

APRIL 5, 2016

PAULSBORO. N.J.

5:00 P.M.

SPECIAL MEETING

Council Chamber:

Mayor Stevenson presided at the Special Meeting of Council held on the above date and place.

Mayor Stevenson called the Special Meeting to order.

Borough Clerk VanScoy read the opening statement regarding the Open Public Meetings Act.

Members present were: Council President Giovannitti (arrived at 5:05 p.m.), Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Kidd. Absent: Councilman Holloway (excused).

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR.

Councilman Giampola moved and Councilman Di Tonno seconded to open the floor to the public. All were in favor of the motion.

Mayor Stevenson opened the floor to the public, asked anyone speaking to give their name and address and reminded everyone there was a five (5) minute time limit.

There wasn't any public participation.

Councilman Giampola seconded to close the floor to the public. All were in favor of the motion.

Councilman Giampola stated the Borough is in pretty good shape and he asked Auditor Petroni to further discuss the budget.

Auditor Petroni stated there will be an increase of 3.7 cents.

Councilman Giampola stated when the Committee first started working on the budget the increase was at .20 cents and then they reduced it to .12 cents and then to .05 cents until they decided on 3.7 cents. The Committee has spoken with a Financial Advisor and they will be at the April Work Session Meeting to discuss a financial plan.

Auditor Petroni stated last year the average taxpayer paid \$1,411.00 per year on a home assessed at \$104,455 and this year the average home is assessed at

\$104,314 and the increase this year is \$1,448.00 per year which would be an increase of \$37.00 per home. The same amount of surplus was used as last year.

Councilman Giampola stated the Borough has to clear up some debt and next year will be a better year. There is not a lot of frill or “pomp and circumstance” in this year’s budget.

CMFO/Acting Administrator Boyer stated this budget is the bare minimum and the Borough will have to watch their spending. The Borough this year lost \$300,000 in a tax appeal and \$300,000 in Landlord Licensing fees.

Councilman Kidd questioned how much was in the budget for an Administrator.

Councilman Giampola stated between \$70,000 and \$90,000 for a full time Administrator.

Mayor Stevenson questioned where the increases are over last year.

CMFO/Acting Administrator Boyer stated trash collection went up, pensions, electricity, etc.

Auditor Petroni stated the Landlord Licensing fees dropped from last year and the Borough lost \$48,000 in revenue.

CMFO/Acting Administrator Boyer stated once this year is over it will be better. Other major increases are in salary and wages in General Administration for the Administrator’s position, health plans went up \$20,000 but was the Auditor able to take some out of the CAP and some in the CAP, Insurance/Liability went up and she upped unemployment as she had to transfer money into this account last year. She also stated the PERS went down \$6,000 but PFRS went up \$30,000. Sheet 29 is the reserve for uncollected taxes and that went up because of the collection rate.

Councilman Giampola recommended doing an Accelerated Tax Sale which would force those in the fourth quarter to pay by the end of the year.

Auditor Petroni explained that at the end of 2015, when doing an Accelerated Tax Sale would make those pay this year. It catches those who play the delinquent game. The Borough will see the collection go up to 99%.

Councilman Kidd questioned how it would affect other property taxpayers.

Auditor Petroni stated it would put a lien on their property sooner.

Councilman Giampola stated Senior Citizens are a minority anymore but it’s the landlords.

Auditor Petroni stated this conversation should occur through the Committee.

CMFO/Acting Administrator Boyer stated the Borough still owes the balance on the Shuttle Bus that was purchased through the County.

Councilman Giampola questioned if the purchase of used cars is in the budget for the Construction Office.

CMFO/Acting Administrator Boyer stated yes, there is \$30,000 that could probably purchase two (2) used vehicles.

Councilman Giampola stated the increased hours for Mr. Turton has been included in the budget in an amount between \$5,000 and \$6,000.

Auditor Petroni stated once Council introduces the budget, it then has 28 days to amend or adopt. After the public hearing the Borough can amend depending on the amount of the amendment and if it is a certain amount, the Borough would have to hold another public hearing on that amendment.

Councilman Kidd questioned what was cut from the budget?

CMFO/Acting Administrator Boyer stated everything she could. She looked at last year's budget and what was left at the end of the year. She went line for line and there wasn't any prejudice shown.

Mayor and Council further discussed other items not included in the budget and what items were in the budget.

Councilman Giampola went on record with Dr. Bandlow and the Administrator of the School that in 2017 the Borough of Paulsboro will be charging the school for their gas, water/sewer, etc.

Mayor Stevenson stated his pet peeve is the Verizon cell phone bill. He questioned if every employee in Public Works needed a cell phone. He felt the bills should be looked at.

Councilman Kidd stated they could put pressure on the school but the bottom line is the taxpayer's are still paying.

Mayor Stevenson stated there will be ongoing talks with the Finance Committee.

Councilman Giampola stated the School has to pay their share of the bills.

Chief Marino questioned if he could squeeze five (5) more hours for the part-time person or does he have to come back and ask permission.

Auditor Petroni stated the salary ordinance should have a range.

Councilman Kidd stated it was a temporary position and Chief Marino was going to advertise/post for the position and he didn't.

Chief Marino stated he has no intention of posting the job.

Councilman Giampola stated Chief Marino would have to talk with CMFO/Acting Administrator regarding the extra hours and whether the money is available.

R. #76.16: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN ALTERNATE CALCULATION OF THE RESERVE FOR UNCOLLECTED TAXES PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-41(c)(1). Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to adopt R. #76.16. Roll call: Ayes: Councilman Giovannitti, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes. Nays: None. Abstained: Councilman Kidd. **Motion carried.**

R. #77.16: 2016 BUDGET. Councilman Giampola moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to introduce the 2016 budget at 3.7 cents and the public hearing will be held on May 3, 2016. Roll call: Ayes: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes. Nays: None. Abstained: Councilman Kidd. **Motion carried.**

There wasn't any further business for the Special Meeting.

Councilman Giampola moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to adjourn the special meeting at 6:10 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

This is a brief summary of the Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Paulsboro held on April 5, 2016 and should not be considered a verbatim transcript of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy A. VanScoy, RMC/CMC
Borough Clerk

Gary C. Stevenson, Mayor