

WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP COUNCIL  
BUDGET SESSION #4  
March 24, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: President Mandel called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

ROLL CALL: Gawas, Geevers (zoom), Hersh, Mandel, Stevens

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

This is to advise that the notice requirement provided for in the "Open Public Meetings Act" has been satisfied. Notice of this meeting was properly given and transmitted to The Times and Princeton Packet; filed with the Clerk of the Municipality; and posted in the West Windsor Township Municipal Building at North Post and Clarksville Roads on, February 24, 2021.

ATTENDEES: President: Mandel; Council: Gawas, Geevers (zoom), Hersh, Stevens; Business Administrator: Schmid; Chief Financial Officer: Mauder; Township Clerk: Huber

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Ms. Huber led the salute to the flag.

REVENUES, FUND BALANCE, CAP ORDINANCE, LOCAL EXAM

Mr. Mauder provided an overview of the budget process. He noted that the budget introduction will take place at the April 12<sup>th</sup> Business Session with the Public Hearing at the May 10<sup>th</sup> Business Session. Mr. Mauder advised that the budget will be published in accordance with law once it has been introduced and that we are under State review so will have to wait for their approval to adopt.

Mr. Mauder advised that there will be two revisions to the budget to add two grants received: the first is for Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund in the amount of \$33,379.80; and the second is for Distracted Driving overtime enforcement for \$10,500.00. He advised that there is one additional grant the Click It or Ticket It grant that we are waiting to receive. Mr. Mauder noted that the Township is currently negotiating with Hamilton Township on the Shared Services agreement for leaf and brush disposal.

REVENUES

Mr. Mauder advised that one of the differences in this year's budget over previous years is that we are using \$1.2 million in fund balance. He noted that the following revenues did not bring in the projected revenue in 2020: Municipal Court, Local Licenses; Hotel Occupancy Tax; Cable TV Franchising Fee (this is consistently lessening due to more residents streaming), and Recreation Fees. Mr. Mauder advised in require to the swimming pool budget that there will be a resolution to be acted on prior to the budget approving using the three year average approved by the State due to COVID.

Mr. Mauder advised that this year's budget is conservative and that more reserves are being used so that there is no tax increase for the residents for municipal services.

FUND BALANCE

Mr. Mauder reviewed the fund balance and advised that the Township currently has \$5,388,000 in this account. He advised that this budget will use \$3.1 million to cover costs in the 2021 budget.

Discussion ensued among Council and Mr. Mauder regarding the amount of fund balance to be used for the budget. Members of Council asked questions which were addressed by Mr. Mauder.

Mr. Mauder asked Council if there are any additional revenue items they would like to discuss.

Discussion ensued over revenues and fund balance and how this will affect the 2022 municipal budget.

CAP BANK ORDINANCE

Mr. Mauder reviewed the Finance Notice for Local Cap Bank and advised that the Township is allowed to use 1% in 2021 without an ordinance and that Administration is strongly recommending that the Council approve the ordinance to raise it to 3.5% which equates to \$761,845.18.

Discussion ensued over the Parking Authority lease payment and police services payment for 2021.

WRAP-UP

Mr. Mauder reviewed the following requested changes to the 2021 Municipal Budget:

- Increase the contribution to both volunteer fire companies by \$10,000.00 for a total of \$75,000.00 per company.
- Adjustment of \$1,000.00 in the Senior Services salary and wage account.
- Pool deficit going from \$79,952.66 to \$80,106.92, an increase of \$154.26.

Discussion ensued over the increase to the two volunteer fire companies. Voice vote was taken to approve this increase and add it to the 2021 municipal budget.

Capital Budget

Mr. Mauder noted that one of the follow-up items from previous budget meeting was to add \$100,000 to Bike Lane Extensions for 2021.

Ms. Geevers provided her reasoning as to why this is needed.

A short discussion ensued with members of Council. A consensus vote was taken and all members of Council approved of placing \$100,000 in the 2021 Capital Budget for this project.

Mr. Mauder reviewed the capital ordinance process and noted that he will provide a draft ordinance for Council's review prior to placing on an agenda.

Mr. Hersh requested that \$100,000 be placed in the capital account for engineering study for the Southside sewer project.

A short discussion ensued over this request among members of Council.

Mr. Hersh made a motion to add \$100,000 to the capital budget for the sewer study for the south side of route 571. No second was received.

Motion to take a break at 11:10 a.m. due to the sprinkler system running.

Meeting reconvened at 11:50 a.m.

Discussion among members of Council ensued over the request for a leaf vacuum truck for the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Hersh motion to move this item to the 2022 capital budget. No second was received.

Council requested additional data on this item before the bond ordinance is introduced.

Digital Tax Map funding will remain as requested by the Engineering Division.

Sidewalk Replacement Program - discussion ensued about how to move forward with this program. This will be discussed further at a future Council meeting.

Mr. Hersh motion to move the \$225,000 for the leaf vacuum to the sidewalk replace program. No second was received.

Discussion among members of Council continued on the sidewalk replacement issue.

Ms. Gawas motion to increase this program by \$25,000 for 2021 to a total of \$125,000. Second by Ms. GeEVERS. All in favor.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. John Church, 11 Princeton Place, thanked the Council for their hard work and dedication on the budget. He suggested that more detail be added to capital requests in the future. He noted that decisions made years ago with regard to street trees and sidewalks is causing a lot of problems now. Mr. Church also noted that he looks forward to the cap bank ordinance discussion.

Mr. Ephraim Buhks, Indian Run Road, noted his concern as well about sidewalks and that a new approach is needed.

Mr. Hersh noted that he tried to increase the sidewalk repair item and was unable to.

Mayor Marathe advised that this is a policy issue that needs to be discussed after the budget has been approved.

Ms. Geevers inquired what amount would be needed to take care of the current list of sidewalks.

Discussion ensued over the sidewalk repair project and it was again noted that this will be discussed at a future council meeting.

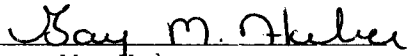
ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Gawas

Second:

VV: All approved

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.



Gay M. Huber  
Township Clerk  
West Windsor Township



Andrea Mandel  
Council President  
West Windsor Township