

A BUDGET MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ORADELL HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN BOROUGH HALL, ON FEBRUARY 4, 2023 AT 8 AM.

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

Mayor Didio called to order at 8:12 after a brief closed session and the Statement of Compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act was read.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Dianne C. Didio
Tracy Schoenberg, Councilwoman
Roger Tashjian, Councilman
Stephen Carnevale, Councilman
Rob Jannicelli, Councilman
Jonathan Kern, Councilman
Michael Staff, Councilman

Mayor Didio stated today was the first of two budget meetings for the Departments to present their 2023 operating budget requests.

LIBRARY:

Library board member Mr. Lessersohn presented the library budget. He summarized the request for an overall increase from \$778,000 funded in 2022 to \$817,500 for 2023. Budgetary expenses include rise in hourly rates, inflation, increases in healthcare costs and funding a new position.

RECREATION:

Ken Baumann presented the Recreation budget request. He informed the Council on upcoming programming for Seniors and stated he is actively soliciting sponsorships to offset the cost. Mayor Didio suggested checking into discounted Broadway tickets for attendance at rehearsal performances.

Mr. Baumann requested the Summer Recreation registration fee be increased. Councilmembers asked various questions concerning the program. Councilman Carnevale suggested that two assistant directors be hired this year to cover all locations. Councilman Jannicelli inquired if the 2023 flyer for Summer Camp is posted. Mr. Baumann indicated the flyer has not been completed.

Council requested the CFO to issue an explanatory memo outlining what expenses come out of the DPAC trust accounts. Mayor Didio also requested the CFO to make the necessary budget accounting adjustments from Recreation to Health budgets. Councilman Staff stated all coaches should be trained in CPR and the AED equipment.

Mr. Baumann reported the costs for the Fireworks has increased over the years. He is soliciting for sponsorships however; the budget line needs to be funded based on the contract signed in 2022. There was a brief discussion regarding having the event each year. Mayor Didio requested the topic be listed on the June Work Session for 2024.

BUILDING, PLANNING BOARD, ZONING BOARD & CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Stephen Depken, Construction Official presented the various departmental budgets. He outlined that the Planning Board budget legal line item is higher than Zoning Board as he anticipates

more activity. Mayor Didio requested that he inform the Council when there are inquiries on properties relating to potential development.

He reported that the Zoning Board is eagerly anticipating the audio/visual equipment for Council Chambers. Councilman Jannicelli inquired if the Zoning Board meets in a hybrid format. Mr. Depken stated that based on the board attorney's directive that the Board shall meet in person only

Mr. Depken requested that the members of the UPSEU within his department be considered for merit increases based on other staff members receiving such. He also requested the department vehicle purchase be finalized. He reported on challenges with business owners and property maintenance. Mayor Didio suggested EDAC be involved with offering support to issuing a memo.

ORADELL FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Kaplan presented the Fire Department budget request. The department is experiencing the same challenges with supply chain and inflation. He indicated this has resulted in a minimal increase request. He provided an brief overview of each line item that reflected an increase. Chief Kaplan acknowledged Rob Capicchioni for all his service to the Fire fleet. He has saved the Borough a remarkable amount of money over the years by performing the repairs inhouse.

OEM:

Joseph Gothelf, OEM Coordinator presented the 2023 budget requests. He stated the Borough has contracted with a Premium Weather Broadcasting System. This assists the Borough in predicting heavy storm events in relation to relocating Borough vehicles and equipment out of the DPW. He provided the Council with the enhancements from other weather reporting agencies. He reported that the RAVE system currently has 2100 subscribers. He stated that the order was placed for the electronic sign board and delivery is expected in 8 weeks.

UNIFORM FIRE SAFETY:

Chris Petronzio, Fire Prevention Officer presented the Uniform Fire Safety budget requests. He reported on the two line items increases concerning salaries and office equipment.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

On a motion to close public comment made by Councilman Staff, seconded by Councilman Jannicelli and carried unanimously on voice vote public comment was closed.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Councilman Kern, seconded by Councilman Staff and carried unanimously on voice vote the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Laura J. Lyons, CPM, RMC, RPPO
Municipal Clerk