

**Minutes of the Budget Workshop Meeting #1
February 2, 2021**

The 2021 Budget Meeting #1 was called to order by Mayor Larson at 2:15pm via Zoom. He stated that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act. This meeting is being conducted remotely by electronic means, during the COVID-19 State of Emergency and State of Public Health Emergency, as provided by NJSA 10:4-9.3 & 52:27D-18.11. Notice of this meeting was advertised in the Asbury Park Press on January 27, 2021. A copy of the notice of this meeting was posted on the mailbox at Borough Hall and in the Post Office on January 25, 2021.

ROLL CALL: Spark, Wellington, Alloway was not present, Reynolds, Foley and Mikuletzky

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Municipal Clerk stated that this meeting is being recorded and a written copy would be available in the Clerk's Office.

UTILITY OPERATING

Kathleen Flanagan, CFO, noted that the meter project is well underway and running as smoothly as possible. She said there were 19 left to be distributed and 600 left to activate. She said that when 70-90% of the new meter info is entered into Edmunds, she could do an analysis for the first billing for 2022. She added that if the rates could be adjusted as needed. Councilman Spark asked if there was a deadline for the 70-90% to be entered. She answered by the end of the third quarter, October.

The CFO said that there are no big utility projects for 2021. She said that the new system is up and running. She said that Stuart and his guys are doing a great job with repairs with no need to call outside agencies, which is a money saver.

The Utility Collector asked if we have already purchased the software for readings and billings. The CFO said that everything was in place.

The next topic was painting and rehabilitation on the water tower. Kat said that the last rehab was in 2012 and would like to have an inspection done. She said that statutorily it must be done every ten years. She said we should get ready to go out to bid by the end of the year.

Kat said that Dish Network wants to install equipment on our water tower. She said that there would have to be research to see if there is space and to see if there would be any interference with what's already there. The Clerk added that they want ground space too. (Nine panel antennas and a 5' x 8' equipment pad at grade) Kat said that it would have to be publically bid. She said that Barnegat Light is the only town that they have contacted so far. She said that it would be great revenue generator to offset water/sewer rates.

BEACHES AND PARKS

Kat said that she had a meeting with the Beaches and Parks Committee and they discussed the lifeguard salaries. She said there would not be an extended season this year because it was no benefit to us last year. She said there was a request for two new ATV @ \$8300 each. She said there was a discussion regarding the Beach Patrols leadership and there will be no change.

She said there was a request for new playground equipment which was coming in at \$220,000 and would be a capital purchase. They would do a note and it would be paid over ten years. Councilman Wellington said that the cost would be \$250,000.

DOCKS AND HARBORS

Kat said that she spoke to Councilman Alloway and said there would be no changes in budget line item. She said that was a possibility of change in the manpower or shifts. She suggested an electronic entry system, fobs or an armed gate. Mayor Larson said we have too much trouble with the dog park gate and that we need to have it open for emergencies.

PUBLIC WORKS

The CFO said that we were waiting on union contract. She said that the labors got a \$1.00 per hour increase that is reflected in their pay and a \$1,500 uniform allowance that will be paid when the contract is signed. The Clerk said that it had been email to Dan Kreiser but hasn't heard back from him. Mayor Larson said that he needs to be called.

Kat said that the courtroom came out very nice and she thought if was completed. Stuart McGowan said it was finished but they were waiting for the State IT to come. Mayor Larson said that the

courtroom would be used for multiple purposes. He said that we could use it for bid openings when there is inclement weather.

PERSONNEL

The CFO said that the raises for the non-aligned have not been determined. She said there were some changes in the personnel policy and there would also be updates to the purchasing manual.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Kat said that she felt some of the things that are being requested by the Municipal Court Clerk are over the top. She said she wanted to talk to the committee about these things and see what they wanted to approve. She said that one of the things was a Zoom account and she didn't feel that we needed two.

She said that the contract for Police and Dispatch service has been signed and there was a 2% increase.

- Firetruck additional money requested
- Court Administrator requests
- Police contract signed

CAPITAL PROJECTS ANTICIPATED FOR 2021

The CFO said the last thing she wanted to talk about was the Capital projects. There was a discussion about the DOT grants for West 23rd & 27th Streets DOT and infrastructure upgrades and West 13th Street. She said we may be able to apply for EIT funding if available. She said that funding would either be forgiven or at 0% interest.

She said the next thing for capital was the tower rehabilitation/painting, which would be roughly \$750,000.

Playground equipment was also on the capital project list and Kat said she changed the amount to \$250,000.

Mayor Larson said that Councilman Frank Mikuletzky had something to talk about for the Public Safety committee. Frank said that the Fire Company was buying a new truck and has asked us to contribute to this purchase as we have done in the past. He said he talked to Mayor Larson and they discussed possibly raising the annual donation that we give them to \$40,000 and giving them another \$20,000 for the next 5 years. Mayor Larson said that it would cost around \$540,000 plus additional money to rig it out. Frank said that the sale of the old truck would cover that cost. Councilwoman Foley asked if any work would have to be done to the garage to accommodate the new bigger truck and Frank said it should fit. Kat said she wanted to be sure she was understanding properly. She said currently we give them \$38,450 and we would be adding \$20,000 for 5 years. Frank said that we would be bringing up the annual amount to \$40,000 and adding the \$20,000 for 5 years. Kat asked if it was clear to them that the additional \$20,000 would be for just 5 years. Frank said yes and he added that they actually asked for \$35,000 additional money for the 5 years.

Councilman Spark said that they will have to sell more t-shirts. Mayor Larson said that make more on the t-shirt sales that they get in donations. He added that their general income was less last year due to COVID they couldn't have the auction which usually brings in between \$20,000 and \$30,000.

Kat said a Local Finance Notice just came out regarding grants loss of revenue due to COVID. She said that it could be put in through the Borough's grant. She said she would have to read if it falls into the parameters. She asked if we get money for them would we still be adding the \$20,000. The answer was yes.

Kat asked if there was anything else. Mayor Larson that we needed air conditioning repairs at the EOC building and Public Works.

Mayor Larson asked for a motion to open to the public. There was a motion by Councilwoman Foley and carried by all. Steve Cameron, 1608 Central Ave. said that he attended the meeting to listen. The Mayor thanked him. With no further public comments, the Mayor asked for a motion to close the public session. There was a motion by Spark, seconded by Mikuletzky and carried by all.

Kat commented on the bid opening for the water tower. She said that there was only one bidder and the bid was \$250.00 per month. She added that after attorney review we would award the contract at the next meeting.

Mayor Larson asked for a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Wellington, seconded by Reynolds and carried by all. The budget workshop ended.

