

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP COUNCIL – FEBRUARY 11, 2021 SPECIAL (BUDGET) MEETING MINUTES

The Special (Budget) Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Rockaway was held on Thursday, February 11, 2021. This meeting was held remotely/electronically using the platform Webex Events and commenced at approximately 6:00PM.

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, Chief Martin McParland and Mr. Al Knoth.

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.”

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley, seconded by President Jackson to amend the agenda to hold the Open to the Public portion of the meeting prior to the budget discussion.

Ms. Seger explained that the Township had advertised that the Open to the Public portion of the meeting would be held at 7:00PM.

Council Member Kelley withdrew his motion.

Discussion of the Proposed 2021 Budget:

Mayor Puzio explained to the Council that the Chief of Police is in charge of day-to-day operations within the Police Department, and that the Mayor can only make recommendations regarding traffic issues and enforcement. He further explained that the Chief's Bill of Rights prevents any Mayor or Public Safety Officer from interfering with day-to-day operations.

There was discussion concerning "SDL", which is a program called Spatial Data Logic, utilized by the Township for tracking many types of licenses, permits and to allow residents to make certain online payments.

There was discussion concerning inspector positions and salaries within Construction office.

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Council Member Friedlander to approve section 3 of the budget.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (Kelley, Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett)

Nah Votes: 0

Abstentions: 1 (Jackson)

Motion carries.

There was discussion concerning the increase of line item 099 on page 54 for Co-Insurance/Deductable.

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley, seconded by Council Member Brookes to reduce line item 099 on page 54 for Co-Insurance/Deductable from \$45,000 to \$30,000.

Roll Call Was Taken.

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

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

There was discussion concerning the increase of line item 000 on page 58 for Group Insurance. Ms. Palmieri explained that rates were expected to go up this year and that she was not comfortable reducing that line item.

Motion was made by Vice-President Sackett, seconded by Council Member Friedlander to approve section 4 of the budget.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (Kelley, Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett)

Nah Votes: 0

Abstentions: 1 (Jackson)

Motion carries.

There was discussion concerning the potential need to increase patrol districts due to the growth of residential and commercial properties within the Township.

There was discussion concerning possibly lowering the funds provided for Overtime for the Police Department.

Motion was made by Council Member Kritz, seconded by Council Member Friedlander to approve section 5 of the budget.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 7 (Kelley, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett)

Nah Votes: 0

Abstentions: 2 (Quinn, Jackson)

Motion carries.

There was discussion concerning line item 058 on page 100 for Other Equipment/Supplies for Public Works having been decreased to \$0. Mr. Knoth explained that those monies were reallocated to another line item.

There was discussion concerning Special Service/Tree Removal. Mr. Knoth explained that this service is contracted and explained that the insurance would be costly if the Township were to take on this responsibility themselves.

There was discussion concerning the funds budgeted for Shade Tree and the Township's shared-service agreement with the Board of Education for garbage removal.

Motion was made by Council Member Kritz, seconded by Council Member Noon to approve section 6 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:

No one from the public wished to speak.

There was discussion concerning section 7 for Garbage and Trash Removal, it was explained this dollar amount was set by contract.

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Vice-President Sackett to approve section 7 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 Quinn, seconded by Council Member Friedlander to approve section 8 of the budget.

Roll Call Was Taken.

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

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

There was discussion concerning whether the funds budgeted for the Gazebo Committee for 2020 could be carried to 2021. Ms. Palmieri explained that it could not.

There was discussion concerning whether funds could be budgeted for external defibrillators for all of the Township's recreation facilities.

Motion was made by Council Member Kritz, seconded by Council Member Noon to approve section 9 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 increase line item 001 on page 162 of the budget for Contribution – Youth Program for the Public Library to \$5,307.

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 Quinn, seconded by Council Member Friedlander to approve section 10 of the budget.

Roll Call Was Taken.

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

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

There was discussion concerning whether funds allocated for the Provision for Salary Adjustment could be received by one individual.

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley to reduce line item 002 on page 165 of the budget to \$0. There was no second.

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Council Member Kritz to approve section 11 of the budget.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 1 (Kelley)

Motion carries.

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Council Member Noon to approve section 12 of the budget.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 0

Abstentions: 1 (Kelley)

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley to reopen section 12 of the budget. There was no second.

Motion was made by Vice-President Sackett, seconded by Council Member Quinn to approve section 13 of the budget.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 1 (Kelley)

Motion carries.

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Council Member Friedlander to approve section 14 of the budget.

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

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Motion was made by Council Member Brookes, seconded by Council Member Quinn to approve section 15 of the budget.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 0

Abstentions: 1 (Kelley)

Motion carries.

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Council Member Kritz to approve section 16 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:

No one from the public wished to speak.

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley, seconded by Vice-President Sackett to continue the meeting until 8:00PM.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 7 (Kelley, Quinn, Friedlander, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett)

Nah Votes: 2 (Kritz, Jackson)

Motion carries.

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Council Member Friedlander to approve section 17 of the budget.

Roll Call Was Taken.

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

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Ms. Palmieri provided the Council with an explanation of the purpose of the Capital Improvement Fund.

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley, seconded by Council Member Quinn to approve section 18 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 Quinn to approve section 19 of the budget. The motion was withdrawn.

There was discussion concerning Deferred Charges/Reserve to pay Debt Service and whether this line item could be reduced.

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Council Member Brookes to approve section 19 of the budget.

Roll Call Was Taken.

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

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

There was discussion concerning the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes.

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley, seconded by Council Member Friedlander to approve Section 20 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 Council Member Quinn to adjourn this meeting at 7:52PM. All members unanimously agreed.

The next Budget Meeting of the Council of the Township of Rockaway is scheduled for February 16, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christina Clipperton

Municipal Clerk