



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
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CITY COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 23, 2023

BUDGET MEETING - 6:30 PM

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Councilwoman Betty Howell.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Councilmembers Butch Burroughs, Sandy Cain, Betty Howell, Steve Light

ABSENT: LaRotonda, DeRose, Marrone

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Horton, Jessica Thompson, Carie Crone, Chief Laughlin and Eddie Dennis

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON THE SUNSHINE LAW

NOTIFICATION THAT THIS MEETING IS ELECTRONICALLY RECORDED

WORK MEETING AGENDA

2023 Municipal Budget Discussion

Jessica – Budget was passed out at the last budget meeting. Had a lengthy discussion today at the Finance Committee Meeting regarding the Road Program and Salaries. Committee all in agreement at meetings ends.

ROAD PROGRAM

Jessica – Concern is about size of the program. Put a million dollars in for program. Had extensive conversations at Public Works Committee Meeting going over the roads and priority.

Ed Dennis – Explained road Bible and that it's a 50-year plan of all streets. Program set up initially with \$800,000 a year. This is the first year since 2011 cost have doubled. Cost of all roads that are due would be estimated over \$4 million. Roads hopefully to be done within the million-dollar budget:

- Calderon from New Jersey Ave. to White Horse Pike. This would be partially paid through NJDOT Grant.
- Drainage on Highland Blvd. from Blenheim to Chelsea

- 3 remaining roads are those that were half milled by the Gas Co:
Iroquois from Chelsea to New York
Marlborough from Ritz to St. James Pl.
Traymore Parkway from Morton to St. Charles
- Sidewalk in front of 9-11 Memorial to tie into the rest of walkway in Heritage Park.
- Drainage on Iroquois and Chelsea.

SALARIES

Jessica – All agreed to fill Tax Office opening with Full Time. Non-Union Employees 3%. FT Non-Union Employees 3% and \$1,000 Market adjustment. Crossing Guards \$1.00 increase, Recycling Code Enforcement \$1.35 increase, Planning & Zoning \$1.00 increase and Code Enforcement/Special Officer from \$22.08 to \$24.00 per hour. Inspectors 3% and hire PT Fire Inspector for \$6,000.

Councilman Light – Mentioned on rolling Council stipend back.

Jessica – at this time decided to leave it.

Councilman Light – Requested to discuss a salary increase for Pete Higbee, Rec Director. His salary had been the same for over 6 years at \$5,000. Green Team also asked for a stipend or allowance.

Also, there's a short fall on volunteers to line fields. Possible for Lloyd to hire PT summer help. And finally, would like to see \$10,000-line item to cover miscellaneous beautification projects.

Discussion - held on how to determine rate to increase Rec Director along with Emergency Management Coordinator Jim Eberwine. 2% for each year served would equal \$1,000 for Pete and \$400 for Jim – all agreed.

Discussion - Green Team – in the past was always volunteers with minimal budget. It was agreed to put \$500-line item for projects.

Jessica – explained there's already \$8,000 from last year for miscellaneous recreation and only used \$1,000. Can bump that up of leave and see how it goes.

Councilwoman Howell – Concession Stand, Wagon Wheel Parking & possible Pickle Ball Courts and Basketball Courts.

Jessica – it was discussed but thinking project for 2024 budget. This year possibly start with concept and design work.

Discussion – on options for and pricing for bathrooms in Heritage Park and water to be run to the concession stand.

Jessica – again there is some money left over from last year to start planning.

Councilwoman Cain – Definitely feels it's worth wild to run water to the Concession Stand. Asked if the Ambulance Squad – was that kept at \$50,000 or upped to \$60,000.

Jessica – Has the \$60,000 in place but was planning on only giving them the quarterly payments in amounts of the \$50,000 until they comply with supplying all information. Council Agreed.

Councilman Light – Residents requesting water filling stations at Parks and Fields.

Jessica – Depends on cost. We have some Grant money for Clean Communities.

Council – agreed not to ad anymore money but will look into with possible funding already available.

Councilwoman Cain – advised on other location beside park and ball fields that could use dog friendly stations also.

Jessica – also wanted to let Council know the City received \$12,000 Recycling Grant that will also be added to the budget.

PUBLIC PORTION - No comment or discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn – Councilman Light – second – Councilwoman Cain
All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,


Carrie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 4-6-23