



MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL
OCTOBER 16, 2024 – MINUTES
7:00PM

* MEETING CALLED TO ORDER - SALUTE TO THE FLAG - MOMENT OF SILENCE
Councilman Dzingleski called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. All in attendance stood for a moment of silence for our armed forces serving to protect us, as well as Mayor Slavicek who is undergoing surgery.

* CALLING OF THE ROLL

Mayor Slavicek – absent

Councilman Karczewski – arrived 7:32pm

Councilwoman Bohinski

Councilman Duffy

Councilman Dzingleski

Councilman Reid

Councilman Stasi

Also in attendance was Borough Attorney Joseph Youssouf and Business Administrator Matthew Crane.

* OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided as is required under Chapter 231 Public Law 1975 specifying the time, date, location and to the extent known the agenda by posting a copy on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building outside of the meeting room and providing a copy to the Home News Tribune and Sentinel newspapers and by filing a copy in the office of the Municipal Clerk in accordance with the certification which will be entered in the minutes of this meeting.

* PUBLIC PORTION

During the Public Portion of any Council Meeting members of the Public may only speak on topics of concern to the residents of the Borough. Everyone will be given five minutes to speak as per the Rules to Govern adopted January 3, 2024. During the Public Portion of any meeting, the members of the Public as well as the Governing Body shall be courteous and respectful to one another. No comments and/or behavior that are considered disrespectful, ill-willed or with the intent to harass will be tolerated. If such behavior occurs, then that

individual member of the Public will be asked to sit down and his or her turn to speak will be over, even if the five minutes is not.

John Nartowicz, 2 Holly Manor Court, inquired about the excavator that is parked next door because it is hard to see when you are making a right turn into Borough Hall parking lot and there is also a woman who parks there when school gets out to pick up her child and it is a matter of public safety. Councilman Dzingleski stated that we have spoken to the neighbors and Code Enforcement has inspected as well. Mr. Nartowicz also asked about property on Old Forge and Park Avenue that has a great deal of debris in front of the property. Councilman Dzingleski stated that Code Enforcement has visited the property and taken appropriate enforcement action.

* ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – September 18, 2024

MOTION – Councilman Reid SECONDED – Councilman Stasi

ABSTAIN – Councilman Dzingleski

ROLL CALL: 4-0-1

* CONSENT AGENDA

Report of Municipal Clerk and Tax Collector for September 2024

RESOLUTIONS:

2024 – 127: Rejection of Bids for Borough Hall Parking Lot Paving

128: Contract Agreement with Dynasty Commercial Cleaning

129: Change Order to Lake Avenue Project for FY 2022

130: Change Order to Lake Avenue Project for FY 2023

131: Approval for Tax Refund for Block 999 Lot 99

132: Bill List

133: Authorization to Sign Amended X-Tel Communication Contract

MOTION – Councilman Reid

SECONDED – Councilman Duffy

ROLL CALL: 5-0

* REPORTS of Committees, Borough Attorney, Business Administrator

Councilman Dzingleski thanked everyone that attended Helmetta Day and all of the volunteers and staff. We have the town wide yard sale this weekend with a list of all participating homes on the website. Hayrides & Bonfire is Friday, October 25th at 7:00pm at the Pavilion. If you would like to enter your home into our Halloween Home Decorating Contest, submissions are due by Friday, October 25th and judging will take place on Sunday, October 27th. On Sunday, November 10th is Coffee and Conversation with the Mayor and Council at 9:00am at the Community Center, all are welcome.

Councilman Reid stated that he is in touch with the state because they are currently not issuing permits for any open burning activities. He will keep everyone updated regarding the bonfire. The Helmetta Fire Department Car Show is this Saturday at 10:00am on Railroad Avenue.

Councilman Duffy had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Bohinski stated that she attended the Board of Education meeting last night and they received their state financial audit and had zero recommendations. There was a district report on HIBs, and the Superintendent is retiring. She inquired if the Jamesburg Police Department could do an event where they check car seats. April 6-12 is New Jersey's Local Government Week, and she would like us to submit some of our wonderful events that we do in town to be featured.

Councilman Stasi had nothing to report.

Business Administrator Matt Crane stated the X-Tel contract has been cut in half by streamlining several features. Best Practices is complete, and we should be receiving 100% state aid again. Himself and the CFO received the audit, next it will go to Council to receive and pass with a resolution at the next meeting.

Municipal Clerk Melissa Hallerman stated that the County just released a very comprehensive and helpful Aging and Disabled Resource Connection Directory. She will keep a copy in the Clerk's Office and it is available on our website as well.

Borough Attorney Youssouf stated that he submitted letters to the Borough Auditor regarding the 2023 Audit and for the MCIA (Middlesex County Improvement Authority). He read the letters and supplied Council with a copy.

Councilman Dzingsleski congratulated the Borough on being named the safest community by safehome.org. We were tied with Matawan.

* ORDINANCE 2024-07 (Second Reading and Adoption)

AN ORDINANCE BY THE BOROUGH OF HELMETTA REGULATING THE KEEPING OF BACKYARD CHICKENS ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

MOTION PUBLIC HEARING– Councilman Stasi

SECONDED – Councilman Duffy

ROLL CALL: 5-0

No comment from the public.

ADOPT ORDINANCE 2024-07:

MOTION – Councilwoman Bohinski SECONDED – Councilman Reid

ROLL CALL: 5-0

* CLOSED SESSION – Resolution pertaining to Matters: Attorney Client Privilege.

MOTION – Councilwoman Bohinski SECONDED – Councilman Reid
ROLL CALL: 5-0

* OPEN SESSION

MOTION – Councilman Karczewski SECONDED – Councilman Duffy
ROLL CALL: 6-0

* ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a MOTION to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Reid and SECONDED by Councilman Duffy at 7:47pm. All were in favor.



Melissa Hallerman, RMC
Municipal Clerk