

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP COUNCIL – MARCH 11, 2019

The Special Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Rockaway was held on Monday, March 11, 2019 in the Council Chambers located within the Municipal Building, 65 Mt. Hope Road, Township of Rockaway, State of New Jersey commencing at 7:34p.m.

Council President Kelley led those present in the Salute to the American Flag.

Council President Kelley 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 and for Patricia Seger, the Township Business Administrator's father, Casper, who passed away recently.

Present: Council Members Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynak, Palumbo, Smith, Jackson, Abrahamsen, Kelley (Council Member Abrahamsen attended by phone).

Present from Administration: Mayor Michael Puzio, Mr. David Dyer, Ms. Lisa Palmieri, Ms. Corinne Gardepe, Mr. Mark Burek.

Council President Kelley stated "this meeting was advertised in the Daily Record and the Star Ledger, the official newspapers for the Township of Rockaway on March 8, 2019. Notice was posted on the official bulletin board of Rockaway Township."

Sergeants Udina and Taffin were designated as the Sergeants at Arms.

President Kelley read the Township Code 2-5.15.

Township Code 2-5.15 Decorum:

While the Council is in session, the members shall preserve order and decorum. The Council President, at his/her discretion shall direct the Chief of Police or such other person in the Police Department as he may designate to be the Sergeant of Arms at the Council meeting. The Sergeant of Arms shall employ reasonable means to maintain the proper order and decorum consistent with accepted standards.

Discussion of the 2019 Proposed Budget:

Council Member Jedynak questioned why there were less pages included in this year's budget book than in 2018. There was discussion concerning how the individual employee's salaries were presented this year compared to previous years.

Mr. Raymond Sarinelli, the Township's Auditor was in attendance.

Mr. Sarinelli provided the Council and Administration with a report of the Township's finances for 2018. Mr. Sarinelli also explained that the Township's fund balance is down roughly \$400,000 from 2017.

Council Member Jedynak questioned when the Township's audit would take place. Mr. Sarinelli and Ms. Palmieri confirmed that the audit would begin in early May.

Mr. Sarinelli explained that all budgets are balanced with the exception of the Emergency appropriation that was put in place in 2018, which must be included in the 2019 budget. He also explained that new construction has resulted in an increase in ratables. Overall, taxpayers should see a decrease of approximately \$16.00 in their taxes at the Municipal level.

Mr. Sarinelli asked the Council to make sure that the budget introduced is a multi-year plan.

Council Member Jedynak questioned why a memorandum explaining the increases and decreases in the budget hadn't been provided to the Council.

Mayor Puzio explained that Ms. Seger didn't feel that a memorandum was necessary, that she had proceeded a little differently to present this year's budget compared to previous years.

Council Member Smith stated that she felt the justification sheets for salaries would be helpful to review.

Council Member Jedynak explained which pages of the budget were missing in the binders this year, that the missing pages identify the employees by name and include their salaries.

Council Member Jedynak made a motion, seconded by Council Member Abrahamsen to have the Administration provide the Council with the spreadsheets used by the Chief Financial Officer to construct the budget by email, post them on the Transparency page, and provide the paper budget sheets to the Council.

There was discussion concerning how taxing this would be for Ms. Palmieri to provide.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 5 (Jedynak, Palumbo, Smith, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 3 (Quinn, Friedlander, Jackson)

Motion is carried.

Mr. Mark Burek, the Township's Tax Assessor, presented the proposed budget for the Tax Assessment office, and explained that their budget is down \$100 from 2018.

Ms. Corinne Gardepe, The Township's Tax Collector, presented the proposed budget for the Tax Collector's office.

There was a recess at 9:30PM, the meeting resumed at 9:39PM.

Ms. Lisa Palmieri, the Township's Chief Financial Officer, presented the proposed budget for the Finance Office.

Ms. Christina Clipperton, the Township's Acting Clerk, presented the proposed budget for the Clerk's office.

Motion was made by Council Member Jedynek, seconded by President Kelley to freeze the Mayor and Council salaries at the 2018 rate.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynek, Palumbo, Smith, Jackson, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion is carried.

Motion was made by President Kelley, seconded by Vice-President Abrahamsen to donate the salary for the Council President to the Rockaway Township Library Youth Program.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynek, Palumbo, Smith, Jackson, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion is carried.

Motion was made by Council Member Jedynek, seconded by Council Member Kelley to reduce the Mayor and Council Conferences and Meetings, and Association Dues line items to \$0.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynek, Palumbo, Smith, Jackson, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion is carried.

Mayor Puzio left the meeting at approximately 10:50PM.

Mr. David Dyer, the Township's Assistant Business Administrator, presented the proposed budget for Administration.

Motion was made by Council Member Jedynak, seconded by President Kelley to reduce the Administration overtime line item to \$0.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 7 (Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynak, Palumbo, Smith, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Abstentions: 1 (Jackson)

Motion is carried.

Motion was made by Council Member Jedynak, seconded by Council Member Quinn to reduce the line item for Administration Association Dues to \$3,500 and to reduce the line item for Administration Cell Phones to \$0.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynak, Palumbo, Smith, Jackson, Abrahamsen, Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion is carried.

Council Member Quinn left the meeting at 11:45PM

There was discussion concerning the original proposed not-to-exceed amounts for the law firm of Laddey, Clark and Ryan.

ADJOURN

Motion was made by Council Member Friedlander, seconded by Council Member Smith and the Township Council of the Township of Rockaway unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 11:45PM.

Motion is carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Clipperton
Acting Township Clerk