

Borough of Tenafly

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2014

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Rustin and Council members Maxim Basch, Jon Warms, Nadia LaMastra, Daniel Park (arrived at 9:16 a.m.), Mark Zinna

ABSENT: Council member Anthony Barzelatto

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Administrator Jewel Thompson-Chin, Chief Financial Officer Gene Vinci

At 9:06 a.m. Mayor Rustin read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement: "In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act P.L. 1975, chapter 231, the notice requirements have been satisfied. Meeting dates for the year are listed in the Annual Agenda; copies are sent to the Record, Suburbanite, and Northern Valley Press and posted on the bulletin board in the lobby of the Municipal Center. The notice of this special budget meeting Resolution #14-55 has been sent to the Record, Suburbanite, and Northern Valley News, has been posted on the bulletin board in the lobby of the Municipal Center and Borough Website."

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mark Feldman –133 Lylewood Drive – inquired about the release of budgetary work materials so that the public can participate in the process.

Mrs. Thompson-Chin responded that a budget book is available in the Library for review.

BUILDING

Construction Official, Robert Byrnes explained that the Code Enforcement Officer has taken over responsibilities regarding trees as the DPW Director obtains his arborist certification. Mr. Brynes noted that with the limited hours, after responding to complaints and conducting patrols, the Code Enforcement Officers doesn't have enough time to prepare summonses. He requested that Council authorize the Code Enforcement Officer become a full-time position due to increased activity and the fact that court appearances and working on the weekends come out of the 29 allotted hours. Council directed the Borough Administrator and Mr. Byrnes prepare a job description to hire another property maintenance officer on a part-time business. Council authorized the requested salary increase for the plumbing and electrical inspectors. Council directed the Borough Administrator to look into paperless options for inspectors, similar to what is used in Englewood.

YOUTH SERVICES

Council reviewed the budget submittal with Youth Services Director, Mark Slawson. Mr. Slawson noted that there has been an increase in teen center participants over the last couple of years. There are more 10th and 11th graders participating and more girls attending the programs as there is a female counselor on staff. Mr. Slawson advised Council that they would need to evaluate a new space in the next 2 to 3 years.

ASSESSOR

Council reviewed the budget submittal with Tax Assessor, Carol Byrne. Mrs. Byrne highlighted that Tenafly is one of the top towns in added assessments and that in 2013 there were over 30 demolitions. She discussed how she and her staff avail themselves to speak with residents.

SENIOR CENTER

Council discussed WiFi service at the Senior Center and transportation issues with the Senior Center Director, Julie Villafuerte. C. Zinna, C. Warms, and C. Park will coordinate on obtaining WiFi service through Optimum at no additional charge to the Borough. C. LaMastra advised that the advisory board wants to conduct a senior community mailing and is seeking \$2,000 for printing and binding. Council authorized the \$2,000 line item for a mailing and will evaluate how it was spent during next year's budget discussions. Mayor Rustin stated that at the next Mayor's Breakfast, he will speak about sharing a senior van with neighboring municipalities. He will also speak with the State Legislators about funding for a senior van. Mrs. Thompson-Chin noted that she will raise the issue at the next Riverside Co-Op meeting. Council directed Ms. Villafuerte to have the assistant director obtain her CDL license.

Council recessed at 11:06 a.m. and resumed the budget meeting at 11:14 a.m.

LIBRARY

Council discussed the evolution of the usage of e-books and e-readers in the Library with Library Director, Gina Webb-Metz. Ms. Webb-Metz noted that the Library is developing a teen volunteer program. Mayor Rustin requested that Ms. Webb-Metz keep the Borough Administrator aware of the status of employee negotiations.

FIRE PREVENTION

Fire Official Alden Blackwell reviewed the budget submission and explained role of fire prevention bureau as the local enforcing agency for the NJ Division of Fire Safety.

RECREATION

Council reviewed the resurfacing of the municipal field's artificial turf with Recreation Director, Matt Mercurio. It was determined to set funds aside in the capital budget over the 3 years to resurface the municipal field's artificial turf as the total expected cost of the replacement is \$360,000. Council determined not to fund installing turf at Sunnyside Park due to the cost involved for engineering and drainage. Council authorized the raising of summer camp fees to \$500 for residents and \$700 non-residents. Mr. Mecurio reported that more residents are using camp last year than non-residents. Since it is a state licensed camp there is a limit on the total number of participants. Community Night will be held again in September. The sponsorship signage program raised over \$20,000 of which \$10,000 will be used for football equipment. There has not been a decrease in the enrollment of participants since the registration fee was raised to \$250.

ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no further business to come before the Council, on a motion by C. Zinna, second by C. Basch , and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lissette Aportela-Hernandez, MPA, RMC
Borough Clerk