

BOROUGH OF HAMPTON

REGULAR MEETING

May 11, 2020

Mayor Shaner called the Regular Meeting of the Hampton Borough Council to order at 7:30p.m. Mayor. Shaner gave the Open Public Meetings Act Statement. . This meeting was held in compliance with the Open Pubic Meetings Act. The Annual Notice was adopted on January 6, 2020 and was published in the Hunterdon Democrat on January 09, 2020. The Annual Notice has been posted on the public bulletin board and has been filed in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

Mayor Shaner also announced that the following was posted on the bulletin board and placed on the Borough website and Facebook page:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING IS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC DUE TO THE COVID-19 (CORONA VIRUS). IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE INVOLVED WITH THIS MEETING VIA CONFERENCE CALL (425)436-6386 and enter Access Code 897987.

Mayor Shaner asked all to rise for the flag salute.

Roll Call on conference call:	Present:	Mayor Shaner	Bob Baker
		John Drummond	Doug Rega
		Carroll Swenson	Jeff Tampier
		Rob Wotanowski	

The following people were also present on conference call: Matt Lyons, Borough Attorney, Kathy Olsen, CFO, Alan Brower, DPW Director, Rick Allen, Fire Chief and Lisa Moretti, Resident.

Cm. Drummond made a motion to approve the following minutes as presented, second by Cm. Wotanowski:

Minutes of April 13, 2020 - Regular Meeting
Voice Vote All ayes: Motion carried.

Comments and Questions from the Public:

Lisa Moretti, 26 W. Grand Street – Ms. Moretti began by giving her condolences to the Borough for the loss of our Municipal Violations Officer Frank Klemser. She added that her father also passed away recently. Ms. Moretti also thanked the Mayor, Borough Council and staff for all of the efforts put forth to get

Ordinance No. 01-2020 regarding the keeping of chickens and roosters in the Borough passed.

Fire Chief Rick Allen inquired as to whether the Borough Council Members had any questions or concerns they would like to discuss. There were none.

Communications:

Email from Audrey Christensen, Hampton resident, requesting permission to paint a mural under the railroad bridge. It was noted that although this would make the bridge look more appealing the bridge is owned by NJ Transit. Ms. Christensen would need to obtain permission from NJ Transit and then come before the Borough Council for final approval.

Letter from Department of Transportation re: NJDOT Fiscal Year 2021 State Aid Program, application deadline July 1. Information only no discussion was held.

Letter from Hampton Public School that included the 2020/2021 Report of School Taxes.

The Mayor and Borough Council members discussed the fact that the Hampton Borough School Board of Education is again raising the school tax levy by an exorbitant amount. The tax levy that was voted on and passed by the Hampton School Board for the 2020/2021 school budget year is 29.72%.

The Mayor and Borough Council members strongly condemned this excessive tax increase. Matt Lyons, Borough Attorney was asked if a resolution condemning this tax increase was possible, he noted that it is and he will draft a resolution for adoption at the next meeting.

Letter from North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional School District that included the 2020/2021 Report of School Taxes. Per our Tax Assessor the North Hunterdon tax levy went down 4.94% from the 2019/2020 budget year.

Executive Order No. 120 changing the date of the Primary Election in NJ from Tuesday June 2 to Tuesday July 7, 2020. Information only no discussion held.

Old Business:

Landscape Design Ordinance and Master Plan and possible inclusion of not allowing the planting of bamboo in the Borough. – Discussion – Tabled.

Police Shared Services Contract for Managed Crossing Guard Services –Tabled.

Reports of Committees:

Cm. Swenson reported that the Borough Engineer Bill Burr is 75% done with the tax map revisions. Cm. Swenson also reported that he will be meeting with Eric Reyes from Land Planning and Engineering along with Alan Brower, Mayor Shaner and Cm. Drummond on Friday regarding the Lumberyard.

Cm. Rega had nothing to report at this time.

Cm. Drummond had no report other than to thank Alan and all of the guys on the DPW for their efforts in getting the broken water main issue resolved as quickly and efficiently as they did.

Cm. Tampier had no report at this time.

Cm. Wotanowski had no report at this time.

Cm. Baker had no report at this time.

New Business:

Motion by Cm. Drummond; second by Cm. Baker to approve the following Ordinance 04-2020 to be read by title:

ORDINANCE NO. 04-2020

ORDINANCE FIXING THE POSITION TITLES AND SALARY RANGES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES IN THE BOROUGH OF HAMPTON IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND FOR THE WATER UTILITY IN THE BOROUGH OF HAMPTON IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Baker, Drummond, Rega, Swenson, Tampier, Wotanowski

All Ayes: Motion carried.

Motion by Cm. Baker; second by Cm. Drummond to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION No. 58-2020

**AUTHORIZING THE HAMPTON BOROUGH TAX COLLECTOR TO
PREPARE AND MAIL ESTIMATED TAX BILLS IN ACCORDANCE
WITH P.L 1994, C.72**

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey in light of the Coronavirus outbreak may not be able to certify the tax rate in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, as a result thereof, the Hunterdon County Board of Taxation is unable to verify Hampton's tax rate and the Hampton Borough Collector will be unable to mail the Borough's 2020 tax bills on a timely basis; and

WHEREAS, the Hampton Borough Chief Financial Officer has computed an estimated tax levy in accordance with N.J.S.A 54:4-66.3, and has signed a certification showing the tax levies for the previous year, the tax rates and the range of permitted estimated tax levies.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hampton, in the County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Hampton Borough Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to prepare and issue estimated tax bills for the Borough for the third installment of 2020 taxes. The Tax Collector shall proceed and take such actions as are permitted and required by L.1994, C. 72(N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.2 and 54:4-66.3).
2. The entire estimated tax levy for 2020 is hereby set at \$4,372,251.01
3. The Estimated tax rate (based on estimated levy) is hereby set at \$3.620.
4. In accordance with law, the third installment of 2020 taxes shall not be subject to interest until the later of August 10th or the twenty-fifth calendar day after the date the estimated tax bills were mailed.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Baker, Drummond, Rega, Swenson, Tampier, Wotanowski

All Ayes: Motion carried.

Motion by Cm. Rega; second by Cm. Baker to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION # 59-2020

PROVIDING A SIXTY-DAY GRACE PERIOD FOR THE PAYMENT OF WATER BILLS

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, pursuant to Executive Order No. 103, Governor Phil Murphy declared that a Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency exist in the State of New Jersey as a result of an outbreak of Coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19") is a contagious, and at times fatal, respiratory disease; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Executive Order No. 107, Governor Phil Murphy ordered the closure of all non-essential businesses and required, with limited exceptions, New Jersey residents to remain in their place of residence; and

WHEREAS, on April 7, 2020, pursuant to Executive Order No. 119, Governor Phil Murphy extended the declaration of Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency through May 9, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hampton realize that the restrictions business operations and on residents' movement has caused economic distress to many residents; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hampton hereby allow a sixty-day grace period for the payment of any bills for water and service that become due between April 23 and May 13, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hampton hereby authorize the waiver of any interest, fees, or penalties associated with the payment of such bills paid on or before July 13, 2020.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Baker, Drummond, Rega, Swenson, Tampier, Wotanowski
All Ayes: Motion carried.

Motion by Cm. Rega; second by Cm. Baker to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 60-2020

**RESOLUTION OF THE BROUGH OF HAMPTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON,
STATE OF NEW JERSEY, EXTENDING THE GRACE PERIOD FOR THE
PAYMENT OF SECOND-QUARTER PROPERTY TAXES TO JUNE 1, 2020**

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of New Jersey issued Executive Order 103 on March 9, 2020, declaring a Public Health Emergency and a State of Emergency due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, said Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency continue to exist as of the date of this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to various Executive Orders issued by the Governor of the State of New Jersey in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including but not limited to Executive Order 107 issued on March 21, 2020, all non-essential retail businesses are closed and residents are ordered to stay at home when practicable; and

WHEREAS, property taxpayers may be suffering from financial hardships as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, including but not limited to, loss or decrease of income or unexpected expenses due to necessary health care; and

WHEREAS, under N.J.S.A. 54:4-67(a), a municipality may fix the rate of interest to be charged for the nonpayment of taxes, assessments, or other municipal liens or charges, on or before the date when they would become delinquent, and may provide that no interest shall be charged if payment of any installment is made within the tenth calendar day following the date upon which the same became delinquent, thereby establishing a grace period running through May 11, 2020 for the second-quarter property taxes; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 130, issued on April 28, 2020, authorized municipalities to establish a grace period extension no later than June 1, 2020 for payment of second-quarter property taxes and that any provisions of N.J.S.A. 54:4-66(a), N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.1(a), and N.J.S.A. 54:4-67(a) inconsistent with Executive Order 130 were suspended for the duration of the Public Health Emergency; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the governing body to adopt a resolution instituting a grace period of June 1, 2020 for the payment of second-quarter property taxes to alleviate financial hardships on the residents of the Borough of Hampton.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hampton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The governing body does hereby extend the grace period for the payment of second-quarter property taxes for properties located in the Borough of Hampton to June 1, 2020 in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 130 (2020).
2. The Municipal Clerk shall forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs within three (3) business days of the adoption of this Resolution.
3. A certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Tax Collector and Chief Financial Officer.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Baker, Drummond, Rega, Swenson, Tampier, Wotanowski
All Ayes: Motion carried.

Motion by Cm. Baker; second by Cm. Wotanowski to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #61-2020 -

TO DEFER LOCAL DISTRICT SCHOOL TAXES

WHEREAS, the Local District School Tax for the year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 was raised in the 2019 Tax Levy in the sum of \$2,094,076.00, and

WHEREAS, the statutes permit the deferral of such School Tax up to 50% of the School Tax Levy or \$1,047,038.00,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hampton, County of Hunterdon, that the Deferred School Tax for Local District School purpose be 50% of the Tax Levy or the sum of \$1,047,038.00 as of December 31, 2019.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that three certified copies of this resolution be filed in the Office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Baker, Drummond, Rega, Swenson, Tampier, Wotanowski
All Ayes: Motion carried.

Motion by Cm. Baker; second by Cm. Rega to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION # 62-2020 -

TO DEFER REGIONAL DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL TAXES

WHEREAS, the Regional District High School Tax for the year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 was raised in the 2019 Tax Levy in the sum of \$748,922.00, and

WHEREAS, the statutes permit the deferral of such School Tax up to 50% of the School Tax Levy or \$374,461.00,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hampton, County of Hunterdon, that the Deferred School Tax for Regional District High School Purpose be 50% of the Tax Levy or the sum of \$374,461.00 as of December 31, 2019.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that three certified copies of this resolution be filed in the Office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Baker, Drummond, Rega, Swenson, Tampier, Wotanowski
All Ayes: Motion carried.

2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION

Motion by Cm. Baker, second by Cm. Swenson to authorize the Mayor to open the Public Hearing on the 2020 Municipal Budget.

Voice Vote: All ayes: Motion carried

There were no comments or questions from the public.

Cm. Baker inquired about a personnel matter that was outstanding and inquired if that needed to be resolved prior to taking a vote to approve the 2020 Budget.

A special meeting will be called to discuss the matter in Executive Session as this ca not be discussed during a teleconference, this pending personnel matter does not delay the vote on the 2020 Municipal Budget.

Motion by Cm. Baker, second by Cm. Drummond to adopt the 2020 Municipal Budget as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Baker, Drummond, Rega, Swenson, Tampier, Wotanowski
All Ayes: Motion carried

**Extension of time for Food Handler License Renewals due June 1 – Discussion
(State extended renewal of Liquor Licenses from June 30 to September 30 2020)**

Motion by Cm. Wotanowski; second by Cm. Baker to extend the Renewal date without penalty for 2020/2021 Food Handler Licenses to September 30, 2020.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Baker, Drummond, Rega, Swenson, Tampier, Wotanowski
All Ayes: Motion carried.

RESOLUTIN NO. 63-2020 – 2020/2021 SALARY RESOLUTION – TABLED due to an Executive Session needed to discuss a personnel issue. This can't be done via teleconference.

The members of the Borough Council set the date for a Special Meeting to be held on Monday, May 28, 2020. The purpose of this meeting will be to introduce a resolution regarding the Borough Council's displeasure with the significant increase in school taxes. There will also be an Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel and Action will be taken. The Borough Council members will meet at the municipal building and the public will be able to take part in the meeting via teleconference.

Motion by Cm. Drummond, second by Cm. Rega to approve the CFO to pay bills as presented on the bill list of May 11, 2020 and authorizing the CFO to pay bills between meetings.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Baker, Drummond, Rega, Swenson, Tampier, Wotanowski
All Ayes: Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. -2020 – EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.

Adjournment: Motion by Cm Swenson, second by Cm. Baker to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Hampton Borough Council. Voice Vote: All ayes, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:10p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Leidner, RMC
Municipal Clerk