

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 20, 2019**

Call to Order

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Open Public Meetings Act Statement – This Special Meeting was called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of this meeting was sent to the "South Jersey Times" newspaper. In addition, a copy of this notice was posted on the bulletin board in the municipal building and filed in the office of the Municipal Clerk. Notice on the bulletin board has remained continuously posted.

Roll Call

Councilman Austin: Present
Councilman Pierpont: Present
Councilwoman Rudley: Present
Mayor Johnson: Present
Borough Auditor Nick Petroni: Present

Council President Blass: Present
Councilman Razzo: Present
Councilman Weng: Present
CFO Steve Considine: Present
Borough Clerk O'Donnell: Present

Work Discussion

Motion to Open Discussion: Blass
Time: 6:04 p.m.

Second: Rudley

2019 Proposed Municipal Budget

CFO Considine reported that entering into this meeting, the proposed municipal budget is under the levy cap by \$406,678.00, and under the appropriations cap by \$8,936.00, making this a budget that can be introduced within the statutory guidelines. In addition, \$1,412,120.00 of surplus funds will be used to balance the budget. In 2018, \$660,104.00 of surplus was used. The average taxpayer will pay approximately \$1,763.00 in municipal taxes on a home valued at the average of \$168,733.00. The value of one penny on the tax rate is \$57,002.00. Mr. Considine stated that the Borough still maintains a healthy surplus even with the use of funds for this year.

Councilman Austin asked to revisit a few items on the budget that were discussed at previous meetings with no action taken. He proposed cutting the cost of the new rugs for the McCowan Memorial Library, a sum of \$27,000.00. Councilman Pierpont said that he was not in favor of removing the line item from the budget. Mayor Johnson said that now is a good time to replace the carpet, when the budget is under cap, and there is no tax increase. He also reminded everyone that this year is the 100th Anniversary of the library and there will be a celebration during the summer months.

In addition, Councilman Austin proposed removing the purchase of a new police car for the Police Department. Councilwoman Rudley said that the department would only agree to remove the car from the budget if it was necessary to get the budget below the cap. She said that since the budget is already below the cap, the removal of the car would not have a significant impact on the 2019 budget.

Motion was made by Councilman Blass to authorize Borough CFO Steve Considine to begin preparing the 2019 budget for introduction at the March 25, 2019 meeting.

Second: Rudley

Councilman Austin: Yes

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Johnson: _____

Motion to Close Discussion: Razzo

Second: Rudley

Time: 6:20 p.m.

Public Portion

Motion to Open to the Public: Razzo

Second: Rudley

Time: 6:21 p.m.

Jim Fortney, 502 Carew Avenue – Mr. Fortney stated that the local newspaper had an article on School Resource Officers, and how many school districts are using these retired police officers, known as Class III Officers, as SROs. This was touted in the paper as a cost saving measure over the use of regular police officers. Mayor Johnson said that the use of Class III Officers had been discussed in Pitman but the problem is that the hiring pool for Class III Officers is very small.

Motion to Close the Public Portion: Razzo

Second: Blass

Time: 6:22 p.m.

Miscellaneous

Councilman Razzo said that at a recent meeting of the Board of Education, a resident suggested that the Borough take on 100% of the cost of the School Resource Officers. At this time, the BOE contributes \$50,000.00 annually to the cost of the officers.

Adjournment

Motion: Rudley

Second: Blass

Time: 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator

