MAY 19, 2020

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 VanScy read the opening statement regarding the Open Public Meetings Act.

Members present were: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Kidd. Absent: Councilman DiTonno.

Other individuals in attendance: Auditor Nick Petroni, CMFO Judson Moore.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR.

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

There wasn't any public participation.

Councilman Giampola moved and Councilman Haynes seconded to close the floor to the public.

Mayor Stevenson welcomed everyone, and he informed Council is trying to hold this as a virtual meeting instead of as a conference call. He stated this special meeting was called to discuss the 2020 Budget. He turned the meeting over to Administrator Jacobucci.

Administrator Jacobucci stated she emailed everyone a 2020 Budget primer. The Budget will go up 2.9 cents which equals $32.00 per year on an average home of $104,000. The primer shows the difference from this year and last year. She is proud of this budget. In June, the Borough will have to prepare estimated tax bills.
Councilman Giampola stated the Borough has kept its basic services. There will no be any decrease in services. The filters at Wells #8 & #9 were a huge cost incurring on this budget. The Borough will have to keep paying until NJDEP is able to recoup the cost.

Auditor Petroni stated this is a rather good budget. The surplus has bounced back and the Borough is in a defensive position. It also will depend on the percentage of collections. He feels good about the budget.

Councilman Giampola thanked Administrator Jacobucci and CMFO Moore for their hard work on the budget.

Administrator Jacobucci stated the total increase would be $128.58 and the Borough’s portion is $32.00. The Library rate went down. The school tax is 6.4 cents and the County tax may be 2.3 cents.

Administrator Jacobucci also stated the Public Works Department will be starting their summer hours next week.

Councilman Giampola stated the Borough will have to look at the tax appeals next year.

Mayor Stevenson questioned the County tax rate.

Auditor Petroni stated he will check with the County. A Resolution would need to be adopted in June to authorize estimated tax bills.

Administrator Jacobucci stated the State Aid is not known yet.

Council President Giovannitti discussed the 2021 NJDOT grant funding application.

Administrator Jacobucci stated it will cost $2,700 for Sickels to submit the application.

Council President Giovannitti stated Council has to be aware of these projects due to the engineering costs.

Administrator Jacobucci stated the trash contract will be up next year and will have to start the bidding process 60 days in advance.

Council President Giovannitti suggested using the one-arm bandit trash truck for collecting trash/recycling and purchasing trash cans.
Administrator Jacobucci stated the one-are bandit trash truck process of picking up trash was reviewed before and the trucks will not fit down some of the streets. A Committee should be formed to get together to discuss the trash and recycling. Also, the specifications are dictated by the State.

Council President Giovannitti questioned when the AFSCME contract ends.

Administrator Jacobucci stated the AFSCME contract is up the end of the year.

Mayor Stevenson stated Council must be careful with any special projects and the funding of them.

Councilman Haynes stated the Borough can apply for these funds but according to the funds received, it can say yes or no to the funding.

Councilman Giampola stated the project will not be awarded until the end of 2020 or beginning of 2021. The Borough is far away from the end of the project.

Mayor Stevenson questioned the surplus in the budget.

Auditor Petroni stated there were a lot of interfund transfers that were recovered and transferred back to surplus. The Borough is back in the amount of $80,000 since 2018. The Borough is in better shape by $150,000 since 2018. His concern is with the revenues. The Borough may have to look as spending freezes by the end of the year and will have to be careful for 2021.

Mayor Stevenson told everyone to take a breather and again questioned the County tax rate.

Auditor Petroni stated he will have to calculate them and will call Tracy Giordano at the County to get the allocations. He based the figures on how they were equalized last year.

Administrator Jacobucci stated the Borough still must deal with the boiler and the generator for this year.

Councilman Giampola stated they are working with Administrator Jacobucci and she is waiting on Sickels for the specifications and the contractors to come out to the building.

Mayor Stevenson questioned the Berkadia loan for the municipal building.

Administrator Jacobucci stated the loan is up in October 2020 for the building of the Municipal Building.
Councilman Haynes stated he will touch base with Erik Biermann of Sickels & Associates on the specifications for the boiler and generator.

There was further discussion regarding engineering, legal fees and tax appeals.

Mayor Stevenson stated Camcare is opening next Thursday and asked Council to stop by. He thanked Administrator Jacobucci, Auditor Petroni and everyone else involved with preparing the 2020 Budget.

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

Councilman Giampola moved and Councilman Haynes seconded to adjourn the special meeting at 6:00 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 May 19, 2020 and should not be considered a verbatim transcript of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy A. VanScoy, RMC/CMC/CMR
Borough Clerk

Gary C. Stevenson, Mayor