MINUTES OF SPECIAL SESSION OF COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2017

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Special Session of Borough Council convened at 6:00 pm. Present were Councilors Melissa Morgan, Chris Ponchak, Tim Sloss, Janice Matyasovsky, and Larry Sikorski; and Mayor Jane Weigand.

There were no Public Comments.

The main purpose of the meeting was to present the proposed 2018 budgets:

 General Fund - $1,061,348, Sewer Fund $556,562, and Highway Fund $83,967. Mr. Sikorski asked if council wanted to discuss it. Mr. Ponchak said he met with the Fire Department and they requested additional funds for the Fire Truck Fund. They want to replace the 1974 Mack Truck and when they added the mill for appropriations to the Fire Department in 2006, the dollar amount they receive, $64,000, has not kept up with inflation. The last truck was purchased for about $360,000; a new truck at this point in time will cost about $450,000. Mr. Sikorski said when the borough buys an item of significant value, they normally take out a loan, but we are maxed out in loans. Mr. Ponchak said they need to replace the marked police car. Mrs. Weigand said they always take a loan; they don’t pay cash for it. Mr. Sikorski said maybe they could get some help from (Senator) Brewster. Mr. Ponchak said that is something they can look at. Mrs. Weigand said they can check with Rep. Kortz, also. If they piggyback through one of the available programs, they can get the car cheaper. Mr. Sloss said he read that a lot of the Police Departments are leasing their cars, since it is too expensive to buy. Mr. Sikorski said when they bought a new Public Works truck several years ago, they joined through another COG and got a better deal. Mrs. Weigand and several of the councilors agreed that leasing may be a good idea.

Mr. Sikorski called for a motion to adopt the proposed 2018 budgets, as presented above, and to advertise and post for public inspection for 10 days. Mrs. Matyasovsky made the motion, seconded by Mr. Sloss, and the motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Weigand commended Mrs. Helderlein and Mrs. Matyasovsky for their work on the budget. Mr. Sikorski said he attended one of the sessions. The proposed General Fund budget includes a 2.0 mill increase – 1.9 for general purposes and .1 for appropriations to the Fire Department. Mr. Ponchak said the parks need work; a lot of money has been spent on the storm damage on Glenn Avenue. For things to get done, they have to raise taxes. Mrs. Weigand said there are salaries and pensions to be taken care of; you have to raise taxes to meet costs. Liberty Borough still has one of the lowest millages in the area. Mrs. Matyasovsky said Cathy Esack, who has the beauty shop in Liberty, but lives in Glassport, said Glassport millage is very high. Mrs. Helderlein temporarily owned a home in Glassport through an inheritance, and said she knows their millage is 11.99.

Mr. Sikorski asked if there was any other business to discuss, but no one had anything.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Ponchak and seconded by Mrs. Matyasovsky. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 6:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Helderlein

Borough Secretary