

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP COUNCIL – MARCH 15, 2019

The Special Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Rockaway was held on Friday, March 15, 2019 in the Council Chambers located within the Municipal Building, 65 Mt. Hope Road, Township of Rockaway, State of New Jersey commencing at 7:33PM.

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, Sackett, Kelley

Present from Administration: Ms. Patricia Seger, Mr. David Dyer, Ms. Lisa Palmieri, Ms. Allison Ferrante, Chief Martin McParland, Mr. Gary Kristoffersen.

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."

Officers Hamilton and Matos 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:

Ms. Allison Ferrante presented the proposed Engineering budget for 2019. There was discussion concerning salaries, additional training for employees, the potential benefits of hiring additional employees rather than using professional consultants, employee education, cellphone usage, the purchasing of filing cabinets and conference room furniture.

Ms. Allison Ferrante presented the proposed Planning budget for 2019. There was discussion concerning salaries, professional consulting fees, and the need for a Master Plan reexamination to occur this year.

Ms. Allison Ferrante presented the proposed Board of Adjustment Budget for 2019. There was discussion concerning salaries, contractual attorney fees and professional consultant fees.

Mr. Gary Kristoffersen presented the proposed Construction Budget for 2019. There was discussion concerning salaries and wages, the possibility of moving an employee from part-time to full time, and the salaries, wages and benefits for inspectors, the hours and salary for the position of Zoning Officer. There was further discussion concerning the Construction Department's request to purchase a new vehicle, and the line items for education and training and cellphones.

Council Member Palumbo stepped out at 10:00PM.

President Kelley stated that there is an extension to introduce the budget, and that the budget could be introduced on April 9th without penalty.

Council Member Palumbo returned at 10:03PM

Ms. Palmieri confirmed that this was true.

There was a recess at 10:08PM. The meeting resumed at 10:17PM.

Chief McParland presented the proposed Police budget for 2019. There was discussion concerning salaries and wages, the request to hire two new officers, the ongoing negotiations with the Board of Education to provide a School Resource Officer, the assignment of Police Officers at Council Meetings by direction of the Mayor, the necessary training for a Police Officer to be a School Resource Officer. The Dispatch budget was discussed concerning salaries and wages for dispatchers, the potentiality of a shared service for dispatch, contractual fees, and the Emergency Management budget was discussed concerning deputies, salaries, training and equipment.

The Capital budget for Police was reviewed, Chief McParland explained to the Council which equipment would need to be replaced this year.

The Capital budget for Engineering was reviewed, Ms. Ferrante explained what projects were being proposed for 2019.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Pat Degnan, 88 Valley View Drive – Ms. Degnan spoke about the proposed vehicle purchase for Construction, spoke about the importance of providing education and training to employee and expressed that she thought hiring two new officers would be a good idea.

Council Member Quinn left at 12:04.

Patrick Deo – Mr. Deo spoke about the 2017 and 2018 audit reports, and the differences from year-to-year. Mr. Deo also spoke about interests rates, and the Township’s investment program.

Council Member Sackett left the meeting at 12:11AM.

ADJOURN:

Due to a lack of quorum, the meeting could no longer continue and was adjourned at 12:12AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Clipperton
Acting Township Clerk