

A BUDGET MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ORADELL HELD VIA ZOOM , ON FEBRUARY 5, 2022

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the notice requirements have been satisfied. The Annual Notice, which details the meetings dates for the year, has been sent to The Record and Ridgewood News, placed on the Municipal Bulletin Board and is on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

1. CALL TO ORDER- OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT – ROLL CALL

Mayor Didio called to order and the Statement of Compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act was read.

Mayor Didio: “Notice of this meeting was published in the official newspaper and prominently posted in Borough Hall and filed with the Municipal Clerk in accordance with the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act.

At roll call, the following were present:
Mayor Dianne Didio

Councilmembers:
Tracy Schoenberg
Roger Tashjian
Stephen Carnevale
Rob Jannicelli
Miriam Yu
Jonathan Kern (ABSENT)

Borough Administrator/Municipal Clerk Laura J. Lyons provided an overview of the budget process and the schedule for the day:

- 1) 8:00AM Dept of Public Works
- 2) 8:30AM Building, Planning Board, Zoning Board and Code Enforcement
- 3) 9:00AM Uniform Fire Safety
- 4) 9:15AM All other Departments (Laura Lyons & Katie Chen)

DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Mayor asked how many employees are in total at the DPW – Dan Nywening responded 18 in total.

He reported the only increases are in Education & Road Program line items. He outlined the increase was to enhance technology to allow for employees to go into a web portal where they can find or create a work order for things such as street sign or potholes. Dan Nywening added that residents would be able to access to portal to initiate the work order as well as track.

Equipment rentals are needed due to damage in storm events as well as aged equipment.

Councilman Yu commented on the web portal and thinks it’s a great idea. Dan said he would send out all the information so that everyone would understand the portal and how it would work.

Councilman Tashjian confirmed the Borough is not paving roads this year. He wanted to make sure we are vigilant on filling potholes and crack sealing.

Mayor asked about the increase to full-time wages and asked if a new person had been hired. The CFO confirmed a new employee had been hired.

He reported there was a small increase to supplies and tools due to items that need to be replaced. A discuss was held regarding the contract tree work line item. There was consensus on the council to increase Professional Services to \$3,000 to plan for possible usage this year. Dan presented the remainder of the budget. This would include Sewer, contractual items such as garbage and recycling, utilities, fuel and building and grounds. There were no significant operating expenses needed to examine. Discussion ensued as to repairs that would be included in either capital or usage of the ARF program.

He mentioned there was a slight increase in the landscaping supplies as the Borough is using organic treatments. There was a slight increase. Mrs Lyons stated that although there is an increase the Borough earns points on Sustainable Jersey.

Miriam Yu asked if all the issues at the Hagler playground been addressed because that did come up last year. Dan confirmed those issues at DPAC playground were addressed.

Steve Depken - Building, Planning Board, Zoning Board and Code Enforcement

He commented he projected the increase to the planning board budget in case revisions to the master plan will occur. He stated that a new recording system is needed in chambers but is being handled by OPTV. Mrs. Lyons indicated that there will be a new line item to be included in the Planning Board budget for Borough Planner. This is needed as the state flexible chart of accounts requires it being placed in this department. The work and usage of this funding will be administered by the Council. Examples are the land use ordinances and zoning map revision projects. Councilman Carnevale mentioned that the projected amount for Planning Board may not be accurate. He suggested that Steve reach out to the chairman to confirm this outline for the year.

Zoning- Mr. Depken indicated that large applications are being submitted. Increases to Borough professionals correspond to the application, if services are needed at the Borough's request.

FIRE PREVENTION:

Fire official Chris Petronzio indicated that salary and wage line was increased due to the need to add another inspector to the rotation. The only other change is for Inspector Eric Hicks to attend the Arson investigator class.

RECREATION:

Recreation Director Ken Bauman provided the overview of large increases to the recreation budget. Mrs. Lyons confirmed that this budget was hardest hit during COVID relating to budget cuts. It is now time to add those programs back which look like an overall increase but in reality it is merely added existing programs and functionality back into the department budget. Ken provided an overview to changes and additions to the summer recreation program. He stated he is in the process of identifying a replacement for the recreation vehicle lost in the hurricane. Discussion ensued with details and suggestions concerning summer rec program.

He mentioned there was a slight increase to the maintenance plan for the lightening detection equipment.

He reported he is actively looking for sponsors for Special Events summer concert series. he stated he has been in contact with Stan Kufel for celebrations for the Fire Dept's 125th Anniversary. Councilman Carnevale asked about the plans for the Fireworks for this year. Ken confirmed a contract is signed. The fireworks will be July 3rd and a rain date of the 8th. and it is locked in for the 3rd rain date the 8th.

Discussion ensued about the annual holiday party and capital items such as the pickleball courts

SMALLER DEPARTMENTS

CFO Chen presented the Finance Budgets, inclusive of Finance, tax collection and tax assessment. She indicated the Borough auditing services are slightly increased but approved in a separate resolution.

Administration- Mrs. Lyons highlighted increases to the Admin budgets. There was a slight increase to the spatial data licensing. Some of the professional service contracts were increased. These were approved by resolution at Re-organization. She also added extra funding to the line item for attendance at the League conference for elected officials.

Municipal Clerk budget- she increased in bookbinding & microfilm. Upon looking at the records, the staff back prior to 2007 had stopped sending minutes out to be bound on acid free paper. The records need to be preserved under the statute. This can be done in phases. She added a slight increase to Codification of Ordinances in connection with the land use ordinances that will be revised this year. Other slight increases were to education as CEU's need to be kept up to date and allows for the Deputy to begin taking education classes.

Budgets such as engineering remained at previously funded amount. Contractual services such as EMS while the vendor changed the budgeted amounts remained the same. Board of Health contract was reduced due to a reduction in fees from the County. Mayor Didio inquired as to the salary split for the Admin Asst/Health registrar position. She requested that the budget reflect the actual appropriation for the position in each department.

Mayor Didio explained the increase to workers compensation insurance from the JIF.

Mrs. Lyons asked if the council committee budgets should be increased. After a brief discussion it was stated that they budgets should remain at the current levels but resources should be provided to the chairs, so they understand the budget and purchasing process.

OPTV has a slight increase due to renewal for telview hosting services. It was announced the library would present its budget at the February 15th meeting.

Public Comment:

Each speaker shall have one turn and not to exceed 5 minutes. Please identify yourself at the microphone and remain courteous.

No public comment

A motion to close public comment made by Council President Schoenberg and seconded by Councilman Tashjian. All in favor

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council President Schoenberg and seconded by Councilman Tashjian. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:55 am, the public meeting adjourned.

Laura J. Lyons, CPM, RMC, RPPO
Borough Administrator/Municipal Clerk