Ordinance No. 833, was adopted on motion of Mr. Mackie, seconded by Ms. McAuliffe and carried.

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Roll Call:

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

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution Nos. 2019-60 through 2019-66, as filed in the Municipal Clerk's Office, were adopted on motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Mackie, and carried.

2019-60	Shared Services – Senior Coordinator
2019-61	Appointment of Humane Law Enforcement Officer
2019-62	Liquor License Renewal – Hopewell House
2019-63	Liquor License Renewal – Hopewell Bistro
2019-64	Personnel – Acting Director of Public Works
2019-65	Interim Principal Public Works Manager
2019-66	In Support of an Accurate 2020 Census

Roll Call:

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

Ms. Hovan announced that the promotion of Alan Fiel to the Director of Public Works post is most deserving and that she is looking forward to working with him in his new role. Mr. Mackie said that Mr. Fiel is an extraordinary employee and that he, too, is confident that Mr. Fiel will be an excellent Director.

Mayor Anzano announced the following appointments:

Library Board of Trustees – School Board Representative  
Elizabeth Maziarz – unexpired term to expire 12/31/19

Emergency Management  
Alan Fiel – Deputy Coordinator - unexpired term to expire 12/31/19  
Recycling Coordinator – Alan Fiel (unexpired term to expire 12/31/19)  
Clean Communities Coordinator – Alan Fiel (unexpired term to expire 12/31/19)

Departmental Reports

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

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Municipal Clerk	May	\$ 2,560.00
Tax Collector	May	\$ 1,438,942.02
Registrar	May	\$ 404.00
Zoning	May	\$ 650.00
Facility Rentals	May	\$ 597.50
Pet Licensing	May	\$ 20.00

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, McAuliffe  
 Nays: None  
 Absent: Morehouse, Stuhler  
 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. Mackie, seconded by Mr. Fossel and carried unanimously.

Council Liaison Reports

Mr. Mackie said that the Planning Board had a discussion about proposed changes to the stormwater ordinance that the Engineer is working on and that the quarter acre of disturbance is too great for most Borough properties and that he is looking forward to discussing the provisions further. He added that mitigation tools, such as dry wells, can be added to maximize the control of runoff and that without strengthening the ordinance, there is insufficient opportunity to capitalize on incremental improvements. Ms. Hovan said that the Borough Engineer has indicated that a draft ordinance would be ready for review in subcommittee in the very near future.

Mr. Kennedy said that the Lawrence Hopewell Trail is expanding and getting closer to Hopewell Borough and that he is looking forward to the realization of that goal. Mr. Kennedy said that the Economic Development Committee is seeking direction and guidance from the governing body and that the topic will be discussed at their next meeting. Mr. Kennedy also reported that the Hopewell Valley Open Space group is discussing prioritized properties though none are in Hopewell Borough. He also reported that the website ad hoc committee is making progress; and some initial "clean-up" changes have been made already, such as the way the minutes are displayed.

Mr. Fossel said that he liked the recycling IQ tool that was sent via Twitter. He asked about the school budget and there was a brief discussion recapping the school district's decision to use less surplus and ask for a greater amount from the taxpayers than most are comfortable with. Mr. Fossel said that he wished there was a greater level of communication between the community and the school board regarding the budget. Mr. Fossel announced that the annual Hopewell Valley Night at the Trenton Thunder would be held on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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Mayor Anzano reported that the volunteer night with the Robert Wood Johnson organization held at the theatre was a nice event, well attended and the music was great! He announced that the other big event is on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, a celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the community-built playgrounds. He said that the theme is a birthday party for a 10-year old, and that supplies and food are being donated. He added that he put a call in to the Watershed Institution to obtain an update on the stormwater grant and that the proposed legislation to clarify who is responsible to pay the telecommunications business personal property taxes and to address legal costs is likely to be tabled until after the November elections. He added that the legislature is also considering changes to the Open Public Records Act.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm on motion by Mr. Fossel, seconded by Mr. Mackie and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Hovan  
Borough Administrator/Clerk