

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP COUNCIL – FEBRUARY 9, 2021

SPECIAL (BUDGET) MEETING MINUTES

The Special (Budget) Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Rockaway was held on Tuesday, February 9, 2021. This meeting was held remotely/electronically using the platform Webex Meetings and commenced at 5:08PM

Council President led those present in the flag salute.

Council President called for a moment of silence to remember the service and sacrifices of the armed service members who protect our Nation and the first responders who protect our neighborhoods.

Roll Call was taken for attendance.

Present: Council Members Kelley, Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett and Jackson.

Present from Administration: Mayor Michael Puzio, Attorney Iacofano, Ms. Patricia Seger, Mr. David Dyer, Ms. Lisa Palmieri, Mr. Raymond Sarinelli, Sr. and Mr. Raymond Sarinelli, Jr.

Council President stated "This meeting was advertised in the Daily Record and the Star Ledger, the official newspapers for the Township of Rockaway on February 5, 2021. Notice was posted on the official bulletin boards of Rockaway Township."

Discussion of the Proposed 2021 Budget:

Raymond Sarinelli, Sr. and Raymond Sarinelli, Jr. with Nisivoccia & Co., the Township's Auditors, provided the Council with an overview of the 2020 revenues and expenditures, the state of the Township's financial standing, and their thoughts on the proposed 2021 budget.

There was discussion regarding whether the Township was prepared financially to address any potential tax appeals that may be filed this year as a result of COVID-19.

There was discussion concerning how funds had been allocated in separate accounts for legal fees.

There was discussion concerning line items for Provisions for Salary Adjustments and the purpose for those line items.

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley to decrease the salaries for the Mayor and Council to their 2019 amounts. There was no second.

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley to remove line item 041 on page 11 for Conferences and Meetings. There was no second.

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley to increase the Municipal Clerk's salary from \$74,212 to \$80,000. There was no second.

There was discussion concerning salaries within the Finance Department.

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley to increase the Deputy Tax Assessor's salary to \$75,000. There was no second.

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley, seconded by President Jackson to reduce the line item for Engineering Overtime from \$2,000 to \$1,000.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 4 (Kelley, Brookes, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 5 (Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Noon)

Motion does not carry.

There was discussion concerning whether the Council could provide the Administration with a specific dollar amount that they would like cut from the budget, and allow the Administration to determine where those cuts should be made.

There was discussion concerning where any unexpended salary and overtime monies are reallocated at the end of a budget year.

Motion was made by Council Member Kritz, seconded by Council Member Quinn to increase the Mayor's salary to \$15,000, the Council President's salary to \$10,000 and Council Member salaries to \$8,000.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 5 (Quinn, Kritz, Salberg, Noon, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 3 (Kelley, Friedlander, Sackett)

Abstentions: 1 (Brookes)

Motion does not carry.

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Vice-President Sackett to approve section 1 of the budget.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Kelley, Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley, seconded by President Jackson to decrease the line item for Board of Adjustment Overtime from \$2,500 to \$1,500.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 2 (Kelley, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 7 (Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett)

Motion does not carry.

There was discussion regarding whether the Affordable Housing Officer is paid by salary or stipend.

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley to decrease the line item for Planning Board Overtime from \$1,000 to \$500. There was no second.

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Vice-President Sackett to approve section 2 of the budget.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Kelley, Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Open to the Public:

Brian Wittig, 18 N. Lake Shore Drive – Mr. Wittig made remarks concerning the public being unable to view the materials provided to the Council. Mr. Wittig requested that the Council consider the hardship caused by the pandemic when making decisions concerning the budget.

Motion was made by President Jackson, seconded by Council Member Friedlander, to adjourn this meeting at 6:18PM. All members unanimously agreed.

The next Budget Meeting of the Council of the Township of Rockaway is scheduled for February 11, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christina Clipperton
Municipal Clerk