

Mayor & Council Meeting Minutes
Community Center, 22 Snug Harbor Avenue, Highlands
Wednesday, April 3rd 2019 – 6:30 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

WORKSHOP: 6:30PM

Summer camp
Economic Development Officer Cliff Moore

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:00PM

Attorney-Client Privilege: New FCC Rules for Small Wireless Facilities
Fees
Personnel: Employment Termination Appeal

REGULAR MEETING: 8:00PM

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

Consent Agenda

R-19-105 Approve Payment of the Bills
R-19-106 Authorize Refund of Taxes
R-19-107 Supporting the 2019 Distracted Driving Crackdown – April 1st to 21st 2019
R-19-108 Support Multiple Sclerosis Society’s “Coast to Coast” Bike MS Ride
R-19-109 Authorize Purchase of Vehicle
R-19-110 Authorize Refund of Street Opening Deposit

Resolutions

R-19-112 Adopt FY 2019 Municipal Budget
R-19-113 Introduce BID Budget for 2019 & Setting Public Hearing Date for Adoption
R-18-114 Urging NJDEP to Extend Public Comment on NESE Pipeline in the Bayshore
R-19-115 Oppose the NESE Pipeline & Urge NJDEP to Conduct a Public Hearing

Ordinances: Introduction

O-19-08 Authorize Extension of Time to Adopt District Management Corp. Budget for 2019

Other Business

Pete McCarthy – National Park Service – Gateway NRA, Sandy Hook Unit
Administrator’s Report
Police Chief’s Report
Engineer’s Report

Public Comments:

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Adjourn

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The Meeting was called to order at 6:32pm.

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Call to Order
Meeting Statement

Roll Call

 X Councilmember Braswell
 X Councilmember Broullon
 X Councilmember Mazzola
 X Councilmember Ryan
 X* Mayor O’Neil

Also Present:

 X Andrew Ball, Borough Attorney
 X Bonnie Brookes, Clerk
 X Kim Gonzales, Borough Administrator
 X Clifford Moore, Economic Development Officer
 X Rosa Pace, Deputy Clerk

WORKSHOP MEETING:

Sumer Camp

Ms. Gonzales stated that she had e-mailed the Council concerning changing some of the Borough fees including for the summer camp. She explained that there has been historically an issue with people signing their children for the entire summer but not attending regularly, taking spots that other children could use. Ms. Gonzales suggested having the children signed up per week with a weekly rate which the Council discussed and all were in favor of. Ms. Gonzales also discussed grouping the children by ages and extending both before and after care which the Council was also in favor of. The weekly fee was discussed by Council, but no decision was made. Ms. Gonzales noted that scholarships would still be available for those in need. Mr. Ball explained the process to change the ordinance which sets the fee schedule. The Council agreed to decide on fees and have an ordinance introduced at the next meeting.

Economic Development Officer

Mr. Moore presented the Council with a “Mind Map” which explained how he would be performing his job. He noted that he would like to talk to as many members of the community as possible and get as much information as he could to provide an unbiased recommendation.

*The Mayor entered the meeting at 6:54pm.

Ms. Gonzales inquired what would be the best way to assist him in this process. Mr. Moore stated that he would like to have town-hall like meetings and explained his plan for public engagement. He asked that all prospective businesses be directed to him.

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Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor O’Neil.

Roll Call

- X Councilmember Braswell
- X Councilmember Broullon
- X Councilmember Mazzola
- X Councilmember Ryan
- X Mayor O’Neil

Also Present:

- X Bonnie Brookes, Clerk
- X Brian Chabarek, Borough Attorney
- X Patrick DeBlasio, CFO
- X Kim Gonzales, Borough Administrator
- X Clifford Moore, Economic Development Officer
- X Rosa Pace, Deputy Clerk
- X Doug Rohmeyer, CME Associates

Consent Agenda

- R-19-105 Approve Payment of the Bills
- R-19-106 Authorize Refund of Taxes
- R-19-107 Supporting the 2019 Distracted Driving Crackdown – April 1st to 21st 2019
- R-19-108 Support Multiple Sclerosis Society’s “Coast to Coast” Bike MS Ride
- R-19-109 Authorize Purchase of Vehicle
- R-19-110 Authorize Refund of Street Opening Deposit

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda:

	INTRODUCED	SECONDED	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
BRASWELL						X
BROULLON		X	X			
MAZZOLA			X			
RYAN			X			
O’NEIL	X		X			

The consent agenda was properly approved.

Resolutions

R-19-112 Adopt FY 2019 Municipal Budget
 Mayor O’Neil opened to the public on Resolution 19-101.

Name: Kim Skorka

Address: Shore Drive

Stated that she normally had the opportunity to review the budget with the Administrator and/or Council prior to its adoption but didn’t have the chance this year. She noted that watching pennies is very important. Ms. Skorka questioned the reduced revenue from Borough leases which Ms. Gonzales explained.

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Mr. DeBlasio stated that there was a zero (0) percent tax increase for the Borough’s taxes this year and noted how in the past three years there was only a 1.7 cent increase. Ms. Skorka inquired how the Borough was able to do this which Mr. DeBlasio reviewed. Ms. Skorka asked why the Borough budgets more than it spends. Mr. DeBlasio noted that there are additional expenses this year from returning to the County tax program. Ms. Skorka questioned the increases in legal fees, engineering, the Land Use Board, masterplan, flood insurance, and sanitation line items all which Mr. DeBlasio and Ms. Gonzales explained.

Ms. Skorka pointed out that the Borough was paying more in animal control services and construction when the residents were told it would be a cost savings to the Borough. She also noted the poor service that the animal control does.

Mayor O’Neil closed the meeting to the public.

Motion to Approve Resolution 19-112:

	INTRODUCED	SECONDED	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
BRASWELL		X	X			
BROULLON	X		X			
MAZZOLA			X			
RYAN			X			
O’NEIL			X			

Resolution 19-112 was properly approved.

R-19-113 Introduce BID Budget for 2019 & Setting Public Hearing Date for Adoption

Councilmember Mazzola read a statement into the record explaining her vote.

Motion to Approve Resolution 19-113:

	INTRODUCED	SECONDED	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
BRASWELL					X	
BROULLON		X	X			
MAZZOLA				X		
RYAN			X			
O’NEIL	X		X			

Resolution 19-113 was properly approved.

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R-19-114 Urging NJDEP to Extend Public Comment on NESE Pipeline in the Bayshore

Motion to Approve Resolution 19-114:

	INTRODUCED	SECONDED	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
BRASWELL			X			
BROULLON		X	X			
MAZZOLA			X			
RYAN	X		X			
O'NEIL			X			

Resolution 19-114 was properly approved.

R-19-115 Oppose the NESE Pipeline & Urge NJDEP to Conduct a Public Hearing

Councilmember Braswell stated that he read two reports on this pipeline and expressed concern with the accuracy of the statements in the resolution. He stated that he would like additional time to research the issue.

Motion to Approve Resolution 19-115:

	INTRODUCED	SECONDED	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
BRASWELL				X		
BROULLON	X		X			
MAZZOLA			X			
RYAN		X	X			
O'NEIL			X			

Resolution 19-115 was properly approved.

Ordinances: Introduction & First Reading

O-19-08 Authorize Extension of Time to Adopt District Management Corp. Budget for 2019

Motion to Adopt Ordinance 19-08:

	INTRODUCED	SECONDED	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
BRASWELL					X	
BROULLON			X			
MAZZOLA				X		
RYAN		X	X			
O'NEIL	X		X			

Ordinance 19-08 was properly introduced.

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Mayor O’Neil left the meeting at 8:45pm.

Other Business

Pete McCarty – National Park Service – Gateway NRA – Sandy Hook Unit

Mr. McCarty thanked the Council for allowing him to present at the meeting. He stated that he was there to discuss the new alcohol and tobacco ban at the park. He noted that this ban was due to an increase in arrests and incidents involving alcohol and that it was for the safety of the visitors and employees alike. Mr. McCarthy offered to answer any questions which there were none.

Administrator’s Report

Ms. Gonzales reported that the Borough is continuing to work with Sea Bright and the Department of Community Affairs on the shared service feasibility study. She noted that they are continuing to meet with the architect and the Borough is doing their best to keep costs down for the new Borough Hall adding that FEMA would be providing \$1.787 million for the old Borough Hall. She noted there was a possibility of receiving additional finds from FEMA. Ms. Gonzales listed the upcoming Borough events.

Police Chief’s Report

Chief Burton stated that the Borough is being reassessed that that inspectors would be out in the Borough. He informed the public that they would have ID and wear reflective vests. He encouraged anyone who has any doubts if someone is an inspector to call the police to come and verify. Chief Burton stated that the Highlands Police Department received a thank you from the FBI for assistance in an investigation which was unrelated to the North Street incident.

Engineer’s Report

Mr. Rohmeyer updated the Council on the Waterwitch and Bay Avenue sanitary sewer project, along with, the Valley Street project.

Open the meeting to the Public for Comment

Name: Kim Skorka

Address: Shore Drive

Questioned if FEMA was paying to have the old Borough Hall demolished and asked that anything that could be recycled would be. Ms. Gonzales stated that she did not have an answer about FEMA’s reimbursement at this time but that the Borough would do what they could for recycling. Ms. Skorka noted that she was not opposed to funding the HBP, just not funding the full amount the HBP is asking.

Name: Cindy Zipf

Address: Clean Ocean Action & Mountain Street

Thanked the Council for passing the pipeline resolutions. She explained the impact that the pipeline would have on New Jersey, the Bayshore, and the clammers. Ms. Zipf noted that the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has extended the comment period until May 2nd 2019. She proclaimed that Clean Ocean Action would be holding a public hearing and that comments from the meeting would be transcribed and shared with NJ DEP. Councilmember Broullon asked Ms. Zipf to share the website where the public could share comments with the DEP.

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Name: Claudette D’Arrigo

Address: Sea Drive Avenue

Inquired what the Borough received from insurance from the old Borough Hall, the cost of the new building, and the difference which would be placed on the tax payers. Ms. Gonzales explained that the new Borough Hall would roughly cost \$6 million to build, with the FEMA offset of \$1.787 million, and only about \$50,000 from insurance. She noted that the Borough might also be able to get additional funds from FEMA. Ms. D’Arrigo pointed out that there is a \$4 million difference.

Name: Mike Cannon

Address: Linden Avenue

Noted that he believed the Clean Ocean Action resolutions are misleading and that the Council should have conducted more research. He discussed the project with Councilmember Braswell. Councilmember Ryan commented that there is need for public hearings to supply information.

Name: Cindy Zipf

Address: Clean Ocean Action & Mountain Street

Stated that she appreciated the challenge to the information in the resolutions and informed the Council of all the professionals they have on staff. She listed the chemicals that they would be using and its impact on the environment. Ms. Zipf offered to provide citations for all the facts in the resolution and explained how the Bayshore was ignored during this whole process.

The meeting was closed to the public.

Motion to Adjourn the meeting:

	INTROUCED	SECONDED	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
BRASWELL			X			
BROULLON		X	X			
MAZZOLA			X			
RYAN	X		X			
O’NEIL						X


The meeting was adjourned at 10:01pm.

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Motion to Approve the April 3rd 2019 Minutes:

	INTRODUCED	SECONDED	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
BRASWELL			X			
BROULLON		X	X			
MAZZOLA			X			
RYAN			X			
O'NEIL	X		X			

I, Bonnie Brookes, Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Highlands, in the County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, hereby certify this to be a true copy of the action of the Governing Body, at its Council Meeting, held April 17, 2019. WITNESS my hand this 18th day of April 2019.

Mayor: 
 Richard W. O'Neil

Clerk: 
 Bonnie Brookes, RMC