



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
500 Mill Road
Absecon, New Jersey 08201

Carie A. Crone, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Phone (609) 641-0663x101
Fax (609) 645-5098

CITY COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 24, 2022

BUDGET MEETING - 5:30 PM

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Betty Howell.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Burroughs, Cain, Cavileer, Light, Poley, Howell

ABSENT: LaRotonda

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

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON THE SUNSHINE LAW
NOTIFICATION THAT THIS MEETING IS ELECTRONICALLY RECORDED

WORK MEETING AGENDA

2022 Municipal Budget Discussion

Jessica – she passed out a new budget proposal, which was similar to the earlier one. The only difference really is that she added in another tag reader and the foam was added.

Betty – read a letter from Nick who couldn't be here tonight. He's happy that we are keeping the taxes flat and that we are adding another officer. He asked if we could think of adding another officer without it affecting the tax rate. He thinks another senior officer has filed for retirement and it would be an easier process for two new officers start at the same time instead of 6 months apart.

Jessica – the chief requested for one to be hired this year and then one next year. With the potential retirements, we will need to fill positions. We are at 26 now and plan on being at 27 this year and then possibly going to 28 next year.

Sandy – asked if the gas prices was adjusted

Jessica – added \$10,000 to that line. The concerts in the park \$8,000 was put into the public events. She put in the new trash containers for the residents in the budget and asked if everyone was wanting to move forward with.

Betty – those receptacles are very large for senior citizens. Now with trash, they'd have to use it every week.

Jessica – we can decide later what to do. Everyone has to be on board since it's a big decision. Most of our conversation tonight will be going over the capital projects. We would be ready to introduce the budget a week from tonight and then adopt it the first week in April. Once adopted, we can then start on our programs.

CAPITAL BUDGET PROGRAM

Eddie – handed out an updated engineering list and did a recap of what was covered. Items 1 & 2 are interlinked; 3 is the streetscape and he found out today that we received \$525,000 from the state for the grant for this, which is awesome. With this and the \$100,000 that we already budgeted last year we have enough money for all of it. We don't need to budget anything this year. We now need to work with the redeveloper on the timing of it because we don't want to do it until construction is complete. Item 4 will stay on the list probably until we get a huge grant for it. Item 5 Turner Cove – we have received some of the environmental documents and have gone through them and there is more work needed to be done before we would want to take possession of the site. Tanks would need to be taken out of the ground and that is going to be an additional \$50,000. We are scheduling a meeting with the owner to get on the same page as them and see what happens. With item 6, the restroom at the park, he said the utilities would be \$50,000 and the building around \$250,000. We could put money in the budget for recreation, then we could use it for either project, depending on how things go with the gas station.

Jessica – suggested we put the money for this into the debt portion, so it could be used when we need it as to the 2022 budget. If we don't use it this year, then it can't be used until 2024. The same way we did the money for the streetscape.

Eddie – with item 7 we are holding and waiting for a grant; item 8 the drainage work is on hold and 9 and 10 is in the engineering budget.

The Shore Road project is already budgeted from this year and the plans are done. We have to deal with easements now and the county has a project on Delilah Road and detours will be needed and they don't want both of these projects going on at the same time.

Jessica – so you're comfortable with keeping what we had and adding \$100,000 extra into the capital budget of which we will only raise 5,000 as the down payment and will plan to have debt for the rest for potential design or recreation areas?

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Betty – as you know, we are going away from plastic bags on May 4th. She was contacted by Steven Fiedler of Sustainable NJ and on March 3rd they are having a zoom meeting and she thought her and Kim could attend it. They basically have sample kits of what people should do when the plastic is done.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,


Carrie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 3/3/22