

Meeting Called to Order

The public meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM.

In accordance with the requirements of Section 4(a) of C.231, P.L. 1975, the required 48 hour advance notice of this meeting was given by mailing/faxing a copy of the agenda to the Asbury Park Press and the Two River Times, in addition, to posting on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building on April 22, 2014 by the Municipal Clerk.

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Burden, Councilman DeNofa, Councilman DeSalvo, Councilman Menapace, Councilman Meyer & Councilman Pellegrino
Also Present: Administrator Thomas Seaman & Clerk Kathleen P. Krueger
Absent: Councilman Dodge
* Councilwoman DerAsadourian entered the meeting at 9:03 AM

Salute to Flag

Led by Mayor Burden.

Councilman Pellegrino reviewed the Preliminary 2014 Borough Budget with Council. Mr. Seaman answered the Council's questions on the Borough's debt service. The Council discussed the anticipated increase in construction revenue for this budget year.

Councilman Pellegrino noted that 'maintenance of parks' has been combined with 'street and road maintenance' as one line item. Councilwoman DerAsadourian inquired about the increase in certain line items which Mr. Seaman and Councilman Pellegrino explained were due to various reasons including consolidations of accounts, new reassessment process, and utility rate hikes. Councilman Pellegrino discussed why some revenues were decreased.

Mr. Seaman explained the state 2% cap levy allowance, how it works, and noted that the Borough is under the cap. Councilman Pellegrino reviewed the proposed tax rate for 2014 and went over the previous 10 years of tax rates. Mr. Seaman explained why the Borough needs to collect uncollected taxes and the Borough's history of surplus use.

Councilman Pellegrino and Council discussed potential capital projects and purchases for 2014.

Councilman Pellegrino reviewed all the Borough shared services the Borough is involved in and reported on grants the Borough has received. He continued noting all the ways the Borough is trying to keep costs low for the residents.

Open to the Public

Councilman Meyer made a motion to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Councilman DeNofa, and approved by the rest of the Council.

Andrew Rose, 27 Blades Run Drive, stated that the timing of the meeting was poor and expressed his desire for the Borough to record and stream the meetings online. Councilman DeNofa expressed his feelings regarding the timing of the meetings and noted that all the members of

Council are volunteers. Mr. Rose asked that in the future all the handouts for the workshop be posted online for the residents to review prior to the meeting which Mr. Seaman stated could be done in PDF form. Mr. Rose responded that they should be posted in an Excel spreadsheet so that he could work with the numbers so it would make sense to him. Councilman Meyer explained that the problem with posting in Excel is that someone could change the numbers.

Mr. Rose suggested saving for the cost of a capital purchase over a span of ten years then purchasing the item. Councilman Meyer explained that instead of taxing the residents ahead of time for an expected need the Borough buys the item and pays it off over ten years. Mr. Rose asked why the Borough is not sharing more services such as a police chief with other local towns since Shrewsbury is so small. Councilman Meyer explained that the Mayor and Council Members have spent many hours trying to get other towns to open up to the idea of shared services for police as well as other departments.

Mr. Rose questioned the amount paid to the pension. Mr. Seaman explained that pension costs are actually down due to the state contributions. Mr. Rose questioned if the Borough has too many employees and noted that we have a lot of beautiful equipment. Councilman Meyer noted that the Borough has had a study conducted on the DPW and found that we are actually understaffed for the services they provide. He added that the Borough may have more equipment then other towns but it is needed and has been extremely helpful in cases of emergency.

Mr. Rose stated that he thought it would be nice if the Borough would send out e-mails to the residents concerning things that are going on in the town in addition to important documents such as the budget documents.

Close the Meeting to the Public

Councilman Pellegrino motioned to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Councilman DeSalvo, and approved by the rest of the Council.

Adjourn

Councilman Pellegrino motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman DeSalvo, and approved by all Council members present.

Attest: _____
Kathleen P. Krueger, RMC – Municipal Clerk

Approve: _____
Donald W. Burden, Mayor