

## **ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP COUNCIL –MARCH 5, 2022 SPECIAL (BUDGET) MEETING MINUTES**

The Special Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Rockaway was held on Saturday, March 5, 2022. This meeting was held in the Court Room/Council Chambers located within the Municipal Building at 65 Mt. Hope Rd., Rockaway, NJ 07866 and commenced at approximately 10:00AM.

Council President Kritz led those present in the flag salute.

Council President Kritz called for a moment of silence to remember the services 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:** Councilman Quinn, Councilman Friedlander, Councilman Brookes, Councilwoman Noon, Councilman Salberg, Councilwoman Brookes, Council Vice President Sackett, and Council President Kritz,

**Present from Administration:** Mayor Jackson, Attorney Iacofano, Ms. Patricia Seger, Mr. Bryan Coward, Ms. Lisa Palmieri, Ms. Allison Ferrante, Mr. Peter Tabbot, Mr. David Dyer, Chief Martin McParland, Mr. Al Knoth, Mr. Jeffrey Heintzleman, Mr. Ryan Furrey, Mr. David Swanton, Ms. Kimberly Johnson, Mr. Richard Boulineau and Mr. Ray Sarinelli, Jr.

Council President Kritz stated, “Notice of this meeting was sent to the Daily Record and the Star Ledger, the official newspapers for the Township of Rockaway, on March 3, 2022. Notice was posted on the official bulletin boards of Rockaway Township.”

### **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

### **PRESENTATION BY THE TOWNSHIP’S AUDITOR, RAY SARINELLI, JR. FROM NISIVOCIA:**

Mr. Sarinelli provided the Council with a brief explanation of the Township’s financial state for the calendar year 2022. He spoke about tax collection rates, revenues, stated that the year was well budgeted, explained lapsing appropriations and the two-year budget cycle that the Township operates on and stated that overall, the Township’s funds and financials are in good standing.

Mr. Sarinelli also provided the Council with his opinion of the proposed 2022 budget, and elaborated that it was a good financial plan, touched on areas of concern being increased health insurance and pension costs, and explained that the proposed budget will not result in a tax rate increase.

### **DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED 2022 BUDGET:**

Council President Kritz stated that the Council would first be addressing section 17 of the budget work books, which addresses the Municipal Court.

There were no concerns amongst the Council regarding this section.

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Vice-President Sackett to close and approve section 17.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Council President Kritz explained to the Council that they were unable to make changes to sections 4, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20 and 22 of the budget.

Motion was made by Council President Kritz, seconded by Councilman Quinn to approve sections 4, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20 and 22.

Roll was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

There was discussion concerning certain positions within the Department of Administration being budgeted for raises, concerning the cross training taking place amongst employees and various salaries.

Motion was made by Vice-President Sackett, seconded by Councilman Friedlander to reduce the Mayor's proposed salary to \$15,000.00, the Council President's proposed salary to \$11,000.00 and Council Member proposed salaries to \$9,000.00.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Motion was made by Council President Kritz, seconded by Councilman Quinn to closed section 1.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Council President Kritz to approve section 1 as amended.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Councilwoman Brookes questioned the additional monies budgeted for Legal Advertisements for the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Motion was made by Council President Kritz, seconded by Councilman Quinn to close section 2.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilman Brookes to approve section 2.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Councilman Quinn presented a case for the need of hiring a full-time Zoning Officer. He also expressed his concern about not having the staff available on the weekends. There was discussion concerning the various options available to increase staffing and how the Township could be better served.

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilman Salberg to increase the budget by \$71,000.00 to accommodate the hiring of a full-time Zoning Officer.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 3 (J. Quinn, M. Noon, A. Salberg)

Nah Votes: 5 (E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Motion does not carry.

Motion was made by Councilman Brookes, seconded by Councilman Friedlander to add \$25,000.00 to the budget to accommodate the hiring of an additional part-time Zoning Officer to cover weekends.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Motion was made by Council President Kritz, seconded by Councilman Quinn to close section 3.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilman Salberg to approve section 3 as amended.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Councilman Brookes raised concern regarding staffing of the Police Department, he wants to see vacant or soon to be vacant positions filled, not cut. There was discussion concerning staffing and cross-training officers.

There was further discussion regarding the monies budgeted for new police vehicles.

Motion was made by Councilman Brookes, seconded by Councilman Quinn to increase the line item for Police Department Vehicle Purchases by \$95,000.00 to allow for the purchase of an additional vehicle.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Motion was made by Council President Kritz, seconded by Councilman Quinn to close section 5.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Motion was made by Councilman Friedlander, seconded by Vice-President Sackett to approve section 5 as amended.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)  
Nah Votes: 0  
Motion carries.

Councilman Friedlander questioned the line item for Public Works Vehicle Maintenance, Mr. Knoth confirmed that he was comfortable with the dollar amount proposed.

Vice-President Sackett questioned the title of "Vacant/Outside Employee", Ms. Seger clarified the position.

There was discussion concerning the newly proposed position of "Part-time Clerk 1".

Motion was made by Council President Kritz, seconded by Councilman Quinn to close section 6.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)  
Nah Votes: 0  
Motion carries.

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilman Salberg to approve section 6.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)  
Nah Votes: 0  
Motion carries.

Motion was made by Council President Kritz, seconded by Councilman Quinn to approve section 7.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)  
Nah Votes: 0  
Motion carries.

There was discussion concerning staffing and scheduling at the Recycling Center, curbside recycling cost and equipment.

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Vice-President Sackett to close section 8.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)  
Nah Votes: 0  
Motion carries.

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilwoman Noon to approve section 8.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

There was discussion concerning the currently vacant position of Community Services Director.

Motion was made by Vice-President Sackett, seconded by Councilman Quinn to remove the position of Community Services Director from the budget.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 6 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, J. Sackett)

Nah Votes: 2 (R. Brookes, H. Kritz)

Motion carries.

There was discussion concerning what improvements could be made to ensure equity amongst the various recreation programs.

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilwoman Noon to close section 9.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilwoman Noon to approve section 9 as amended.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilman Salberg to approve section 11.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Councilman Salberg questioned what page 211, Capital Improvement Fund, in the budget workbook was earmarked for. Ms. Palmieri explained that this line item is dedicated for the down-payment required for the Capital plan.

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilwoman Noon to close section 18.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Council President Kritz to approve section 18.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Vice-President Sackett questioned the line item for Chemicals in the Water Utility section of the budget. He asked if the purchase for the chemicals used at the Pondview station were funded by Pondview or the Township.

Councilwoman Brookes inquired about whether the line item for Other Equipment & Supplies was funded well enough to cover the cost of repairs in the event of water main breaks.

Councilman Salberg inquired about the agreement for the purchase of water with the Township of Dover.

Motion was made by Council President Kritz, seconded by Councilman Quinn to close section 21.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilwoman Noon to approve section 21.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

There was discussion amongst the Council concerning the Open Space Trust, monies budgeted for Computers & Networking and the upgrades proposed for the Police Department's dispatch system.

Councilwoman Brookes questioned the proposed capital purchases of a recycling compactor truck and the aerial truck for the Fire Department.

There was further discussion amongst the Council concerning the staffing and equipment for the Pondview Firehouse, as well as whether the Township would be providing recycling pickup for Pondview, or if it would be privately contracted.

Councilman Friedlander questioned whether the proposed capital project of the Road Garage was for the garage located on Green Pond Road or the proposed building to be located in White Meadow Lake. Mr. Knoth explained that it was for the existing road garage located on Green Pond Road, and that they were debating whether to rehabilitate the existing building or to rebuild completely.

Vice-President Sackett questioned the proposed Senior Center Improvements. Mr. Coward explained that the Township intends to bring the basement up to the same standard as the main floor, and to bring the security system to the same standard as the Municipal Building.

There was discussion concerning the monies being allocated for Peterson Field, \$15,000.00 for batting cages and \$60,00 for security cameras.

Motion was made by Council President Kritz, seconded by Councilman Quinn to add \$30,000.00 to the Recreation Budget for freezers and refrigeration for Peterson Field.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

There was discussion concerning Peterson Field improvements, Councilman Brookes urged the Council to entertain fully funding the Peterson Field Improvements as one project, rather than in stages.

Motion was made by Councilman Brookes, seconded by Vice-President Sackett to add \$60,000.00 to the Capital Budget for Engineering for Peterson Field Improvements.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 6 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, J. Sackett)

Nah Votes: 2 (A. Salberg, H. Kritz)

Motion carries.

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilwoman Noon to close section 23.

Roll call was taken.



Yah Votes: 8 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)  
 Nah Votes: 0  
 Motion carries.

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilman Salberg to approve section 23 as amended.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)  
 Nah Votes: 0  
 Motion carries.

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Vice-President Sackett to adjourn this meeting at 12:27PM. Motion was passed unanimously by the Council.

The next Regular Meeting of the Council of the Township of Rockaway is scheduled for March 8, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

*Christina Clipperton*  
 Christina Clipperton, Deputy  
 Municipal Clerk Clerk

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
J. Quinn			X			
E. Friedlander	X		X			
D. Brookes			X			
M. Noon			X			
A. Salberg		X	X			
R. Brookes			X			
P. Wojtowicz					X	
J. Sackett			X			
H. Kritz			X			