

**Mayor & Borough Council Meeting Minutes
Community Center - 22 Snug Harbor Avenue - Highlands
Wednesday, August 16, 2017
8:00 p.m.**

As per requirement of Public Law 1975, Chapter 231, notice is hereby given that this is a Regular Meeting of the Borough of Highlands Mayor and Council and all requirements have been met. Notice has been transmitted to the Asbury Park Press and the Two River Times. Notice has been posted on the public bulletin board. Formal Action will be taken.

Call to Order
Meeting Statement
Roll Call
Executive Session Resolution

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:00PM

Contract Negotiations: Township of Middletown Sewerage Authority (TOMSA)
B 37, L 12.01 & 13
Business District Modifications Planner
Litigation: Valley Street Repairs
Attorney-Client Privilege: B 105.107, L 1.1. & B 84, L 2.01
Sidewalk Cafes
Personnel: Recreation Staffing

REGULAR MEETING: 8:00PM

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

Public Comment on Resolutions:

Consent Agenda

R-17-147 2016-2017 Liquor License Renewal
R-17-148 Authorize Disposal of Surplus Equipment on GovDeals
R-17-149 Dedicating New Date for Planting Day for Pocket Meadow Initiative
R-17-150 Authorize Purchase from State Contract: Stavola Construction Material
R-17-151 Authorize Release of Performance Guarantee B 40, L 18.19 & 20
R-17-152 Authorize Issuance of the Health Care Waiver Stipend for 2016

Resolutions

R-17-153 Awarding Contract for Licensed Planner for Business District Modifications
R-17-154 Authorize Payment of the Bills

Ordinances: Introduction

O-17-15 Providing a Stipend for Health Care Benefits Waiver to Employees

Other Business:

Disposal of Bridge Pylons
Administrator's Update

Public Comments:

Adjourn

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REGULAR MEETING: 8:06PM

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL:

Present: Councilmembers Broullon, Card, D'Arrigo, Wells & Mayor O'Neil

Absent: None

Also Present: Bonnie Brookes, Deputy Borough Clerk

Brian Chabarek, Borough Attorney

Patrick DeBlasio, CFO

Brian Geoghegan, Administrator

Dale Leubner, Zoning Officer

Mark Philpot, Superintendent of Public Works

Public Comment on Resolutions:

Mayor O'Neil opened the meeting to public comments.

Carol Bucco, Shore Drive, asked questions concerning R-17-147 which Ms. Brookes answered. Ms. Bucco also expressed concern over the date conflicts which required the change in R-17-149.

Mayor O'Neil closed the meeting for public comments.

Consent Agenda

R-17-147 2016-2017 Liquor License Renewal

R-17-148 Authorize Disposal of Surplus Equipment on GovDeals

R-17-149 Dedicating New Date for Planting Day for Pocket Meadow Initiative

R-17-150 Authorize Purchase from State Contract: Stavola Construction Material

R-17-151 Authorize Release of Performance Guarantee B 40, L 18.19 & 20

R-17-152 Authorize Issuance of the Health Care Waiver Stipend for 2016

Councilmember Wells offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and was seconded by Councilmember D'Arrigo.

ROLL CALL:

AYE: Councilmembers Broullon, Card, D'Arrigo, Wells & Mayor O'Neil (5)

NAY: None (0)

ABSENT: None (0)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

The consent agenda has been properly approved.

Resolution

R-17-153 Awarding Contract for Licensed Planner for Business District Modifications

Mr. Chabarek stated that the Borough would be awarding the contract to Heyer, Gruel & Associates in the amount of \$22,500.00 based on proposals received on August 3rd 2017. Councilmember D'Arrigo offered a motion to approve resolution R-17-153 and was seconded by Councilmember Broullon.

ROLL CALL:

AYE: Councilmembers Broullon, Card, D'Arrigo, Wells & Mayor O'Neil (5)

NAY: None (0)

ABSENT: None (0)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

R-17-153 has been properly approved.

Resolution

R-17-154 Authorizing Payment of the Bills

Councilmember Wells offered a motion to approve resolution R-17-154 and was seconded by Councilmember Broullon.

ROLL CALL:

AYE: Councilmembers Broullon, Card, D'Arrigo, Wells & Mayor O'Neil (5)

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NAY: None (0)
ABSENT: None (0)
ABSTAIN: None (0)

R-17-154 has been properly approved.

Authorize payment of bill for Tribar for work completed on Valley Street in the amount \$12,650.00
Councilmember Card offered a motion to authorize the payment of bills for Tribar for \$12,650.00 for work completed on Valley Street and was seconded by Councilmember Broullon. Councilmember Card explained that the contractor did the work and should be paid. Mr. Chabarek clarified that Councilmember Card was referencing invoice #70317-44 for \$11,400.00 and invoice #70317-03 for \$1,250.00. Councilmember Kane expressed why she thought the Borough should wait to pay the bills which Mayor O'Neil agreed with. The Council debated the topic.

ROLL CALL:

AYE: Councilmembers Broullon, Card & D'Arrigo (3)
NAY: Wells & Mayor O'Neil (2)
ABSENT: None (0)
ABSTAIN: None (0)

Authorization of payment for Tribar has been properly approved.

Ordinances: Introduction

O-17-15 Providing a Stipend for Health Care Benefits Waiver to Employees

A motion to introduce this ordinance was offered by Councilmember Kane and seconded by Council Member Broullon.

ROLL CALL:

AYE: Councilmembers Broullon, Card, D'Arrigo, Wells & Mayor O'Neil (5)
NAY: None (0)
ABSENT: None (0)
ABSTAIN: None (0)

O-17-15 has been properly introduced and will have a public hearing/possible adoption on September 6, 2017.

Other Business:

Disposal of Bridge Pylons

Mr. Geoghegan stated that the Borough needs to decide on a line of action for the pylons which was discussed. It was determined to incorporate them into a sign at Veterans' Park and how to move them would be investigated. Carla Cefalo Braswell of the Highlands Business Partnership was asked to bring drawings to the Borough and Mr. Leubner was asked to explore footings.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Geoghegan updated the Council on paving, improvements to basketball courts at Veterans' Park, the summer recreation program, Monmouth Hills, and the Highland's Elementary School drainage issue. He also provided the Council a timeline for moving Borough operations to the new trailer.

Rock Incident

Councilmember Card denounced the recent incident where a rock was found near the Community Center with offensive symbols language painted on it. Acting Chief Burton announced the case was closed earlier in the day.

Road Improvements

Councilmember Broullon recommended adding Hillside Road into the Portland Road project as the street is in poor shape.

Deaths

Mayor O'Neil shared the sad news of the Garden Club's President Dodie Bower's passing and noted all the wonderful things she did for Highlands.

Land Use Board

Mayor O'Neil noted that Jimmy Fox resigned from the Board and will be missed.

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Public Comments:

Mayor O'Neil opened the meeting to the public for comment.

Steve Solop, Bay Ave, expressed that the Highlands Business Partnership (HBP) is a wonderful organization and was impressed by their dedication. He commented, as a business owner he is concerned that he doesn't get a return on his investment into the HBP. He suggested a task force be created to look for ways to improve the HBP and be more inclusive. Council discussed ways to assist the HBP and how an outside evaluation can be useful.

Chris Francy, Fifth Street, expressed his frustration at that Council has not committed to the improvements on Valley Street. Mr. Leubner explained the delay in the project. Mr. Francy and the Council debated the advantages and disadvantages of completing the project as a whole compared to splitting it into smaller projects.

Carol Bucco, Shore Drive, questioned if the rumor she heard concerning Seastreak building a large parking garage was valid and she was informed that the Borough knew of no such plans. She suggested various methods to control and correct the parking situation caused by Seastreak patrons.

Carola Cefalo Braswell, Gravely Point Road, stated she spoke to Seastreak directly on the rumor and it was false. She inquired if the JCP&L lights could be dimmed for the decorative lights and was advised legally that was not an option. Ms. Cefalo Braswell questioned the status of installing electricity to Veterans' Park. Mr. Leubner advised her of the status and issues the Borough is facing with that project. Council discussed how to proceed.

Authorization to move forward with bringing electricity to Veterans' Park if the funds were available.

Councilmember Broullon motioned to have the Chief Financial Officer look for \$15,000.00 in the budget to cover the additional line items needed to bring electricity into Veterans' Park, notify the Governing Body if located, and have Mr. Leubner immediately contact JCP&L to move forward, which was seconded by Councilmember Wells.

ROLL CALL:

AYE: Councilmembers Broullon, Card, D'Arrigo, Wells & Mayor O'Neil (5)
NAY: None (0)
ABSENT: None (0)
ABSTAIN: None (0)

Authorization to proceed with the project has been properly approved.

Mary Saltzman, Snug Harbor, inquired on the status of Captain's Cove Marina and licensing requirements for the Jackson Street bungalows which were answered by the Borough's professionals. She had questions concerning tax abatement and was advised to speak to the Assessor. Ms. Saltzman commented on the Borough's handling of the rock incident and the success of the summer camp. She also spoke on the HPB issue which was earlier discussed.

Tina Kaennerer, Linden Ave, suggested the Borough install surveillance cameras. She proposed asking Pulte Homes to get more involved in the business initiative I and was reminded that all their residents would also be tax payers.

Councilmember D'Arrigo acknowledged Mr. Geoghegan and Mr. Chabarek's work on updating ordinances. Councilmember Card stated Code Enforcement Officer Mr. Mercado should be included for his work on the ordinances.

Mr. Leubner provided to the Council an update on the Streetscape project, out decorative lighting and the bid process for the 2017 Road Improvement Projects. He also reviewed the status of the Borough's open grants and grant possibilities.

Mayor O'Neil closed the meeting to the public.

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Adjourn:

Mayor O'Neil motioned to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Councilmember Wells. The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 pm.

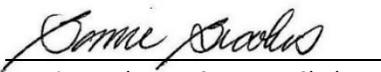
Approval of the Minutes

A motion to approve the Minutes of August 16th 2017 was made by Councilmember Broullon and seconded by Councilmember Wells.

AYE: Councilmembers Broullon, D'Arrigo, Wells & Mayor O'Neil (4)
NAY: None (0)
ABSENT: Councilmember Card (1)
ABSTAIN: None (0)

I, Bonnie Brookes, Deputy Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Highlands, in the County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, hereby certify this to be the action of the Governing Body at its meeting held September 6, 2017.

Approve: 
Richard W. O'Neil, Mayor

Attest: 
Bonnie Brookes RMC, Deputy Clerk

