

Minutes of the Council Meeting of the Borough of Hillsdale held at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, May 3, 2022

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Mayor Ruocco called the meeting to order with the Pledge of allegiance.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT:

Mayor Ruocco opened the meeting by stating this is a meeting of the Hillsdale Borough Council on this 3rd day of May 2022. Notice of the time and place of this meeting has been provided to The Ridgewood News and The Bergen Record; a copy was posted on the borough website and on the bulletin board outside of this meeting room as well as provided to any interested parties.

Please silence all cell phones. Please wait to be recognized by the Mayor during the Public Hearing and the Public Comment part of the meeting. You will need to state your name and town of residence for the record.

ROLL CALL:

Council Members DeRosa, Escobar, Horvath, Lundy, Pizzella, Council President Trochimiuk, Mayor Ruocco, (Borough Attorney Mark Madaio, Borough Administrator David Troast, Borough Clerk Denise Kohan) all were in attendance.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS -

[53RD Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week May 1, 2022 – May 7, 2022](#)

Mayor John Ruocco

Mayor Ruocco read the Proclamation:

WHEREAS, The Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk, a time honored and vital part of local government exists throughout the world, and

WHEREAS, The Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk is the oldest among public servants, and

WHEREAS, The Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk provides the professional link between the citizens, the local governing bodies and agencies of government at other levels, and

WHEREAS, Professional Municipal Clerks have pledged to be ever mindful of their neutrality and impartiality, rendering equal service to all.

WHEREAS, The Professional Municipal Clerk serves as the information center on functions of local government and community.

WHEREAS, Professional Municipal Clerks continually strive to improve the administration of the affairs of the Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk through participation in education programs, seminars, workshops and the annual meetings of their state, provincial, county and international professional organizations.

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that we recognize the accomplishments of the Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John Ruocco, Mayor of the Borough of Hillsdale, do recognize the week of May 1 through May 7, 2022, as Professional Municipal Clerks Week, and further extend appreciation to our Professional Municipal Clerk, Denise Kohan and to all Professional Municipal Clerks for the vital services they perform and their exemplary dedication to the communities they represent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

[Council Meeting Minutes April 5, 2022](#)

[Council Meeting Minutes April 12, 2022](#)

Closed Session Minutes April 12, 2022

Motion Council President Trochimiuk Second Councilman DeRosa

Ayes: Council Members DeRosa, Escobar, Horvath, Lundy, Council President Trochimiuk

Nays: none

Abstain: Councilman Pizzella

INITIAL PUBLIC COMMENT (Time limited, new topics only, one topic per speaker):

Mayor Ruocco reminded the council that when they speak, please speak into the microphone as viewers are having trouble hearing them.

Mayor Ruocco opened the meeting to the Public.

Ann Cron – Hillsdale

Stated that it is very hard to walk on the mulch that has been put down around the park in the last year. It seems that it is not real mulch and more like small branches which makes it hard to walk on. The Borough Administrator stated that he will have the DPW Superintendent look into it.

Not seeing anyone else looking to address the council, mayor Ruocco closed the initial public comment period.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. [Email received dated April 11, 2022 from Melissa Moreno regarding the fix of the wall be the brook near Sycamore St.](#)
2. [Approximately 29 letters were photocopied and signed and placed in the mailbox by various people regarding the support of building a senior center in the town.](#)

3. [Email received dated April 20, 2022 from Fred Rubel regarding the Centennial Field Turf/Sports Complex Expenditures](#)
4. [Email received dated April 24, 2022 from Nayda Rondon regarding an opposition to Centennial Field Synthetic Turf Expenditures](#)
5. [Email received dated April 21, 2022 from Michael Kenduck regarding the Fire Dept Carnival – Unsolicited Photos by Councilman](#)

Motion to receipt and file Council President Trochimiuk Second Councilman DeRosa Councilmember Lundy asked if there is an opportunity to discuss the emails regarding the senior center. Mayor Ruocco asked her to discuss it during council commentary.

Ayes: Councilmember Escobar, Horvath, Lundy, Pizzella, Council President Trochimiuk, DeRosa

Nays: none

PROFESSIONALS REPORT/MONTHLY DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

(The following correspondence on file in Borough Clerks Office)

[Hillsdale Police Department – April 2022](#)

Police Chief Robert Francaviglia

Police Chief Robert Francaviglia first welcomed David Hayes, the new DPW Superintendent. The Chief then summarized his monthly report. He expanded on the ambulance meeting by stating that he has officers standing on medical calls for almost an hour waiting for an ambulance to arrive. There is a lack of volunteers and there will be a follow up meeting on this. One of the SLEO's is aging out of the program, but a replacement has been found. Retired River Vale Police Officer, Pete Martin will be joining next year at the local schools. Relay for Life will be held at the High School on May 21st, where the police will provide coverage.

One of our own Police Officers, David Sayers will once again be a part of the 4 x 4 x 48 Challenge where he will run four miles every 4 hours for 48 hours to raise money for the Special Olympics. Officer Sayers will also lead off the Torch Run again, which will start at Shop Rite on June 10th to support law enforcement.

Finally, Chief Francaviglia reminded residents to please lock your cars and remove the key fobs as there is a statewide problem going on with car thefts.

[Department of Public Works – April 2022](#)

Interim DPW Superintendent Barry Peterson

Mr. Peterson first introduced the new DPW Superintendent, David Hayes.

He then summarized his monthly report. They used the new sweeper given to the Borough from Westwood and it worked well.

A change was made for our electronic recycling to Green Chip. The Borough will receive a small revenue every time they come and pick up the recycling.

Road repairs will hopefully start next week depending upon the weather. They will focus on cleaning up for the Memorial Day parade route to have it ready. He looked into replacing the door at the police booth. This is a special order and will be working on ordering this.

The salt shed has been covered for the season, but again it will have to be addressed before we get to the winter season.

Mr. Peterson reached out to the sports association reminded them to lock the bathrooms at the fields so we do not have any more vandalism issues.

The breakroom at the DPW has been completely fixed from the damage from the flood.

The soccer fields at Centennial are complete. They will wait to work on the big field until it is needed to give the grass a chance to grow. If a larger field is needed, the DPW can line Stonybrook field.

David Hayes, the new DPW Superintendent addressed the mayor and council. He thanked them for the opportunity to serve Hilldale and looks forward to working with everyone.

Councilman Pizzella made a statement that PSE&G is putting in new sidewalks along Hillsdale Avenue, but no curbs. Barry Peterson stated that he looked into this and that they were only going to replace what was damaged and what was already there. There were never curbs there and since this is a county road, this is something that the county would be handling.

Councilman Pizzella also added that at the Alexander Cleaners site, the DEP had been asked when they were here last time if they would put up screening around the area so it wouldn't be such an eye sore and they had agreed. Councilwoman Lundy stated that they would be here at the next meeting and this can be brought up. In the meantime, the Police Chief will check to make sure this would not affect the line of sight for drivers if this was done.

Lastly, Councilman Pizzella asked why the tree replacement plan has not yet been completed? This is through Suez and PSE&G. They still have not replaced several trees that they had promised to replace. The Borough Administrator stated that he will contact PSE&G.

Barry Peterson asked that when someone reaches out to the DEP, can he please ask who is responsible for taking care of the site as well as who is taking care of tree replacements for the residents that have been calling in, whose trees had been removed by one of the utilities. Mayor Ruocco added that Colliers Engineering has taken over the tree replacement from the past Borough Engineer so the council can follow up with them at the next meeting.

The Pastor at St. Johns asked Councilman Pizzella about the easement along the brook and who is responsible for trees in that easement? Mr. Peterson had staff at St Johns to set up for the fishing contest and they were asked to leave. There is no borough easement there. Mr. Peterson stated that the church and the residents along that brook own up to the middle of the brook and are responsible for that brook and the maintenance of that brook since there is no easement.

Following with the advertisement for the public hearing of the budget, we are going to change up the agenda as we have a public hearing for the budget advertised for 7:30pm.

BUDGET ORDINANCES

22-06 (Adoption)

An Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14) for Calendar Year 2022 in the Borough of Hillsdale

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 2.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale (the "Borough") in the County of Bergen finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2022 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council hereby determines that a 1% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$107,024 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS the Mayor and Council hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough in the County of Bergen, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2022 budget year, the final appropriations of the Borough shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$374,586, and that the CY 2022 municipal budget for the Borough be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

Motion to open public hearing on Ordinance 22-06 Councilman DeRosa Second Councilmember Lundy
Ayes: Councilmember Horvath, Lundy, Pizzella, Council President Trochimiuk, DeRosa, Escobar
Nays: none

Mayor Ruocco opened the meeting to the public. If anyone desires to be heard regarding Ordinance No. 22-06, please say your name and wait to be recognized, once recognized state your name and address for the record.

The Mayor entertained a motion that the public hearing on Ordinance No. 22-06 be closed and that it be resolved that this ordinance was posted on the bulletin board on which public notices are customarily posted and published in the Ridgewood News. Copies of said ordinance were made available to the general public.

Motion to close public hearing on Ordinance 22-06 Council President Trochimiuk Second Councilmember DeRosa
Ayes: Councilmember Lundy, Pizzella, Council President Trochimiuk, DeRosa, Escobar, Horvath
Nays: none

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 22-06 Councilmember Lundy Second Councilmember DeRosa
Ayes: Councilmember Pizzella, Council President Trochimiuk, DeRosa, Escobar, Lundy
Nays: Councilmember Horvath

Now, therefore, be it resolved that this ordinance is adopted and the Borough Clerk is authorized to advertise the same according to law.

BUDGET RESOLUTIONS

[R22095](#) Waiver of Reading in Full 2022 Budget

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A:4-8 permits that the Budget as advertised may be read by its title providing that at least one week prior to the date of the hearing a complete copy of the approved budget shall

- a) be posted in a public place where public notices are customarily posted, and
- b) is made available to each person requesting the same during said week and during the public hearing,

and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hillsdale has complied with the aforesaid requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Borough is hereby permitted to waive the reading in full, of the Municipal Budget for the year ending December 31, 2022.

Motion Councilmember Lundy Second Councilmember DeRosa

Ayes: Council President Trochimiuk, Council Members DeRosa, Escobar, Horvath, Lundy, Pizzella

Nays: none

Mayor Ruocco stated that we are now having the public hearing on the municipal budget that was introduced on April 5, 2022 and was made available to the public at that meeting as well as on this agenda.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET:@ 7:30 pm

[2022 Municipal Budget](#) – Including Amendment

Motion to open public hearing on the 2022 Municipal Budget Councilmember Lundy Second Councilmember DeRosa

Ayes: Council Members DeRosa, Escobar, Horvath, Lundy, Pizzella, Council President Trochimiuk

Nays: none

Mayor Ruocco opened the meeting to the public. If anyone desires to be heard regarding the 2022 Municipal Budget, please say your name and wait to be recognized, once recognized state your name and address for the record.

Resident, Jonathan DeJoseph asked what the Boroughs plan was for the 1.2 million dollars in the American Rescue Fund that was received? Mayor Ruocco stated that we have received half of the funds thus far and the plan is to focus on infrastructure primarily sewer infrastructure.

Mr. DeJoseph also questioned the expenses for the master plan and why those expenses are not being amortized over 5 years. Mayor Ruocco stated that it was budgeted for in full with the 2022 budget. CMFO, Sheri Luna

responded that if you have a five-year emergency, you can use it for that but you can also do that at any time of the year. If we see that our expenses are greater than anticipated, then we can absolutely a special emergency over a five-year period. We can always request a special emergency of we need to. Councilmember Lundy stated that this line item is higher this year because we are working on the master plan this year and last year we were not.

Mayor not seeing anyone else wishing to comment he will now entertain a motion that the public hearing on be closed and that it be resolved that a copy of the 2022 Budget Introduction was available to the general public at the Hillsdale Free Public Library, Borough Hall and on-line.

Motion to close public hearing on the 2022 Municipal Budget Council President Trochimiuk Second Councilmember DeRosa

Ayes: Council Members Escobar, Horvath, Lundy, Pizzella, Council President Trochimiuk, DeRosa

Nays: none

Mayor Ruocco stated that we have another change in the agenda because we found out that we could adopt the budget tonight. So we will now have a hearing on an amendment to the municipal budget.

Borough Clerk Denise Kohan read resolution 22096 to make it easier for those to know what we are amending; however, this has been on the website for the public to view ahead of the meeting.

Mayor Ruocco will now open the public hearing for the:

MUNICIPAL BUDGET AMENDMENT

Motion to open public hearing on the 2022 Municipal Budget Amendment Councilmember DeRosa Second Councilmember Lundy

Ayes: Council Members DeRosa, Escobar, Horvath, Lundy, Pizzella, Council President Trochimiuk

Nays: none

Mayor Ruocco opened the meeting to the public. If anyone desires to be heard regarding the 2022 Municipal Budget Amendment, please say your name and wait to be recognized, once recognized state your name and address for the record.

Mayor Ruocco will now entertain a motion that the public hearing on be closed and that it be resolved that a copy of the 2022 Budget Amendment was available to the general public at the Hillsdale Free Public Library, Borough Hall and on-line.

Motion to close public hearing on the 2022 Municipal Budget Amendment Council President Trochimiuk Second Councilmember DeRosa

Ayes: Council Members Escobar, Horvath, Lundy, Pizzella, Council President Trochimiuk, DeRosa

Nays: none

R22096

Resolution to Amend the 2022 Budget

WHEREAS, the local Municipal Budget for the year 2022 was approved on the 5th day of April, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the public hearing on said budget was held and advertised; and

WHEREAS, it is desired to amend said approved budget; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale, County of Bergen, the following amendments to the approved budget of 2022 be made:

	FROM	TO
	Introduced/Approved Budget	Budget Amendment #1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>CURRENT FUND</u>		
<i>ANTICIPATED REVENUES:</i>		
Amount to be Raised by Taxes for Support of Municipal Budget:		
Local Tax for Municipal Purposes including Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	\$ 10,105,368.42	\$ 10,105,368.42
Total Amount to be Raised by Taxes for Support of Municipal Budget:	\$ 10,761,258.53	\$ 10,761,258.53
Total General Revenues	\$ 16,511,696.62	\$ 16,511,696.62
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
<i>GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS:</i>		
Deferred Charges - Municipal - Excluded from "CAPS"		
Special Emergency Authorization - 5 Years	65,726.24	-
Capital Unfunded Deferred Charge Ord. 21-15	-	65,726.24
Total Deferred Charges - Municipal - Excluded from "CAPS"	\$ 65,726.24	\$ 65,726.24
Total General Appropriations for Municipal Purposes Excluded from "CAPS"	\$ 4,589,768.62	\$ 4,589,768.62
Subtotal General Appropriations	\$ 15,736,696.62	\$ 15,736,696.62

Total General Appropriations

\$ 16,511,696.62

\$ 16,511,696.62

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that two certified copies of this resolution be filed forthwith in the Office of the Director of Local Government Services for their certification of the municipal budget so amended.

A hearing on the budget amendment was held at the Municipal Building on May 3, 2022 at 7:30 P.M. at which time and place objections to said Budget Amendment may be presented by taxpayers or other interested parties.

Motion Councilmember Lundy Second Councilmember DeRosa

Councilman Pizzella asked that since he missed a few meetings are we adopting this tonight because of a due date or another specific reason?

Councilmember Lundy stated that it was slated to be adopted next week because of the amendment, but we just found out that we could adopt tonight with the amendment we decided to adopt tonight.

Borough Administrator David Troast stated the amendment relates to the deferred charges. The special emergency that we had in the introduced budget authorized over 5 years, is now being called capital underfunded deferred charges based on ordinance 21-15. There were 2 ways to fund the appropriations for the Hurricane Ida funds, one being a special emergency over five years, but what the borough did was pass an ordinance for unfunded deferred charges through ordinance 21-15 to pay it through capital funds over five years. The budget number did not change, only the line item changed and that's why we can adopt it tonight.

Councilman Horvath asked does this budget include the 1% tax increase for the town? Mayor Ruocco stated that it does. Mayor Ruocco would like the elimination of the 1% tax increase to be reflected in the amendment, as he is not happy with the 1% tax increase. Mayor Ruocco passed out a copy of the below presentation that he would like to make.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Hillsdale's Budgetary "Surplus"					
2		<u>Surplus on Jan 1</u>	<u>Surplus Relied Upon ("Anticipated") to Balance the Budget</u>	<u>Remainder Available for 2022 (Col B-Col C)</u>	<u>Surplus Generated During the Year</u>	<u>Surplus at Year End (Col D+ Col E)</u>
3						
4	2013	\$ 1,352,092	\$ 950,000	\$ 402,092	\$ 1,131,186	\$ 1,533,278
5	2014	\$ 1,533,278	\$ 1,075,000	\$ 458,278	\$ 1,240,955	\$ 1,699,233
6	2015	\$ 1,699,233	\$ 1,075,000	\$ 624,233	\$ 2,014,605	\$ 2,638,838
7	2016	\$ 2,638,838	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,638,838	\$ 2,571,455	\$ 4,210,293
8	2017	\$ 4,210,293	\$ 2,179,000	\$ 2,031,293	\$ 1,688,979	\$ 3,720,272
9	2018	\$ 3,720,272	\$ 2,225,000	\$ 1,495,272	\$ 1,713,580	\$ 3,208,852
10	2019	\$ 3,208,852	\$ 1,600,000	\$ 1,608,852	\$ 2,433,688	\$ 4,042,540
11	2020	\$ 4,042,540	\$ 1,928,718	\$ 2,113,822	\$ 1,771,548	\$ 3,885,370
12	2021	\$ 3,885,370	\$ 1,980,000	\$ 1,905,370	\$ 2,394,388	\$ 4,299,758
13	2022 Introduced Budget	\$ 4,299,758	\$ 1,517,300	\$ 2,782,458	TBD	TBD
14	2022 Budget with NO MUNI TAX INCREASE	\$ 4,299,758	\$ 1,614,176	\$ 2,685,582	TBD	TBD

Mayor Ruocco stated that we opened the year with the strongest surplus that we have ever had in the past 10 years with 4.3 million dollars. We are budgeting the least amount of surplus we have ever used since 2016 to use as revenue, which would be a good thing if it resulted in no property tax increase, but it doesn't. After budgeting for use of surplus as revenue, we will have the biggest amount of available surplus to use for the rest of 2022, namely \$2.8 million. That doesn't even include any surplus that we generate throughout the year. You can see about what we have generated annually during the past 9 years.

Without knowing what we will generate in surplus during this year, we still will have the strongest surplus we have ever had. Using the surplus that we have now to plug the holes in the budget, we would still have about 2.7 million dollars available in surplus without the 1% tax increase. We are emerging from a pandemic, we have a looming recession, we have now record inflation. This is an unnecessary tax. We had a 5.3 percent tax increase last year for fields and a community center and now the community center is being put on hold because of the cost. With just the schools and the county there is a preliminary 2-2.5% tax increase already, about \$309 per avg home. A large tax increase is on the horizon if the construction of a new school is approved. This will result in about a \$1300 per household increase annually over the next 30 years. We are also close to an agreement with redevelopment in the industrial area. If this goes through, we are looking at significant tax revenues for the borough within 3 years. No concrete reasons were given for the increase in taxes. He does not want to see a 1% tax increase.

Councilman Horvath agreed with the mayor and in fact he would like to see a 1% decrease in taxes.

Councilmember Lundy stated that we are in the most uncertain times. We almost had an obligation to pay almost \$300,000 out of our surplus. We need to keep our surplus up because we don't know what's ahead. Yes, we have redevelopment coming up but you are counting the money before we even have it. Every borough professional that we have spoken with, spoke against not having a minimal tax increase. We have statutory and contractual obligations that go up every year and that is why she supports this budget. Mayor Ruocco stated that even if we had been forced to move money from the surplus and pay for it all in 2022 we would still have a strong surplus.

Councilman DeRosa stated that this tax increase is not to get the tax payers used to paying a tax increase, from the professionals point of views the thinking is that you have the extra money in case you need it.

Mr. Troast stated that he has been working in municipalities since 1990. We have had a very high turnover in residents. We have new families that have moved in and have paid a lot more for their house, the economy makes him nervous. We had the worst quarter in a long time and we may be in a recession. That means everything we buy will be at inflated costs. He would rather be safe and sure. He recommends to have at least 2 or three years banked so you don't end up with a large tax increase.

Councilman DeRosa would like to remind everyone that during the first year of covid we didn't increase taxes. And while he also looks forward to the income from redevelopment, we cannot really count on it right now. This averages out to \$27.00 per household. Councilmember Lundy added that the mayor mentioned the schools having a referendum regarding the possibility of building a new school and a large tax increase, and if that is the case and that happens, she would then feel that this would be the better time for a lesser tax increase.

Council President Trochimiuk reiterated that you would like to use \$96,000 from surplus to use in the current budget and not raise taxes. Surplus is like a savings account, this \$96,000 is going to cost \$27.00 for the average household. There are situations that are going to come up, like the DPW, the community/senior center and money needs to be set aside for this. The only money that this government has is the money that we get from the residents. We hear residents complain of things that they want and deserve in this town and all of this cost's money. We want to tax them so when we decide we can move forward with these benefits to our town, we have the money. Mayor Ruocco stated these things are paid through bonding not through the capital account. Council President Trochimiuk reminded everyone that the \$96,000 goes right to the operation of this town. Councilman Pizzella added that this is one of the smallest increases that we have had. It's always good to put a little bit of money away. We have been elected by the town and to do what is right for the town.

Ayes: Council Members Lundy, Pizzella, Council President Trochimiuk, DeRosa, Escobar

Nays: Councilmember Horvath

Borough Clerk Denise Kohan read resolution 22102 since this was added to the agenda

R22102

Resolution to Adopt the 2022 Municipal Budget

Be it Resolved, that the following statements of revenue and appropriations shall constitute adopted Municipal Budget for the year 2022;

General Appropriations

Appropriations within "CAPS" - Municipal Purposes	\$11,146,928.00
Appropriations excluded from "CAPS" - Municipal Purposes	4,589,768.62
Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	775,000.00
Total General Appropriations	16,511,696.62
Less: Anticipated Revenues	5,750,438.09
Amount to be Raised by Taxes for Support of Municipal Budget	
Local Tax Municipal Purposes	\$10,105,368.42

Minimum Library Tax

\$655,890.11

Total to be Raised by Taxes

\$ 10,761,258.53

Councilmember Horvath asked if he could make a motion to table this resolution so that council could have more time to think about this a little bit deeper.

Councilmember Horvath made a motion to table resolution 22102, there was no second.

Motion to adopt: Councilmember Lundy Second Councilmember DeRosa

Ayes: Council Members DeRosa, Escobar, Lundy, Pizzella, Council President Trochimiuk

Nays: Councilmember Horvath

ORDINANCES:

[R 22-09 – Introduction](#)

An Ordinance Establishing Salary Ranges for the Staff of the Hillsdale Swimming Pool Commission in the Borough of Hillsdale, county of Bergen, State of New Jersey (To update Ordinance 22-03 – Lifeguard & Gate Min/Max Rate under 1 & 2 updated only)

BE IT RESOLVED, that Ordinance No. 22-09 does now pass a first reading and that said Ordinance be further considered for final passage at a meeting of the Mayor and Council in the Municipal Building, 380 Hillsdale Avenue, Hillsdale, New Jersey, on June 14, 2022 and at said time and place all persons interested will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the same, and the Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish said ordinance in the Ridgewood News once, at least one week prior to said hearing, with a notice of its introduction and of the time and place, when and where said ordinance would be considered for final passage.

Motion Council President Trochimiuk Second Councilmember DeRosa

Ayes: Councilmember Lundy, Council President Trochimiuk, DeRosa, Escobar, Horvath

Nays: none

Abstain: Councilmember Pizzella

[22-10 – Introduction](#)

An Ordinance to Provide for and Determine the Maximum Rate, Amount and Method of Payment of Compensation to Persons Holding Certain Office and Positions of Employment in the Borough of Hillsdale, State of New Jersey

BE IT RESOLVED, that Ordinance No. 22-10 does now pass a first reading and that said Ordinance be further considered for final passage at a meeting of the Mayor and Council in the Municipal Building, 380 Hillsdale Avenue, Hillsdale, New Jersey, on June 14, 2022 and at said time and place all persons interested will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the same, and the Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish said ordinance in the Ridgewood News once, at least one week prior to said hearing, with a notice of its introduction and of the time and place, when and where said ordinance would be considered for final passage.

Motion Council President Trochimiuk Second Councilmember DeRosa

Ayes: Councilmember Council President Trochimiuk, DeRosa, Escobar, Horvath, Lundy

Nays: none

Abstain: Councilmember Pizzella

RESOLUTIONS:(Consent Agenda): R22097 through R22101:

[R22097](#) Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse – DMHAS Youth Leadership Grant

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA) established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey. In coordination with GCADA, the New Jersey Department of Human Services/Division on Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) has awarded a Youth Leadership Grant to the GCADA Municipal Alliance Program.

WHEREAS, The Borough Council of the Borough of Hillsdale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore, has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has applied for DMHAS Youth Leadership funding through the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Bergen;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough of Hillsdale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Borough Council does hereby authorize submission of an application for DMHAS Grant funding for the Hillsdale Municipal Alliance for Year One Grant Term 7/1/22 – 3/14/23 in the amount of:
DMHAS Grant Funding \$4620.00
2. The Borough Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

[R22098](#) Resolution Authorizing the Refund of the Performance Guarantee for 262-270 Broadway, Block 1523 Lot 3

WHEREAS, Robert Guller, is the Property Owner of the property located at 262-270 Broadway; in the Borough of Hillsdale, Block 1523, Lot 3 and has posted a Performance Guarantee in the amount of \$4,546.20; and

WHEREAS, the Property Owner has now requested the return of the Performance Guarantee in connection with said property; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer has certified via his April 7, 2022 letter to the Borough Clerk that they conducted the final inspection of the subject property located at 262-270 Broadway and a final as-built survey by Brooker Engineering, PLLC has been provided as well as all site work appears to be in compliance with the approved Site Plan, therefore this owner is entitled to the performance guarantee return in the total amount of (\$4546.20) that includes interest accrued less any expenditures; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey hereby authorizes the return of the Performance Guarantee in the amount of \$4546.20.

[R22099](#) Resolution Authorizing the Extension of the Contract for the Stonybrook Swim Club Fall Pool Lease Program

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2021 a bid was awarded to Phoenix Aquatic Club USA, 139 Goebel Road New City, New York 10956 for the use of Stonybrook Swim Club for the Fall season; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hillsdale is interested in extending their contract for the use of the Stonybrook Swim Club with Phoenix Aquatic Club USA in the amount of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00) for the use of the Swim Club Lap/Competition Pool for Operation of a Fall Swim Program from September 7, 2022 through November 4, 2022 from 3:00 pm – 8:00 pm daily; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council at its sole discretion, in accordance with NJSA 40A 11-1 et seq., the Mayor and Council may, by adoption of resolution, extend the contract for one (1) one (1) year period if they determine; that the contract service is being performed in an effective and efficient manner; and if any price change included as part of an extension shall be based upon the price of the original contract as cumulatively adjusted pursuant to any previous adjustment or extension and shall not exceed the change in the index rate for the twelve (12) months preceding the most recent quarterly calculation available at the time the contract is renewed and the terms and conditions of the contract remain substantially similar; and

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

1. The extended contract for the Fall Lease of the Stonybrook Swim Club as outlined in the bid proposal is hereby awarded to Phoenix Aquatic Club USA effective September 7, 2022 through November 4, 2022 from 3:00 pm – 8:00 pm daily for the amount of \$20,000.00.
2. Any additional time required outside the specific times listed above, shall be billed at \$15.00 per hour/per lane; and
3. If the contractor wished to use the restroom facilities when Stonybrook is not open to its members, it will be charged \$20.00 per hour for the period September 7, 2022 – November 4, 2022.
4. If the contractor wishes to provide their own restroom facilities, permission from the Stonybrook Commission will be required in writing

5. The Borough Attorney is hereby authorized to prepare contracts and/or other documents pursuant to the award of this contract.
6. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to execute contracts and/or documents pursuant to the award of this contract.

[R22100](#) Resolution Appointing an Animal Control Officer for the Borough of Hillsdale

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hillsdale is in need of an individual to perform the services of Animal Control Officer and Cruelty Investigator for the Borough of Hillsdale; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hillsdale has recommended the appointment of Police Officer Corey Rooney as the Borough's Animal Control Officer and Animal Cruelty Investigator; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale, County of Bergen and State of New Jersey that Police Officer Corey Rooney is hereby appointed as the Animal Control Officer and Animal Cruelty Investigator for the Borough of Hillsdale for a period of one year commencing on June 12, 2022 and ending June 11, 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Police Department for their records.

[R22101](#) Resolution Authorizing the Borough Clerk to Advertise for Supplemental Snow Plowing 2022-2023 Season

WHEREAS, the governing body sees a need for supplemental snow plowing services for the 2022-2023 snow season; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Administrator is hereby authorized to prepare the bid specifications base on that need; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing body authorizes the Borough Clerk to advertise for supplemental snow plowing services for 2022-2023 snow season.

Motion Council President Trochimiuk Second Councilmember Lundy

Ayes: Council President Trochimiuk, Councilmember DeRosa, Escobar, Horvath, Lundy, Pizzella

Nays: non

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman DeRosa, Escobar, Horvath, Councilwoman Lundy deferred their reports until the next meeting
Councilman – Frank Pizzella

May 17, 2022 at the Library at 6:30 Access for All will be holding an Art Show. This year it is mostly adults. The library has been very generous with allowing them to use the facility. The Economic Development Committee has finished their presentation on outdoor dining and would like to do a presentation at the next meeting. The mayor reminded everyone that we may have several presentations at the next meeting, we should start the meeting a little bit earlier like 6:30. All members are good with the earlier start so the Borough Clerk will take the appropriate steps. The Board of Health will be meeting May 19th. The Borough Administrator filled in for Councilman Pizzella at the last Board of Health meeting. The Board of Health is very active and the town is fortunate to have dedicated people like this. The Superintendent of the local schools will be reaching out to the mayor so he can give a presentation.

Council President – Janetta Trochimiuk

New Concepts for Living, a non-profit organization is going to be sponsoring a walk a thon in support of their residents and programs that they provide. They are in the process of building a home in Hillsdale, so they are our neighbors. This will be on May 22 at the Duck Pond in Ridgewood at 10 am. You can register that morning or online ahead of time.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Ruocco opened the second public comment period. Seeing no one wishing to speak, the public comment period was closed.

COUNCIL COMMENTARIES:

Mayor Ruocco stated that this Sunday is Mother's Day and he wishes all the moms a happy Mother's Day. He wished a special Mother's Day to his wife, his mother and his mother-in-law.

Councilmember Escobar wished his mother and his wife a happy Mother's Day as well.

Councilman Pizzella welcomed David Hayes to Hillsdale and thanked Barry for doing a great job. Since this is his last year on council, he will be recognizing everyone individually throughout the rest of the year. He is wearing tonight an I love Janetta t-shirt. He stated that Council President Trochimiuk is a proactive independent, loyal and kind friend and she represents the town impeccably. Lastly, Happy Mother's Day especially to his wife.

Councilman Horvath also wished everyone a happy Mother's Day and that it is also another special day, it is his wedding anniversary.

Council President Trochimiuk welcomed Mr. Hayes as the new DPW Superintendent and she thanked Barry for all his hard work. She also thanks Councilmember Pizzella for his kind words and also wished everyone a happy Mother's Day.

Councilman DeRosa would like to remember Firefighter Timothy Klein who died in the line of duty and welcomed David Hayes. He would like to thank Denise as it is Municipal Clerks Week and he also would like to recognize teachers as it is teacher's week. Finally a happy Mother's Day to all the mothers out there.

Councilmember Lundy would also like to welcome David Hayes, thank Barry, recognize Municipal Clerks Week, Teachers Week and Mother's Day then go back to the letters regarding the senior center.

29 letters were received from seniors stating that they would like a community/senior center. This might be our last opportunity to have a community center in Hillsdale. One of the first signatures that she saw was that of the mayor's wife and he sits on the negotiation committee for redevelopment, which she thinks makes him conflicted. She would like to remove that conflict, not by removing the mayor from the committee but by

having council say that they are all in favor of moving ahead with a community center and with fields. It was never just one or the other. Councilmember Pizzella feels that we need to let them know that we are moving forward that we want to accomplish not just one or the other fields or the community center. Council President Trochimiuk added that we are all in full support of doing both. Councilmember Lundy stated that the conflict exists only if we as council are all not in agreement. If we all want to move ahead and see a community center then there is no conflict, which now seems to be the case.

Hopefully this will now put everyone's minds at ease that we are working towards a community center/senior center as well as fields.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn Council President Trochimiuk Second Councilmember Lundy

Ayes: Council Members DeRosa, Escobar, Horvath, Lundy, Pizzella, Council President Trochimiuk

Nays: none

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WILL BE
TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2022 7:00 pm.**

Denise Kohan, Municipal Clerk

APPROVED AS PRESENTED