

(This Meeting was held In-Person & via Zoom due to COVID-19)

April 25, 2023 – AGENDA SESSION

President Wollert called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and read the Open Public Meeting Statement:

The notice requirements provided for in the “Open Public Meetings Act” have been satisfied. Notice of this meeting was properly given in a notice which was transmitted to the Times of Trenton and the Trentonian all on the 3rd of January 2023, filed with the Clerk of the Township of Ewing, and posted in the Ewing Township Municipal Complex.

The Public will have an opportunity to address the Council during the “Statements and Comments from Members of the Public” segment of the meeting. A member of the Public may sign in on the sheet at the front of the room or if you are joining us via Zoom, please use the raised hand function. You will be given five minutes of time for remarks and questions; questions should be directed to the Council President. When addressing the Council, please give your name and address; please do not call out before you are recognized.

ROLL CALL

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ▪ Mr. Baxter – Present | Jim McManimon, Administrator |
| ▪ Ms. Keyes-Maloney – Present | Maeve Cannon, Attorney |
| ▪ Mr. Schroth – Present | Kim J. Macellaro, Municipal Clerk |
| ▪ Ms. Steward – Present | |
| ▪ President Wollert – Present | |

DISCUSSION

1. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, CHAPTER 225, VEHICLES AND PARKING, ARTICLE VIII, SCHEDULES, SECTION 48, SCHEDULE I: NO PARKING ANYTIME, TO PROHIBIT PARKING ON CERTAIN PORTIONS OF EWINGVILLE ROAD (CR 636)

The Attorney explained that this will make it No Parking on both sides of the road. It is currently marked No Parking on both sides of the road from Green Lane to Bakun Way. This confirms what currently exists. There was a request from both the County and the School Board to do the east side of the road, which is the opposite side from the school, to facilitate parking lot reconfiguration. As a practical matter, both sides are currently No Parking, with bike lanes.

There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public.

This Item was Approved for Action.

2. A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A GRANT FROM THE COUNTY OF MERCER FOR THE RENOVATION AND REPAIRS OF THE EWING SENIOR AND COMMUNITY CENTER POOLS

President Wollert said that this was awarded in the amount of \$235,000.00. It is a grant from the County. The Township will undertake a maintenance program on the pools at the Ewing Senior and Community Center.

There were no questions or comments from Council.

A member of the Public asked for the amount to be repeated.
President Wollert said - \$235,000.00.

There were no additional questions or comments from the Public.

This Item was Approved for Action.

3. A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MERCER COUNTY'S REQUEST FOR A DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE GRANT

President Wollert said that this has been under consideration for a few years. It will extend the Johnson Trolley Trail to link with Lawrence Township. The Lawrence Hopewell Trail Corporation will assist in this effort.

Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney commented that she is happy to see this. It will be nice to potentially unite the entire strip.

There were no additional questions or comments from Council. There were no questions or comments from the Public.

This Item was Approved for Action.

4. A RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FINAL DECREASE TO SEACOAST CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR ARMSTRONG MEMORIAL PARK ADA IMPROVEMENTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,953.12

Council President Wollert said that this is a decrease in the anticipated cost.

There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public.

This Item was Approved for Action.

5. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF A PERFORMANCE BOND AND THE ACCEPTANCE OF A TWO-YEAR MAINTENANCE BOND FOR THE ARMSTRONG MEMORIAL PARK ADA IMPROVEMENTS – EWING ENGINEERS REMINGTON & VERNICK ENGINEERS RVE #1102-T-077

President Wollert said that because this project has been completed, there will be a performance bond to ensure that the project is done in compliance with all construction regulations. The bond will be held for two years.

There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public.

This Item was Approved for Action.

6. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT CERTIFICATE NO. 2 (FINAL) TO KANE COMMUNICATIONS, LLC IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$10,350.56, REPRESENTING FINAL PAYMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,960.00 AND RELEASE OF RETAINAGE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,390.56 FOR THE PEDESTRIAN LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS AT HIGGS PARK

President Wollert said that this is self-explanatory.

There were no questions or comments from Council.

Victoria Mark (Glendale section of Ewing) asked if the lighting at Higgs Park had been done previously.

The Clerk replied that the Town went out to bid.

Ms. Mark stated that that then was the bid; this is monies for the actual project.

There were no additional questions or comments from the Public.

This Item was Approved for Action.

7. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF A PERFORMANCE BOND AND THE ACCEPTANCE OF A TWO-YEAR MAINTENANCE BOND FOR THE PEDESTRIAN LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS AT HIGGS PARK – EWING ENGINEERS REMINGTON & VERNICK ENGINEERS RVE #1102-G-012

President Wollert said that this is standard operating procedure.

There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public.

This Item was Approved for Action.

BILLS LIST

1. A Resolution Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to Pay Bills in the Amount of \$859,838.38 and to Pay Supplemental Bills per Resolution #23R-12 in the Amount of \$314,163.51

There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public.

The Bills List was Approved for Action.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council President Wollert presented the Consent Agenda for review.

1. Approval of Agenda Session Minutes for February 14, 2023; Approval of Regular Session Minutes for February 14, 2023.
2. A Resolution Authorizing a Cancellation of a Levy, as Recommended by the Tax Collector, starting April 3, 2023 and going forward to Thomas Skirzynski, 26 Diane Drive, Ewing, NJ 08628, for property owner Thomas Skirzynski, for Block: 422.01, Lot: 92 also known as 26 Diane Drive. Property owner has been approved, effective April 3, 2023, for 100% disabled veteran property tax exemption.
3. A Resolution Authorizing a Refund, as Recommended by the Tax Collector, in the amount of \$150.00 for 2023 Sewer to Ming, Zeng, 23 Shadow Drive, West Windsor, NJ 08550, for property owner Jarrett, Delano & Fayana, for Block: 214.01 Lot: 17 also known as 428 Ewingville Road. Ming, Zeng incorrectly selected 428 Ewingville Road for sewer instead of correct parcel. Payment was originally executed via WIPP, reversing the payment via WIPP will cancel the processing fee which Ming, Zeng paid. There is no check to be issued, the refund of \$150.00 from Sewer will be done electronically.
4. A Resolution Authorizing a Cancellation of Improvement Only Levy, as Recommended by the Tax Collector, starting March 19, 2023 and going forward to Cribb, Victoria, 76 Lanning Street, Ewing, NJ 08618, for property owner Cribb, Victoria, for Block: 241, Lot: 67 also known as 76 Lanning Street. Property suffered a severe fire which rendered residence uninhabitable, which would result in having the levy on the land assessment only until the parcel is rebuilt and the assessment is raised to the appropriate value.
5. A Resolution Authorizing a Refund, as Recommended by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$2,139.68 for August 1, 2023 3rd Quarter Taxes to Ramirez, Libardo, 1555 Prospect Street, Ewing, NJ 08638, for property owner Ramirez, Libardo, for Block: 118.01 Lot: 23 also known as 1555 Prospect Street for overpayment.
6. A Resolution Authorizing a Refund, in the amount of \$101.33 for 2023 Sewer to Ewing Properties LLC c/o Hilton Management LLC, 902 Carnegie Center #400, Princeton, NJ 08540, for property owner Ewing Properties LLC c/o Hilton Management LLC, for Block: 341.01 Lot: 5 also known as 800-846 Silvia Street for overpayment.

There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public.

The Consent Agenda was Approved for Action.

President Wollert said that Council will consider the following four Resolutions at the Public Hearing during the Regular Session.

CY2023 TOWNSHIP BUDGET

1. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER CERTIFYING COMPLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION'S "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964"
2. A RESOLUTION TO READ BUDGET BY TITLE AT PUBLIC HEARING
3. A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE INTRODUCED CY2023 BUDGET
4. A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING CY2023 BUDGET, AS AMENDED

There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public.

These Items were Approved for Action.

ORDINANCE(S) FOR FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION

(None for this Meeting)

ORDINANCE(S) FOR SECOND READING, PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ADOPTION

1. AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2023 TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

The Attorney asked Council to defeat this Ordinance as it needed to be Introduced prior to the Budget being Introduced.

2. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 325, STREETS AND SIDEWALKS, OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, TO ADD ARTICLE VI, CONSTRUCTION OR REPAIR OF SIDEWALKS

There were no questions or comments from Council. There will be a Public Hearing at the Regular Session.

3. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, CHAPTER 421 ANIMAL SLAUGHTERING AND PROCESSING FACILITIES, SECTIONS 1, 15 AND 16

There will be a Public Hearing during the Regular Meeting.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney reported that it was a nice clean-up at Moody Park that involved members of the Community including students from TCNJ and members of the Environmental Commission and the Green Team. They did a lovely job cleaning up Moody Park leaving it significantly better than when they started. Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney said that a Featured Artist reception will be scheduled during the first two weeks of May.

Vice President Baxter said that this Friday, April 28th at 6:30 p.m. is the Little League field dedication in memoriam of Karen Bauer, a long-time member of the Recreation Advisory Board, who was involved with Little League Baseball for a long time.

Councilwoman Steward said that the Green Team will be meeting tomorrow night at Hollowbrook. Shred Day will be held May 6th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building. The tree planting for Arbor Day will be this Saturday at 9:00 a.m. at Watson Park.

There were no additional Council Comments.

NEW BUSINESS

(None for this Meeting)

STATEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Sarah Cuprzinki (229 Yorkshire Circle) stated that she is a volunteer with Moms Demand Action for gun sense in America. They advocate for sensible regulation of firearms to keep schools, communities, and responders safe from gun violence. Residents of New Jersey are fortunate that this State has strong gun laws. Moms Demand Action thanks Council for their support. She is here to discuss the Extreme Risk Protective Order enacted in 2018 that provides an avenue for keeping people safe if they present a risk to themselves or others. This law does provide due process – it is not just taking guns away. It is a way for people to be safe; for their guns to be kept safe until they are no longer in a crisis and at risk of hurting themselves or others. Moms Demand Action provides a power point presentation to educate council members and the public about this law. If anyone would like to learn more about it, please email her at mercercerpo@gmail.com. The responsibility of keeping everybody safe is not just in the hands of council members, but everybody.

President Wollert asked Ms. Cuprzinki to leave her contact information with the Clerk and thanked her for her work making the community a safer place. It is important for everyone to be informed, and to speak out, to be active, and to be in touch with legislators and those responsible for the sale, registration, and everything that goes with gun ownership.

Sara Hendrickson (481 Walker Avenue) said that there was a Redevelopment Agency meeting this week that was never listed as “canceled” on the website. Three of them waited. She tried calling Mr. Latini twice and Mr. McManimon. She then sent an email. They waited. Finally, Mr. Latini sent her an email saying that there was no meeting.

The Administrator said that the second meeting for the Redevelopment Agency was removed from the website today and going forward. If a second meeting is held, it will be readvertised. Right now, there is only one meeting a month.

President Wollert said that it would be appreciated by everybody to have accurate information as to the meetings.

Ms. Hendrickson said that she saw a picture of the bags used to pick up the trash at Moody Park.

The Administrator said that they were not biodegradable bags.

Ms. Hendrickson said that by using garbage bags, which were also only a quarter full, the Township is being a hypocrite. The Township cannot afford biodegradable bags?

The Administrator said that he asked the CFO to price biodegradable bags. They have a large supply of garbage bags, so they are being used. The paper bags could have been used, but he needed to be careful not to mix garbage and recycling; garbage could destroy some machinery. Once those run out, he will order the more environmentally sensitive...

Ms. Hendrickson commented that boxes could have been used which could be found at liquor stores.

The Administrator said that he did not have them for that day and commented to Ms. Hendrickson that she knows that he is working on it.

Victoria Mark (Glendale section of Ewing) said that she wanted to add to what Sara said. She was also at the Redevelopment meeting. A presenter was there. It is embarrassing. It makes the Town look bad with all the disorganization. It is not the first time this has happened.

Sara Hendrickson (481 Walker Avenue) said that for the clean-up of Moody Park, she had sent emails to include cleaning up the storm drains, but that day, there were no tools to do so. Someone was supposed to get them from Public Works. It is embarrassing to have people come in to help, and the Township does not have the tools.

Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney clarified that both the Hollowbrook and Moody Park clean-ups were done in conjunction with the Township. In both cases, Public Works supplied shovels.

Home Depot was done in coordination with the Water Shed. It was not a Township project, but going forward the Township can discuss this with them and be prepared. Shovels were available at Moody Park; a couple storm drains were cleaned.

Ms. Hendrickson commented that she did bring it up in another meeting and Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney said that those will be taken care of on clean-up day. Ms. Hendrickson said that she assumed that meant...

President Wollert said no one is going to be blamed.

Ron Prykanowski (16 Thurston Avenue) said he looked at the posted jobs on the Township website. One position listed is for Network Administrator 1. It is a Civil Service position. In the past the Administration had expressed frustration with the Civil Service and suggested that the Township would be better off removing this from the Civil Service List and do it, if no one is qualified, through a headhunter, Indeed, or Zip Recruiter. Also, a college degree is not necessary. The Township would be better off getting someone who has Microsoft certification.

There were no additional statements and comments from members of the Public.

CLOSED SESSION

(None for this Meeting)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Wollert asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Steward so moved seconded by Vice President Baxter. It was agreed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Kathleen Wollert, President

Kim J. Macellaro, Municipal Clerk

(This Meeting was held In-Person & via Zoom due to COVID-19)

April 25, 2023 - REGULAR SESSION

President Wollert called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

The Clerk gave the Invocation: Almighty God, we ask your blessings on the people who have been called to lead our community. Grant them and us the wisdom and courage to know and do what is right and good. Amen.

Flag Salute

Council President Wollert read the Open Public Meetings Statement:

The notice requirements provided for in the “Open Public Meetings Act” have been satisfied. Notice of this meeting was properly given in a notice which was transmitted to the Times of Trenton and the Trentonian all on the 3rd of January 2023, filed with the Clerk of the Township of Ewing, and posted in the Ewing Township Municipal Complex.

The Public will have an opportunity to address the Council during the “Statements and Comments from Members of the Public” segment of the meeting. A member of the Public may sign in on the sheet at the front of the room or if you are joining us via Zoom, please use the raised hand function. You will be given five minutes of time for remarks and questions; questions should be directed to the Council President. When addressing the Council, please give your name and address.

ROLL CALL

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ▪ Mr. Baxter – Present | Jim McManimon, Administrator |
| ▪ Ms. Keyes-Maloney – Present | Joanna Mustafa, CFO |
| ▪ Mr. Schroth – Present | Maeve Cannon, Attorney |
| ▪ Ms. Steward – Present | Kim J. Macellaro, Municipal Clerk |
| ▪ President Wollert – Present | |

STATEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Sara Hendrickson (481 Walker Avenue) stated that she picked up three bags of liquor bottles. She emailed Mr. McManimon who had them picked and recycled. The Township is awful especially since smoking and drinking are prohibited in the parks.

Victoria Mark (Glendale section of Ewing) asked if the Township could start a bottle return program.

President Wollert said that that was a State law. New Jersey no longer has that provision. It cannot be done at the local level.

Sara Hendrickson (481 Walker Avenue) suggested that No Littering/No Dumping signs be posted at the Home Depot. Home Depot did put out trash cans, but they are not being used. The Administrator responded that the Township could post signs along the creek. Home Depot is cooperative when they speak with the Manager. Home Depot is not causing the problems; it is the contractors.

Ms. Hendrickson asked if the Township could fine Home Depot.

Council President Wollert replied that that would be difficult as Home Depot is not the litterer.

Ms. Hendrickson said that Home Depot allows overnight parking back there.

President Wollert responded that if that is their policy, that is their policy.

Ms. Hendrickson asked if the Township had a map of all waterways and man-made easements.

The Administrator said that a draft of the Township’s Flood Plain Management System is with the Township Engineer for review. All easements are marked on the maps in the Assessor’s Office.

Ms. Hendrickson asked if anyone has checked the waterway behind the car wash.

The Administrator responded.

There were no additional Statements and Comments from the Public.

BILLS LIST

1. The Clerk read (**Resolution #23R-85**) A Resolution Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to Pay Bills in the Amount of \$859,838.38 and to Pay Supplemental Bills per Resolution #23R-12 in the Amount of \$314,163.51

Ms. Keyes-Maloney moved the Resolution, seconded by Mr. Schroth. There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public. President Wollert asked for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Schroth	YES
Ms. Keyes-Maloney	YES
Mr. Baxter	YES
Ms. Steward	YES
President Wollert	YES

The above-referenced Bills List Resolution and the Bills List are available in the Clerk's Office in the 2023 Resolution Book Number Two.

The Clerk read: All items listed under Consent Agenda are considered routine by the Township Council and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. There will not be separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately. There will be one motion for all items listed.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Clerk read the Consent Agenda: (**Resolution #23R-86/**)

1. Approval of Agenda Session Minutes for February 14, 2023; Approval of Regular Session Minutes for February 14, 2023.
2. A Resolution Authorizing a Cancellation of a Levy, as Recommended by the Tax Collector, starting April 3, 2023 and going forward to Thomas Skirzynski, 26 Diane Drive, Ewing, NJ 08628, for property owner Thomas Skirzynski, for Block: 422.01, Lot: 92 also known as 26 Diane Drive. Property owner has been approved, effective April 3, 2023, for 100% disabled veteran property tax exemption.
3. A Resolution Authorizing a Refund, as Recommended by the Tax Collector, in the amount of \$150.00 for 2023 Sewer to Ming, Zeng, 23 Shadow Drive, West Windsor, NJ 08550, for property owner Jarrett, Delano & Fayana, for Block: 214.01 Lot: 17 also known as 428 Ewingville Road. Ming, Zeng incorrectly selected 428 Ewingville Road for sewer instead of correct parcel. Payment was originally executed via WIPP, reversing the payment via WIPP will cancel the processing fee which Ming, Zeng paid. There is no check to be issued, the refund of \$150.00 from Sewer will be done electronically.
4. A Resolution Authorizing a Cancellation of Improvement Only Levy, as Recommended by the Tax Collector, starting March 19, 2023 and going forward to Cribb, Victoria, 76 Lanning Street, Ewing, NJ 08618, for property owner Cribb, Victoria, for Block: 241, Lot: 67 also known as 76 Lanning Street. Property suffered a severe fire which rendered residence uninhabitable, which would result in having the levy on the land assessment only until the parcel is rebuilt and the assessment is raised to the appropriate value.
5. A Resolution Authorizing a Refund, as Recommended by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$2,139.68 for August 1, 2023 3rd Quarter Taxes to Ramirez, Libardo, 1555 Prospect Street, Ewing, NJ 08638, for property owner Ramirez, Libardo, for Block: 118.01 Lot: 23 also known as 1555 Prospect Street for overpayment.

- A Resolution Authorizing a Refund, in the amount of \$101.33 for 2023 Sewer to Ewing Properties LLC c/o Hilton Management LLC, 902 Carnegie Center #400, Princeton, NJ 08540, for property owner Ewing Properties LLC c/o Hilton Management LLC, for Block: 341.01 Lot: 5 also known as 800-846 Silvia Street for overpayment.

Vice President Baxter moved the Resolution, seconded by Mr. Schroth. There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public. The Council President asked for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Schroth	YES
Mr. Baxter	YES
Ms. Keyes-Maloney	YES
Ms. Steward	YES
President Wollert	YES

The above-referenced Minutes are available in the Clerk's Office in the 2023 Agenda Session and Regular Session Minute Books. The above-referenced Consent Agenda Resolutions are available in the Clerk's Office in the 2023 Resolution Book Number Two.

CY2023 TOWNSHIP BUDGET

- The Clerk read (**Resolution #23R-87**) A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER CERTIFYING COMPLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION'S "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964"

The Council President explained that each Council member will acknowledge that they are familiar with both the US EEOC's guidance and the local unit's hiring practice and certify the same.

Ms. Keyes-Maloney moved the Resolution, seconded by Vice President Baxter. There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public. Council President Wollert asked for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Baxter	YES
Ms. Keyes-Maloney	YES
Mr. Schroth	YES
Ms. Steward	YES
President Wollert	YES

- The Clerk read (**Resolution #23R-88**) A RESOLUTION TO READ BUDGET BY TITLE AT PUBLIC HEARING

The Attorney explained that this will authorize the Budget to be read by Title instead of in its entirety.

Ms. Steward moved the Resolution, seconded by Ms. Keyes-Maloney. There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public. The Council President called for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Steward	YES
Ms. Keyes-Maloney	YES
Mr. Baxter	YES
Mr. Schroth	YES
President Wollert	YES

Council President Wollert asked the Attorney for guidance.

The Attorney explained that Items Three and Four can be done in either order. It is her understanding that these amendments are from the Department of Community Affairs, Local Government Services, and their review of the Budget. The Resolution to make these amendments does not require separate advertising, but those specific amendments must be read in full either now or during the Public Hearing.

The Council President stated that these items will be handled in the same order as listed on the Agenda.

**3. The Clerk read the Amendments in their entirety (Resolution #23R-89) A
RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE INTRODUCED CY2023 BUDGET**

WHEREAS, the local municipal budget for the 2023 was introduced on the 28th day of March 2023; and

WHEREAS, it is desired to amend said introduced budget; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of Ewing Township, County of Mercer, that the following amendments to the introduced budget of 2023 be made; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that two certified copies of this resolution be filed forthwith in the office of the Director of Local Government Services for certification of the 2023 local municipal budget so amended.

Amendment to the Local Municipal 2023 Budget

2023 OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENTS

REVENUES	FROM	TO
1. SURPLUS ANITICIPATED	740,000.00	740,000.00
3. MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES		
SECTION A. LOCAL REVENUES	2,523,800.00	2,523,800.00
SECTION B: STATE AID	10,343,226.00	10,343,226.00
SECTION F: SPECIAL ITEMS OF REVENUE - PUBLIC AND PRIVATE REVENUES		
OFFSET WITH APPROPRIATIONS	3,813,929.84	3,813,929.84
CATV - FRANCHISE FEES	178,000.00	177,073.00
TOTAL SECTION G: SEPCIAL ITEMS OF REVENUE - OTHER SPECIAL ITEMS	5,189,263.62	5,188,336.62
CAPITAL FUND - RES. FOR PAYMENT OF DEBT SERVICE	350,000.00	
CAPITAL SURPLUS		350,000.00
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES	21,870,219.46	21,869,292.46
4. RECEIPTS FROM DELINQUENT TAXES	113,000.00	113,000.00
5. SUBTOTAL GENERAL REVENUES (ITEMS 1,2,3 AND 4)	21,983,219.46	21,982,292.46
AMT TO BE RAISED BY TAXES		
6. TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXES FOR SUPPORT OF MUNICIPAL BUDGET	33,899,379.62	33,900,307.46
7. TOTAL GENERAL REVENUES	56,622,599.92	56,622,599.92
8. APPROPRIATIONS		
(A) OPERATIONS WITHIN "CAPS"		
(H-1) TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN CAP	44,454,425.54	44,454,425.54
(A) TOTAL OPERATIONS EXCLUDED CAPS	6,103,554.10	6,103,554.10
(C) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	100,000.00	100,000.00

(D) TOTAL MUNICIPAL DEBT SERVICE	5,856,710.00	5,856,710.00
(M) RESERVE FOR UNCOLLECTED TAXES	107,910.28	107,910.28
TOTAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS	56,622,599.92	56,622,599.92
SEWER UTILITY		
SURPLUS	200,000.00	207,000.00
RENTS	8,974,387.00	8,985,813.57
TOTAL REVENUES	9,174,387.00	9,192,813.57
APPROPRIATIONS		
OTHER EXPENSES	9,174,387.00	9,174,387.00
DEFICIT IN OPERATIONS	-	18,426.57
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	9,174,387.00	9,192,813.57

Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney moved the Resolution, seconded by Ms. Steward.

The CFO said that every third year, the State reviews the Budget. They made some minor changes. The CFO then explained each amendment that had been read by the Clerk.

There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public. Council President Wollert asked for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Steward	YES
Ms. Keyes-Maloney	YES
Mr. Baxter	YES
Mr. Schroth	YES
President Wollert	YES

4. The Clerk read (Resolution #23R-90) A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING CY2023 BUDGET, AS AMENDED

Vice President Baxter made a motion to open the Public Hearing, seconded by Ms. Keyes-Maloney. It was agreed by unanimous voice vote. There were no questions or comments from the Public. Mr. Schroth made a motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Vice President Baxter. It was agreed by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Schroth moved the Resolution to adopt the CY2023 Budget, as Amended, seconded by Ms. Keyes-Maloney.

Councilman Schroth thanked the Mayor, the CFO, and the Administrator for their efforts. Budgets are tough. This is about as good as it can be. President Wollert also thanked those involved.

Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney also thanked the Council President and Vice President for their efforts working with the Administration and gave a special thanks to the CFO considering all the challenges faced this year – health benefits and volatility with supply costs. This is as good as could be expected while at the same time maintaining a healthy surplus.

President Wollert added that as the Township moves into the post-COVID era, the Budget will be changing in the next couple of years. The Township is positioned quite well for any changes that could come because of that.

There were no additional questions or comments from Council. President Wollert called for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Keyes-Maloney	YES
Mr. Schroth	YES
Mr. Baxter	YES
Ms. Steward	YES
President Wollert	YES

With approval from the Council President, the CFO left the meeting.

The above-referenced CY2023 Budget Resolutions are available in the Clerk's Office in the 2023 Resolution Book Number Two.

ORDINANCE(S) FOR FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION

1. The Clerk read (**Ordinance #23-10**) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, CHAPTER 225, VEHICLES AND PARKING, ARTICLE VIII, SCHEDULES, SECTION 48, SCHEDULE I; NO PARKING ANYTIME, TO PROHIBIT PARKING ON CERTAIN PORTIONS OF EWINGVILLE ROAD (CR 636)

Mr. Schroth moved the Ordinance, seconded by Ms. Steward. There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public. Council President Wollert asked for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Steward	YES
Mr. Schroth	YES
Mr. Baxter	YES
Ms. Keyes-Maloney	YES
President Wollert	YES

ORDINANCE(S) FOR SECOND READING, PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ADOPTION

1. The Clerk read (**Ordinance #23-07**) AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2023 TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

There was a brief discussion regarding procedure.

There was no motion to move this Ordinance; the Ordinance was defeated.

2. The Clerk read (**Ordinance #23-08**) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 325, STREETS AND SIDEWALKS, OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, TO ADD ARTICLE VI, CONSTRUCTION OR REPAIR OF SIDEWALKS

WHEREAS, Township of Ewing (the "Township") is charged with establishing and maintaining safe passage and safe conditions within the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township previously amended Chapter 325, Streets and Sidewalks, and inadvertently removed reference to construction and repair of sidewalks; and

WHEREAS, construction officials have reviewed the current Chapter 325, Streets and Sidewalks, and have recommended amendments to the ordinance regarding construction and repair of sidewalks; and

WHEREAS, the Township and its Construction Office has an obligation to oversee the construction, maintenance, and repair of sidewalks for the good of residents; and

WHEREAS, the Township accepts the recommendation of the Township's Construction Office and wishes to reinstate the prior ordinance language regarding construction and repair of sidewalks.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Council of the Township of Ewing, County of Mercer that the Code of the Township of Ewing be amended as follows:

Section 1 Chapter 325, STREETS AND SIDEWALKS, Article VI, CONSTRUCTION OR REPAIR OF SIDEWALKS, is hereby added as follows:

§ 325-24 Construction or repair of sidewalks.

A. Maintenance and repair of sidewalks. All sidewalks within the Township shall be maintained in good repair and non-dangerous condition. It shall be the joint and several responsibility of the property owner and occupant(s) to maintain the sidewalks in good repair and non-dangerous condition as defined herein.

(1) Good repair period a sidewalk is in good repair if it is one that does not have:

(a) Any surface crumbling;

(b) Cracks wider than one (1) inch;

(c) Holes, pits or other spaces in which an average person could trip and fall; or

(d) Any other defects which could cause a hazard to persons walking thereon.

(2) Dangerous condition. Sidewalk is in dangerous condition if it has:

(a) Any surface crumbling;

(b) Cracks wider than one inch;

(c) Holes, pits or other spaces in which an average person could trip and fall; or

(d) Uneven adjacent surfaces, commonly known as "rising" or "shifting", in excess of one (1) inch; or

(e) Any other defects which could cause a hazard to persons walking thereon.

B. Duty to repair. It shall be the joint and several duty of the property owner and occupant(s) to repair or replace any sidewalk which is in a dangerous condition or not in good repair.

C. Failure to repair. Should any property owner and/or occupant fail to repair or replace any sidewalk which is dangerous or not in good repair, the Director of Public Works, or designee, may order the property owner and/or occupant to repair or replace the sidewalk. If the property owner and/or occupant fails to repair or replace the sidewalk within 30 days of receiving written notice to do so, the Township may repair or replace the sidewalk and assess the costs to the owner's tax bill.

D. Notice to repair.

(1) The Director of Public Works, or designee, shall notify each property owner and occupant of property with sidewalks needing repair, either by certified mail or personal service, that the sidewalk must be repaired. The notice shall contain a description of the property affected sufficient to identify it, description of the repairs required, and a statement that, unless the owner completes the repairs within 30 days after service of this notice, the Township will complete the repairs at the expense of the owner, and a lien will be placed upon the property. The cost incurred by the Township for such repairs shall be certified by the Director of Public Works to the Tax Collector, who shall examine such certificate and cause the cost as certified be charged against the lands abutting or bordering such sidewalk. The amount so charged shall forthwith become a lien on such lands, and shall be added to and become a form a part of the taxes then next to be assessed and levied upon such lands.

and shall be collected and enforced according to law. Any owner against whom any assessment shall be made by reason of this article may pay said assessment forthwith or may pay the same, at his/her/their option, in five equal annual installments, each installment to bear interest at the rate of 8% per annum. Each installment shall fall due annually at the same time the assessment for local taxes upon real estate falls due and shall be collected by the Tax Collector upon notice sent out by the Collector for a local real estate taxes. The first installment shall be payable on the first day of February next after the work upon the property has been completed and the report of the cost thereof reported and certified as provided herein.

(2) If the owner is unknown or for any reason service cannot be made by certified mail, the notice shall be published in a newspaper at least once, not less than 30 days before the repairs are made.

E. No duty on Township of Ewing, nothing herein shall be construed to create a duty for the Township to inspect, fix, repair or otherwise maintain any sidewalk

F. Permit required. No person shall construct, reconstruct or substantially repair any sidewalk, curb or gutter on any public street of the Township of Ewing without obtaining a permit from the Superintendent of Roads. The work shall be done in strict conformity with the Township specifications and grades and line of the Township Engineer for curbs and sidewalks.

G. Fee required. The fees for permits granted under the provisions of this section shall be as set forth in Chapter 172, Fees.

H. Separate permits.

(1) A separate permit for the performance of any work under the provisions of this section shall be issued for each law, tract or parcel of land in front of or along which such work is to be done; provided, however, that where two (2) or more lots, tracts or parcels of land actually adjoin and are owned by the same persons, a single permit may be issued to embrace the same (covering not more than 100 lineal feet for each permit).

(2) A separate permit shall be required for the performance of work under the provisions of this section for each opening or driveway when all the land owned by the applicant shall extend more than 100 lineal feet.

(3) This section shall not apply to any construction in connection with a major subdivision.

Section 2 Severability. Should any section, clause, sentence, phrase or provision of this article be declared unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this article.

Section 3 Repealer. All prior ordinances or parts of the same inconsistent with any provisions of this article are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 4 Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect upon final adoption and publication in accordance with law.

Vice President Baxter made a motion to open the Public Hearing, seconded by Ms. Steward. It was agreed by unanimous voice vote. There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public. Mr. Schroth made a motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Ms. Steward. It was agreed by unanimous voice vote. Ms. Steward then moved the Ordinance, seconded by Mr. Schroth. President Wollert asked for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Schroth

YES

Ms. Steward	YES
Mr. Baxter	YES
Ms. Keyes-Maloney	YES
President Wollert	YES

3. The Clerk read (Ordinance #23-09) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, CHAPTER 421 ANIMAL SLAUGHTERING AND PROCESSING FACILITIES, SECTIONS 1, 15 AND 16

WHEREAS, the Township of Ewing (the “Township”) is empowered to enact and amend ordinances for the general health and welfare of the municipality and its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Township is desirous of amending Chapter 421, Sections 1, 15, and 16 of the General Ordinances of the Township of Ewing due to public health concerns regarding slaughterhouses; and

WHEREAS, when red meat animals are slaughtered for consumption, the US Department of Agriculture must inspect the slaughterhouse(s) and additional requirements are imposed by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the Township is desirous of eliminating the potential for the slaughtering of large animals within the Township due to public health concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Township Health Department recommends the proposed changes and has determined that said amendments are in the best interest of the Township and its residents; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Council of the Township of Ewing, County of Mercer that the Code of the Township of Ewing be amended as follows:

Section 1 Chapter 421, ANIMAL SLAUGHTERING AND PROCESSING FACILITIES, is hereby amended as follows:

§ 421-1 Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

ANIMAL

Includes and only includes poultry; and rabbits, ~~goats, and sheep~~ that are raised for human consumption. The term shall not include any animals not explicitly identified, including but not limited to goats, sheep, cattle, swine and deer.

ANIMAL SLAUGHTERING AND PROCESSING FACILITY

A food establishment occupied or used for the slaughtering, dressing, or eviscerating of live poultry; and rabbits, ~~goats, and sheep~~ to be offered for wholesale or retail use, either for profit or not for profit, or any place wherein a similar operation is conducted, including all detached buildings or rooms under the control of the operator of such establishment and used in any capacity in connection with the operation of such establishment.

HEALTH OFFICER

The Health Officer of the Board of Health or any of his their duly authorized representatives.

NOTICE OF CLOSURE

A public notice posted by the Health Officer at the public entrance of a premises wherein an animal slaughtering and processing facility is operated and that results in the immediate closure of the establishment and the discontinuance of all operations, by order of the Health Officer, because of violations of applicable federal, state, and local regulations, orders, embargos, or quarantines.

OFFAL

Refuse, trash, wastes, and butchered animal parts, including those which are not considered edible.

PERSON IN CHARGE

The individual present at an animal slaughtering and processing facility who is responsible for the operation at the time of inspection.

POULTRY

Any domesticated bird (chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, or guineas) and any migratory waterfowl, game bird, or squab, such as pheasant, partridge, quail, grouse, or guineas, that has been raised for human consumption. The term shall not include ratites.

PREMISES

The animal slaughtering and processing facility's building, its contents, and the contiguous land or property under the control of the licensee.

RATITE

A flightless bird such as an emu, ostrich, or rhea.

§ 421-15 Inspections; right of entry.

- A. The Health Officer may inspect all animal slaughtering and processing facilities as often as ~~he~~ the Health Officer deems necessary.
- B. The Health Officer, after proper identification, shall be permitted to enter, at any reasonable time, upon any private or public property within the Township where animal slaughtering and processing facilities are operated for the purpose of determining compliance with the provisions of this chapter. The licensee or person in charge of the animal slaughtering and processing facility location shall make provisions for the Health Officer to have access, either in company with an employee or otherwise, to all portions of the premises.

§ 421-16 Revocation of license; closure.

- A. The Health Officer or his designee may revoke and remove the license for or suspend operations of an animal slaughtering and processing facility at any time and summarily order the establishment closed when, in the opinion of the Health Officer or ~~his~~ their designee, such action is necessary to abate an existing or threatened menace to public health.
- B. The Health Officer or ~~his~~ their designee shall post a notice of closure at the public entrance of the establishment where it may be visible to the public. The notice of closure shall remain posted until removed by the Health Officer or ~~his~~ their designee. No person shall conceal or mutilate any notice of closure or remove it except by permission of the Health Officer.
- C. In summarily ordering an establishment closed, the Health Officer or ~~his~~ their designee may request assistance from public safety officers of the Township. Immediate closure shall be in addition to and shall supplement any other penalty or remedy that may be authorized by N.J.A.C. 8:24-1.1 et seq., or the Code of the Township, as the same may be from time to time amended and supplemented.
- D. A person whose license has been revoked shall close the establishment and request all patrons to vacate the premises.
- E. A person whose license has been revoked shall have the right to apply to the Township to reinstate that license pursuant to this code's appeal procedures.

Section 2 Severability. Should any section, clause, sentence, phrase or provision of this article be declared unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this article.

Section 3 Repealer. All prior ordinances or parts of the same inconsistent with any provisions of this article are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 4 Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect upon final adoption and publication in accordance with law.

Ms. Keyes-Maloney made a motion to open the Public Hearing, seconded by Vice President Baxter. It was agreed by unanimous voice vote. There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public. Mr. Schroth made a motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Ms. Keyes-Maloney. It was agreed by unanimous voice vote. Ms. Keyes-Maloney then moved the Ordinance, seconded by Vice President Baxter. The Council President asked for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Baxter	YES
Ms. Keyes-Maloney	YES
Mr. Schroth	YES
Ms. Steward	YES
President Wollert	YES

NEW BUSINESS

1. The Clerk read (Resolution #23R-91) A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A GRANT FROM THE COUNTY OF MERCER FOR THE RENOVATION AND REPAIRS OF THE EWING SENIOR AND COMMUNITY CENTER POOLS

Mr. Schroth moved the Resolution, seconded by Vice President Baxter. There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public. President Wollert called for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Baxter	YES
Mr. Schroth	YES
Ms. Keyes-Maloney	YES
Ms. Steward	YES
President Wollert	YES

2. The Clerk read (Resolution #23R-92) A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MERCER COUNTY'S REQUEST FOR A DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE GRANT

Ms. Keyes-Maloney moved the Resolution, seconded by Mr. Schroth. There were no questions or comments from Council.

Victoria Mark (Glendale section of Ewing) asked if this is the trolley trail. President Wollert responded – yes.

There were no additional questions or comments from the Public. President Wollert called for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Schroth	YES
Ms. Keyes-Maloney	YES
Mr. Baxter	YES
Ms. Steward	YES
President Wollert	YES

The Clerk read Items Three, Four, Five, and Six as a Block.

3. The Clerk read (Resolution #23R-93) A RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FINAL DECREASE TO SEACOAST CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR ARMSTRONG MEMORIAL PARK ADA IMPROVEMENTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,953.12
4. The Clerk read (Resolution #23R-94) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF A PERFORMANCE BOND AND THE ACCEPTANCE OF A TWO-YEAR MAINTENANCE BOND FOR THE ARMSTRONG MEMORIAL PARK ADA IMPROVEMENTS – EWING ENGINEERS REMINGTON & VERNICK ENGINEERS RVE #1102-T-077

5. The Clerk read (Resolution #23R-95) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT CERTIFICATE NO. 2 (FINAL) TO KANE COMMUNICATIONS, LLC IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$10,350.56, REPRESENTING FINAL PAYMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,960.00 AND RELEASE OF RETAINAGE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,390.56 FOR THE PEDESTRIAN LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS AT HIGGS PARK
6. The Clerk read (Resolution #23R-96) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF A PERFORMANCE BOND AND THE ACCEPTANCE OF A TWO-YEAR MAINTENANCE BOND FOR THE PEDESTRIAN LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS AT HIGGS PARK – EWING ENGINEERS REMINGTON & VERNICK ENGINEERS RVE #1102-G-012

Vice President Baxter moved the Resolutions, seconded by Ms. Keyes-Maloney. There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public. Council President Wollert called for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Keyes-Maloney	YES
Mr. Baxter	YES
Mr. Schroth	YES
Ms. Steward	YES
President Wollert	YES

The above-referenced New Business Resolutions are available in the Clerk’s Office in the 2023 Resolution Book Number Two.

CLOSED SESSION – The Clerk read (Resolution #23R-97) A Resolution to Enter into Closed Executive Session to Discuss AFSCME v. Township of Ewing – Counsel update

At 7:41 p.m., the Attorney asked Council to adopt a Resolution to enter into Closed Session under the Open Public Meetings Act to discuss the pending litigation – AFSCME v. Township of Ewing – and to receive an update from Counsel. Minutes of the Closed Session will be made available, if and when appropriate, when the matter is concluded.

At 7:42 p.m., Vice President Baxter made a motion to adopt the Resolution to enter into Closed Executive Session, seconded by Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney. It was agreed by unanimous voice vote.

At 8:09 p.m., Councilman Schroth made a motion to close the Closed Executive Session, seconded by Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney. It was agreed by unanimous voice vote.

At 8:09 p.m., Vice President Baxter made a motion to enter back into Open Session, seconded by Councilman Schroth. It was agreed by unanimous voice vote.

The above-referenced Closed Session Resolution is available in the Clerk’s Office in the 2023 Resolution Book Number Two.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business President Wollert called for a motion to adjourn. Vice President Baxter so moved seconded by Mr. Schroth. It was agreed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Kathleen Wollert, President

Kim J. Macellaro, Municipal Clerk

(This Meeting was held In-Person & via Zoom due to COVID-19)

April 18, 2023 – SPECIAL MEETING

President Wollert called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. and read the Open Public Meetings Statement:

The notice requirements provided for in the “Open Public Meetings Act” have been satisfied. Notice of this meeting was properly given in a notice which was transmitted to the Times of Trenton and the Trentonian, filed with the Clerk of the Township of Ewing, and posted in the Ewing Township Municipal Complex, all on the 13th day of April 2023.

The Public will have an opportunity to address the Council during the “Statements and Comments from Members of the Public” segment of the meeting. A member of the Public may sign in on the sheet at the front of the room or if you are joining us via Zoom, please use the raised hand function. You will be given five minutes of time for remarks and questions; questions should be directed to the Council President. When addressing the Council, please give your name and address.

President Wollert asked the Public to give their name and address each time they speak as it is for the record.

ROLL CALL

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ▪ Mr. Baxter - Present | Jim McManimon, Administrator |
| ▪ Ms. Keyes-Maloney – Present | Maeve Cannon, Attorney |
| ▪ Mr. Schroth - 6:39 p.m. | Kim J. Macellaro, Municipal Clerk |
| ▪ Ms. Steward - Present | |
| ▪ President Wollert – Present | |

SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE

The Clerk read: This Special Meeting has been called to deal solely with certain Department Head Budget Requests. No other business can be conducted. Formal action will not be taken.

For the record, the Clerk stated that Mr. Schroth just entered the Council Room.

STATEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no Statements and Comments from the Public.

DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET REVIEWS

EMS – Acting Director Griffin

Acting Director Griffin said that the Department is doing well and is grateful for the two new ambulances. Vehicle-wise, the Department is well equipped. There are some small items for this year’s Budget that are considered vital by the Department. Not too many things changed from 2022 when it came to Other Expenses, Equipment, and Uniforms. There was a small increase in the Operating Budget from about \$32,000.00 to about \$40,000.00 for sending older equipment out for repairs. Outside of that, the Budget stayed pretty much the same.

There are two ticket items for this year. The first are EMS radios to replace those they are currently using (portable single-band radios - XDS1500) that are nine to ten years old. It is difficult to get replacement parts and batteries because they are no longer made. They propose to get new radios (APX4000) which will put them in compliance with the P25 Safety System and give them a much needed upgrade. These will allow them to communicate with County Communications, surrounding Towns, and with the fire services, if needed.

President Wollert asked Acting Director Griffin if he is looking to buy fifteen?

Mr. Griffin replied – yes. Every unit comes with a charger, a spare battery, a shoulder mike, and pagers. With programming and everything else that goes with it, the quote is \$59,768.22.

Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney asked the Administration if they are looking to capitalize the radios and the vehicle.

The Administrator responded – yes.

Acting Director Griffin said that the second item is a replacement responder vehicle for the on duty supervisor. The last time one was purchased was in 2016. Many repairs are needed but they cannot get their hands on some of the specialized parts. So, at this point the Department is without a responder vehicle. They are looking to replace the vehicle with another Ford Expedition. The co-op price is \$50,319.00 and that includes outfitting the vehicle.

President Wollert asked, since there is no responder vehicle, are personal vehicles being used?

The Acting Director replied that they have started to use one of the ambulances.

Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney said that these are Capital and the rest is quiet – supplies are supplies. The Councilwoman said that she appreciates the work EMS does.

Acting Director Griffin said that he wanted to bring this to Council's attention. As Ewing is becoming more developed with more buildings being built, EMS calls are increasing - 1,000 to 1,200 more calls each year. More residents equal more work and greater wear and tear on the equipment.

Council had no additional questions for Acting Director Griffin.

POLICE – Chief Rhodes

Chief Rhodes said that the total budget request for this year, \$428,255.00, is up slightly from last year at \$403,000.00. The bulk of that increase comes with the request for additional officers to backfill vacancies. Last year, Operating was \$60,000.00. The request for this year is \$65,000.00 because the price of everything has gone up the last few years; that \$60,000.00 had remained steady for the past four or five years. Repairs is staying the same as last year. Ammunition is up slightly, about \$1,000.00 from last year, at \$29,000.00. Ammunition prices have gone up. It is not for additional ammunition. It is what is needed for mandatory qualifications. The Canine Budget is down slightly although they did just pick-up a new canine from a grant program; he is in the Canine Academy right now, training to be a bomb detection dog. Schools & Training is also up, about \$2,000.00.

Chief Rhodes said that they are requesting fifteen new hires. About three years ago, the Department was at sixty-three. Right now, it is at eighty-two. Four or five years ago, the Department was at eighty-three so almost back to where they were. Three officers are committed to retiring this year; six next year. The Chief added that he does not want to get behind again. He wants to stay at least at eighty-three and then progress beyond that given the growth in Town and the uptick in calls for service.

Uniform & Clothing Allowance is the same; it is contractual. New Equipment is a couple hundred dollars less and Fit for Duty is kept at \$6,000.00. They have not needed to use it recently but it needs to be in the Budget. Communications, mandatory programs that they need to subscribe to, has not not changed in several years.

Vice President Baxter asked how many new recruits will be for this year?

Chief Rhodes replied – fifteen. Ten have already been approved by the Mayor. Seven have graduated from the Academy and they took on three transfers. They will need to get an additional five into the Fall Academy.

The Vice President asked if the cost of classes has affected officers going to training.

The Chief replied that he would like the Training Budget to be \$100,000.00. The problem is that when an officer does training, they need to backfill that with overtime on the street to meet minimum manpower so only so much training can be fit in during the year.

Chief Rhodes then discussed his New Equipment request in detail.

Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney asked if AEDs are needed in other departments, besides the Police Department, because sometimes you get a better price if you purchase in bulk.

The Administrator said that they are discussing buying in bulk – EMS, Fire – and possibly putting some out on the ball fields. They can be capitalized if they are five years or more but that is decided by the CFO and Bond Counsel.

Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney asked if the Police Department will be getting the multi-paddle AED units.

Chief Rhodes responded – yes.

Vice President Baxter asked if each vehicle has an AED unit.

The Chief responded that there are four out on the street. It would be ideal, but it is a hurdle budget-wise.

Chief Rhodes next discussed his Capital requests: four marked patrol vehicles for a total price of \$248,000.00 and carpet for the Community Relations Room and Domestic Violence Room. The carpet is original to the building. It is currently takes eighteen months from order to delivery for vehicles.

Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney asked if the price includes outfitting of the vehicle. The Chief responded – yes, total outfit.

Council had no additional questions for the Police Chief.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – Director Rob Green

Director Green said that everything is pretty much the same as last year with the exception of Maintenance Contracts. The majority of that change is the addition of body-worn and in-car camera systems. Microsoft Office and SDI went up a little this year.

President Wollert asked how many cameras.

The IT Director replied that it is a total of eighty-five cameras plus a couple extra. Body-worn cameras are already being used; there is a shipment delay for the in-car cameras. They will be coming in the summer.

Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney mentioned that there was some subsidy from the State, but it does not cover the entire...

Director Green said that the Township received grant money that was applied to last year's Budget. The total increase for Maintenance Contracts is \$148,000.00.

Vice President Baxter asked if camera quality has improved.

Director Green said that this manufacturer is one of the top manufacturers of body-worn and in-car cameras. He was pleased with the demonstrations and testing.

The Vice President asked if this includes cameras around the Town.

The IT Director replied – no, just body-worn and in-car.

Vice President Baxter asked what is being done to upgrade those cameras.

Director Green replied that he has funds for that. Some of those orders had been placed but they are encountering significant ship delays. Some have been on order for twelve months.

President Wollert added that those cameras were in last year's Budget.

At the request of Councilman Schroth, Director Green provided greater detail on the new computers requested in the Capital Budget. Computers are on a replacement cycle – replaced about every five years. This request is for about thirty-five. Each cost a little under \$1,000.00 and they are bought in bulk.

Councilman Schroth asked how many computers are throughout the Town.

Director Green replied – roughly, 200-250.

Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney commented that these new body-worn cameras are incorporated into the vest which will make the video a little more stable.

Director Green said that they are using a new mounting system this year. It is a more heavy-duty mount into the vest that is more resistant and should lead to a better quality video.

Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney commented that it was good that the Township went to body-worn cameras early, but the technology has since improved.

Director Green then discussed his other Capital requests. Twenty-five radios plus all of the accessories for new officers and to replace the last old-style ones and to replace the Firewall/Unified Threat Management devices.

Council had no additional questions for Director Green.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS -Director Forst

Director Forst said that his total request for Community Affairs is \$367,000.00 which is an increase of \$31,000.00 over last year. The Pool Budget request is \$250,000.00; an increase of \$40,000.00. Director Forst then discussed the Pool Budget in greater detail and mentioned that the \$25,000.00 increase for Contractual Services is due to the Township needing to hire a Pool Operator as the current Pool Operator is retiring.

The total request for Hollowbrook is \$50,000.00 which is an increase of \$7,500.00 over last year. The ESCC and Hollowbrook's budgets have not increased in many years. Since money is being moved around because of the fire, Director Forst said that he thought it was a good time to increase this budget. The Director then discussed the Hollowbrook budget in greater detail.

There is some work to do with the boilers so that line item has gone up \$4,000.00 to \$14,000.00. Custodial Supplies are up \$2,000.00 because of the increased use of the building.

The request for the ESCC is like a roller coaster. The total request is \$67,000.00 which is a decrease of \$6,500.00. All decreases are due to the fire. Director Forst then discussed the ESCC Budget in greater detail. Site Manager did increase by \$1,500.00 to \$8,500.00 because there is a new site manager who will work more hours. Senior Programming has gone up by \$5,000.00 because of the cost increase for instructors and they are trying to add some programs. Repair/Maintenance Equipment went down to \$500.00 because of the fire; Repair/Maintenance Facilities decreased by \$4,000.00 for the same reason. Equipment increased by \$3,800.00 to \$4,500.00 because they are not sure of everything they will need to replace. It will be trial and error to see if the fire caused more damage to the salvaged equipment.

There are two Capital items. The ESCC needs a new riding lawn mower for \$12,000.00 and they want to put shade at the Banchoff Dog Park. That would be \$14,000.00. Capital requests through HUD for Hollowbrook include pool shades, which had already been ordered, for \$50,000.00; HVAC repairs for \$15,000.00, and the HVAC for the Nutrition Café. The total request is \$265,000.00.

Director Forst next discussed the Recreation Trust. The numbers are up this year due to the fire. No money has been dedicated to the Gym, but they are bringing back Teen Travel. They are projecting a balance of \$503,450.00.

Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney asked what is a diffuser.

Director Forst replied that it spreads the air out so it does not come down on top of people. Vice President Baxter said that the HVAC system was done at Hollowbrook a couple of years ago and asked if the boiler was part of that.

Director Forst said that the boiler is separate. When the building was built, it only had a boiler; it did not have air conditioning so they put in a HVAC system for that. A request will be coming in to redo the pumps.

President Wollert asked Director Forst how the camps are going to be run.

The Director replied that enrollments are going well for both teen travel and the day camp. The camp will be run out of Fisher. The Day Camp will be bused over to the ESCC, three days per week. Teen Travel will come over depending on when they get back from their day trips. They are on campus one day a week. The schools have been very good to the Township. They had put in a request for a cafeteria, two gyms, some classrooms, and open space. They have a quote from the bus company. They will also be going over to Watson Park. It will be a different summer, but he is pleased that the numbers are good so far. There have been a lot of inquiries; it is still early. Once the schools approved them being there, they had put out a notice on Community Pass.

President Wollert said that she is glad that these programs are going to continue.

The Administrator asked the Director to discuss the Senior Swim Program.

Director Forst said that as of ten days ago, 150 have already signed up. They are probably at 175 now. They go over 200 every year.

President Wollert asked how many days is it.

Mr. Forst replied that it is five days a week from 9:30 a.m. to Noon. It is the most popular program by far.

Council President Wollert said that she is glad to see everything functioning and it is good to see how everyone has pitched in.

Mr. Forst said that it is good to see that they had been able to keep most of their activities going.

Council had no additional questions for Director Forst.

STATION 30 – Director Marc Strauss

Director Strauss said that this year's proposed Operating Budget is \$391,050.00 which is an increase from last year which was \$235,000.00. \$64,200.00 is being requested for Other Expenses. Director Strauss discussed each Other Expenses line item in detail. Director Strauss thanked Chief Brower and Chief Anderson for doing an excellent job keeping the I Am Responding System updated. This system provides information such as if there are hoarding conditions present, solar panels, unsafe structure, nearest hydrants, and other useful information. Station 30 is continuing their upgrade to the County Mobile CAD System. Station 30 is into the second full year of backing up EMS. As these calls increase, there will be a greater need for EMS Equipment/Supplies. AED pads are built into that requested amount.

Director Strauss requested \$58,000.00 for New Equipment. This is funds for tools, mounting, and hoses. He is expecting a few pieces of hose to fail as they do every year. Hose is tested each year. Some hose is coming to the end of its shelf life. Hose shelf life had just been reduced as well. Turnout Gear is also included in New Equipment. Uniforms is contractual.

New Recruits increased this year with anticipated hiring through the Safer Grant. Although federal funding does provide for the salary and benefits of firefighters, it does not cover training, uniforms, and turnout gear. With the anticipated retirements coming up and increased staffing...

Vice President Baxter asked how many are covered by that?

Director Strauss responded - eight to twelve.

Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney asked how many do you see retiring?

Director Strauss said one this year and another is eligible next year. There are currently three openings.

Director Strauss said that he instituted a program to send out turnout gear for professional cleaning, inspection, and repair per NPFA standards twice a year. This does not take the place of what they do inhouse. The cost to maintain Apparatus keeps going up and added that he has had one piece out at the vendor since June of last year.

Regarding Training, last year they started to send firefighters to Train the Trainer programs which will cut down on sending firefighters to classes which are not always local.

Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney asked if Station 30 does as much training as possible with the volunteer fire companies.

Director Strauss responded – yes, especially with the mandatory training. If they are doing training they offer it out and vice versa.

Councilman Schroth asked if there is any overlap with Station 30's Budget and the two volunteer fire companies, for instance with the Emergency Reporting System?

Director Strauss replied that late last year Council approved reporting under one NFIRS number. When that is done, Station 30 will absorb the cost to maintain that. Legacy numbers need to be maintained for all three companies.

Councilman Schroth said so when Council hears something regarding NFIRS, can Council assume that that is something that is universally applicable?

The Director replied that it will be once reporting under one number is completed. Right now each company is paying its own service fee under each individual number.

President Wollert asked if they share opportunities for bulk purchases of cleaning supplies and other similar items.

Director Strauss replied that Station 30 uses BioShine off of State Contract because Township funds are being used. He is not sure what is used in the other stations.

Vice President Baxter asked how are things coming along for the possible Community CPR classes.

Director Strauss responded that right now there are four instructors on the EMS side. He will follow up with Acting Director Grady.

Vice President Baxter stated that it is in the pipeline...

Director Strauss said – definitely - just need to pick the instructors and secure the location.

Director Strauss mentioned that, regarding AEDs, Recreation requested six for their programs. Right now, they are making sure that they are all using the same type of AEDs so pads can be exchanged, if needed.

Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney said that there is not a lot of grant money for AEDs and asked the Administration to keep an eye out for anything that comes up. When first required in schools, there was a lot of grant money out there.

The Fire Director said that in the past they reached out to the grant writers to get some private grants. The AEDs are so expensive that you hardly get anything out of it when you tap into those private grants.

Director Strauss said that his total proposed Capital is \$109,600.00. He requested five portable radios. It is State Contract pricing. It is part of a replacement plan he started in 2019. Another request is for a SUV. It is also State Contract pricing and all the outfitting is included in the price. Director Strauss also requested five sets of Turnout Gear to replace outdated gear per NFPA guidelines. It is part of project he started in 2019 to provide a second set of turnout gear for each fireman as if washed, it can take six to eight hours to dry. The newer gear is also more lightweight besides there now being an increased awareness of cancer in the fire service.

Council had no additional questions for Director Strauss.

PROSPECT HEIGHTS VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY – Chief Doug Brower

Chief Brower said that his Operational Budget does not change that much from year to year. They get \$215,000.00 and they live with that. They make good use of their money and work with the other two entities to get better pricing.

Chief Brower said that they were asked to be conservative this year with their Capital requests. They requested PPE. They abide by OSHA guidelines – ten years and out – so they have always requested three or four sets per year. This year is no exception. Some power equipment also needs to be replaced and like Station 30, they had had some hose fail during testing, so some will need to be replaced.

President Wollert asked if they collate their purchases with Station 30 in any way.

Chief Brower replied that they go for the best pricing; they do not always buy the same thing but when they do, they collaborate with each other.

Director Strauss added that most of it is State Contract pricing.

Chief Brower discussed the increasing volume of calls which does take a toll on the Budget in terms of maintenance and repairs. This past year, Prospect Heights had its biggest year ever – 853 calls. Early 2000s, calls were in the 400s – 500s. As a Fire Company, they did have some brownouts this year due to some unexpected leaves on the Career staffing side. The Chief wanted Council to know that the volunteers stepped up and picked up the slack. They did not miss one call.

Training costs continue to rise. That is a cost they are okay with absorbing because they want their guys to get all the training that they can. Of the twenty-five top responders, everyone took at least one class this year and many took three or four. This is partly due to their passion, but also partly as a result of the pandemic when training was curtailed. Currently, Prospect Heights has four new recruits in Fire School and they anticipate at least two more.

Chief Brower stated that the relationship between not only the three fire entities but also EMS is clicking. He has been doing this for forty-three years, and the relationship is the best it has ever been. They have issues and concerns, but they are working together on and off the fire ground and it shows. When all of public safety is working together, something is going right.

The challenges with Mercer County Central from last year have not gotten any better. It got to the point where he, Chief Anderson, and Director Strauss got the Mayor involved about six weeks ago. Last week there was a meeting at the County-level with the County Administrator. The meeting was more positive than negative but the Chief is not going to hold his breath. The County Administrator was receptive to their concerns and tasked the Director to make some changes. The bottom line is that it is a life safety issue. If Central Communications is not working well, it is a problem. Chief Brower provided a couple of examples and added that it is not just a Ewing issue, but County-wide.

Councilman Schroth asked why are they not responding?

Chief Brower replied that part of the issue is a lack of staff. They have a revolving door with staff, a bunch of per diems, and a training/supervision issue. When all of that is put together, it is a problem.

Chief Brower stated that fifteen weeks into 2023, Prospect Heights had the full complement of equipment available for only two weeks. The repairs are going through the roof in terms of cost and the type of repairs. Call volume has increased and they do not make fire trucks like they used to. You can no longer expect trucks to last twenty years. It is not going to happen. Prospect Heights is up to \$90,000.00 in repair costs for the first four months of 2023. The lion's share of that is being picked up by the Township through the Shared Services Agreement, but still - \$90,000.00 in repairs so far this year. They are going to need to think about how they can back off on the use of the fire trucks. There are more calls, EMS calls, and they are being used for fire inspections. This cannot continue. The apparatus being replaced will be twenty-years old this year. It had about \$35,000.00 worth of repairs last year and the new truck was ordered last fall and it is not coming to 2025. He hopes and prays that Engine 31 will make it until the new truck comes in. Chief Anderson is also struggling with this and Director Strauss has some old equipment.

The Chief again mentioned that the relationship between the three fire entities is good. There is a mutual respect that allows for candid discussion. A Combination Department works in Ewing. This is not easily done. There are issues but things are working, especially on the fire ground.

Chief Brower responded to Councilman Schroth's earlier question and said that Prospect Heights will still have a NFIRS cost even after the NFIRS reporting number is combined because that software also does personnel management, training, and records management for Prospect Heights.

Vice President Baxter asked if the number of responses that you had to do into the City have gotten any better.

Chief Brower said that he spoke with Chief Moran. They are working through those issues. Prospect Heights has not been able to respond to many mutual aid calls because when an engine is down, he cannot leave Ewing unprotected. They want to reciprocate. It all revolved around safety issues going into the City of Trenton and communications – coordination of different frequencies. Trenton is not on the County system. They are not there yet, but they are getting there.

Council had no additional questions for Chief Brower.

WEST TRENTON VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY – Chief Mike Anderson

Chief Anderson said that West Trenton's call volume has also gone up. They had 879 calls with 561 being in their District and 318 being mutual aid in other Districts. Their busiest days are Mondays and Fridays. Their biggest fire loss was the Community Center. Chief Anderson stated that he has the oldest fleet. The youngest truck – the tower ladder – which is eight years old, is a constant problem. Apparatus are just not built the same. It has been out a number of times with high repair costs. His other apparatus are twenty-six years old, twenty-three years old, and thirty-three years old. The apparatus that was ordered will replace the thirty-three year old but he still has the other two that are twenty plus years old. Chief Anderson echoed Chief Brower. With the Mayor, they need to look at replacement time frames and to start to order replacements. Repair costs are high.

For Capital, Chief Anderson is requesting fire hose to replace hose that failed during the annual testing, turnout gear, pagers, and rescue power tools. He is trying to get battery-operated tools. The rescue tools on his rescue truck are coming to their end-of-life and they will need to do something for next year. He has a different type and may switch over to the type used by both Prospect Heights and Station 30. It will be a big purchase – probably \$100,000.00 because it works off the truck.

President Wollert asked if it is at all sensible to buy tools for a truck that is going to be replaced. Will you be able to get them to fit the existing truck?

Chief Anderson replied - yes. That is all specced out by the Truck Committee.

Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney asked Chief Anderson to think about economies of scale between the volunteer fire houses and Station 30 around some of the softer costs – ie copier, fax machine etc.

Chief Anderson said that they are frugal in what they buy. They do shop around.

Council had no additional questions for Chief Anderson.

CLOSED SESSION

(None for this Meeting)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business President Wollert called for a motion to adjourn. Vice President Baxter so moved seconded by Ms. Steward. It was agreed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Kathleen Wollert, President

Kim J. Macellaro, Municipal Clerk