

March 26, 2019 – REGULAR SESSION

President Baxter called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

The Clerk read the Invocation: Almighty God, we ask that you bless us and help us seek your wisdom, guidance, courage and strength. Be with us in our deliberations and help us to be wise in the decisions we make for the good of all those who have placed their trust and confidence in our leadership. Give us insight to lead with integrity that our decisions may reflect what is right and good and grant us humility to always seek your will in all that we do and say. Amen.

Flag Salute

Council President Baxter 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 2nd day of January 2019.

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 AND UTILIZE FIVE MINUTES OF TIME FOR REMARKS AND QUESTIONS. ALL QUESTIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT. WHEN ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL, PLEASE GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

ROLL CALL

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

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

The Clerk stated for the record that no members of the Public are present.

BILLS LIST

1. The Clerk read (Resolution #19R-65) A Resolution Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to Pay Bills in the Amount of \$819,586.10 and to Pay Supplemental Bills per Resolution #19R-16 in the Amount of \$7,350.43

There were no questions or comments from Council. Ms. Steward then moved the Resolution, seconded by Ms. Wollert. President Baxter asked for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

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

The above referenced Bills List Resolution and the Bills List are available in the Clerk’s Office in the 2019 Resolution Book Number One.

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 #19R-66/)

1. A Resolution Authorizing a Refund, as Recommended by the Director of EMS for Overpayment in the Amount of \$12.71 for Overpayment of Transport Service on October 9, 2018 for patient Hanuschik, Mark to Hanuschik, Mark, 512 Sutherland Road, Ewing, NJ 08618-2104
2. A Resolution Authorizing the New Jersey State Police Memorial Association to Hold its Annual Chase (5KRun)

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

ROLL CALL

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

The above referenced Consent Agenda Resolutions are available in the Clerk's Office in the 2019 Resolution Book Number One.

ORDINANCE(S) FOR FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION

1. The Clerk read (Ordinance #19-06) AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2019 TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

President Baxter stated that, at the Agenda Session, the Attorney explained the necessity for a Cap Bank and the Business Administrator said that the Town may be using some of this going forward.

There were no questions or comments from Council. No members of the Public were present. Mr. Schroth then moved the Ordinance, seconded by Ms. Keyes-Maloney. President Baxter called for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

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

2. The Clerk read (Ordinance #19-07) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, AMENDING AND REVISING § 225-64, SCHEDULE XVII: BUS STOPS

The Council President said that this for a bus stop on Princeton Avenue. Many of these requests come from the NJ Department of Transportation.

There were no questions or comments from Council. No members of the Public were present. Ms. Steward then moved the Ordinance, seconded by Mr. Schroth. President Baxter asked for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

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

3. The Clerk read (Ordinance #19-08) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, TO AMEND CHAPTER 225, SECTION 59, SCHEDULE XII: STOP INTERSECTIONS, CONVERTING VARIOUS INTERSECTIONS OF SPRING VALLEY LANE, NANCY LANE, ROCKLAND ROAD, SUSAN DRIVE, TODD LANE, WORTHINGTON DRIVE, LANGMOORE DRIVE, KENNEDY LANE, APRIL PLACE, BAKUN WAY, AND ALEXANDER DRIVE TO STOP-CONTROLLED INTERSECTIONS BY INSTALLING NEW STOP SIGNS AND STOP BARS , AND OTHERWISE UPDATING THE TOWNSHIP CODE

Council President Baxter said that many residents have expressed concerns about the traffic, and this is an effort to slow traffic down throughout the Township. This was recommended by the Township Engineer.

There were no questions or comments from Council. No members of the Public were present. Ms. Keyes-Maloney then moved the Ordinance, seconded by Ms. Wollert. President Baxter asked for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

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

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

(None for this Meeting)

NEW BUSINESS

1. The Clerk read (Resolution #19R-67) A RESOLUTION INTRODUCING AND APPROVING THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING, COUNTY OF MERCER FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2019

The Mayor stated that he is officially giving Council the Budget for this calendar year and then handed it to each Council member. The Administration is not asking for any additional taxes besides what is currently being raised through the tax revaluation program. With the revaluation, the Township went from \$1.38 per \$100 assessed to \$0.91 per \$100 assessed – a big drop. The assessments went up. Although, approximately seventy percent of those affected had no increase or went down. The Township needs to raise \$29,700,000 from taxes. The budget total is around \$49,000,000 of which \$9,700,000 is from the State. That State amount has stayed flat for the past two or three years. The biggest impact on this Budget is reduced revenues of \$318,000. State fines, permits, court fees, other taxes and investments did not materialize in the way the Administration had anticipated. FICA and pension increases are \$388,000. The Township's increased debt service is \$152,000. Recycling and curb pick-up costs increased. The Mayor commented that almost one hundred percent of the recycling ends up in the dump because individuals do not properly recycle. The tax collection rate is down from last year which meant a \$240,000 deficit. Ewing still has a very high collection rate - ninety-four percent, down from ninety-seven or ninety-eight percent last year. The Town incurred unexpected debt for the demolition of some homes. It is \$100,000 for the community pools. Contractual salary increases are a big one - \$540,000. Basically, the Town needs to come up with \$2,061,000 for this tax year. On the positive side, miscellaneous revenues, including PILOTS and hall rentals, came to \$520,000.

Regarding the PILOT program with Campus Town, the Town gives the schools twenty-five percent - about \$100,000 last year. However, the mailing cost for the Special Election was deducted. The increase in Other Expenditures was \$265,000; about one percent of the total and well below the annual cost of living of 2.5%. The Mayor stated that overall the Town's expenditures, other than the contractual, were kept down. The Mayor thanked the department heads for presenting a clean and frugal budget. No one asked for more than what they got last year.

The Administrator added that any increase involves the State (pensions, healthcare, debt service) and loss of income in the Court because of fewer tickets.

The Mayor reiterated that the Administration is not looking for any additional revenue - tax increases - beyond the revaluation. This Budget is cut and dry. It is austere because we took \$100,000 more from the Reserve Fund than what we had wanted to. There is no room to go further in that direction because it does impact the Township's bonding capacity once that Fund is below a certain number. After the Budget is adopted, the Administration will come back before Council for capital. The down payment for any capital is already included in this Budget. The initial capital proposal of \$15 million had been cut to about \$7 million. One of the Township's bonds will be paid off next year or the year after. That will help. The Mayor emphasized that, under no circumstance, is the Township anywhere near its bonding capacity and added that he wants to keep it that way.

The Administrator added that there will be money to pave some roads.

The Mayor said that, initially, \$1.8 million was proposed for paving; we cut \$800,000. The Town did get one grant from the State for Buttonwood Drive and has petitioned the State for grants to pave other roads.

The Mayor said that this Budget is based on the revaluation and emphasized that he cannot control what the School Board or the County are going to do with their taxes.

The Administrator said that they heard from ten residents who expressed concerns about the revaluation. Some did not realize that the rate went down; however, some residents did have big increases.

The Mayor, the Administrator and President Baxter briefly discussed the School and County tax rates for last year. President Baxter asked, at this point, what is the municipal percentage for 2019.

The Mayor responded - about twenty-four percent. The Mayor stated, that when he first came into Office in 2011, the average assessment for a home was \$125,000 and today it is \$198,100. In 2015, based on those rates, the average taxpayer, for the municipal portion, paid \$1,640. In 2016, it was \$1,667. In 2017, it was \$1,698. In 2018, it was \$1,720 and in 2019, it is \$1,803. On average, it is about an \$80 increase. The Mayor said that he believes that this is a good deal. Overall, this Administration and this Council have been prudent over these nine years. Taxes increased by only a couple percentage points unlike other municipalities. Even though year over year taxes have increased; it has been stable. It has not been like in years past when one year it is zero and the next year it is ten percent. That is when there is a revolt. The Mayor commented that he and Councilwoman Wollert had lived through one revolt and he does not want to do so again.

The Mayor, stating that it is good to put this on the record to show residents that everyone is affected by the revaluation, gave the assessed value and the municipal portion of the tax bill for himself and each member of Council.

	Old Value	New Value	2018 Taxes	2019 Taxes
Mayor:	\$134,000	\$246,000	about \$1,800	\$2,244
Baxter:	\$109,500	\$176,000	not have	\$1,602
Wollert:	\$116,900	\$283,900	not have	\$2,584.55
Keyes-Maloney:	\$120,300	\$197,100	not have	\$1,794.35
Schroth:	not have	\$165,200	not have	\$1,503
Steward:	\$93,100	\$137,800	not have	\$1,254.50

The Mayor reiterated that he still believes, even with these numbers and even though some people got a larger increase, everyone is still getting a good bang for their dollar given all the services the Township provides. The Budget cannot be expanded without raising more money and the Mayor discouraged Council from making any increases even though there are things department heads still want.

The Mayor added that the Administration also made sacrifices: completing Silvia Street and filling in the courtyard at the Municipal Building will not be done this year. The Police and Public Works are not getting all the equipment that they asked for.

The only departments not to have their request cut were the volunteer fire companies. The Administration is asking for a fire truck and a street sweeper. The Town has committed to a street sweeper. Initially, we were going to get two. The Township has one, but it breaks down more often than it works. The new sweeper has an articulated arm so it will take care of curb weeds and can pick up debris from the catch basins.

The Mayor stated that there is not a lot of money for new employees. Unless it is an absolute necessity, additional employees will not be hired. If there is a retirement, a strong case needs to be made as to why a hire is necessary.

President Baxter asked if the street sweeper will require additional personnel or special licensing and if there will be a schedule.

The Mayor replied that it will not require additional personnel and it does not require a special license; a CDL is not even required. The goal is to have the sweeper out every day during the spring and summer. However, the Administration will not commit to a certain street on a specific day in order to avoid getting phone calls if the sweeper does not get to its assigned street on its assigned day. The Administration will commit to it being out on the streets every day and to being in the neighborhood after brush and leaves are picked up.

President Baxter said that he asked about a schedule because of the necessity of having residents move cars off the street.

The Mayor replied that that is a good point and said that they can put out a notice.

President Baxter asked Council if they had any questions and then commented that it is difficult to ask questions now as Council just received the Budget.

The Mayor replied that Council can always ask, but the most qualified person to answer budget questions is the CFO. The Mayor added that he is available to address anything beyond that.

President Baxter asked if the increased amount for recycling is because of comingling trash with recycling.

The Mayor responded that it has a lot to do with it. All recycling is converted to trash and trash per ton is a lot higher. There is no return on the money. Before, recycling cost \$10 to dump; now, it is well over \$80 per ton. It costs \$117 per ton to dump trash so there really is no savings.

The Administrator said that the Township's cost went up \$143,000 based on the recycling market that fell apart. China and Vietnam will not take it unless it is absolutely one hundred percent clean. For example, they will not take plastic bags or plastic water bottles with the tops on. The market is changing dramatically, and nobody knows which way it is going.

Councilwoman Steward added that serious enforcement would be needed to change behavior. And, that might be more enforcement than what a Town is willing to do.

The Mayor added that from day one, people did not recycle properly.

Councilwoman Steward said - if in doubt, throw it out. People hope something is recyclable, put it in and ruin the entire bin.

Vice President Keyes-Maloney said that the community pools will be brought on budget this year.

The Mayor responded to Vice President Keyes-Maloney and listed the collective bargaining groups that are up this year. A discussion followed regarding the status of ongoing negotiations and the particulars of healthcare and waivers.

Vice President Keyes-Maloney stated that the pension amount will go up related to the rate of return.

The Mayor added that the Town already took payment of social security benefits for spouses out of the contracts for anyone hired after 2014. The Mayor stated that other Towns have started not paying medical benefits for retirees and added that he does not know how they get away with that.

The Mayor added that the Town looked to cap benefits at retirement, but then said that we are not allowed to do that.

A discussion followed.

Councilwoman Wollert commented that the Town cannot do that because the Town bought into it when Medicare was \$1.30.

The Mayor replied – exactly. This is why healthcare is in such a fix today.

Councilwoman Steward asked when will the department head hearings be held.

President Baxter said that that can be discussed, but he is looking to hold the first hearing at the next Council meeting and asked Council to look at their calendars to figure out a date for the second one.

The Administrator said that the earliest a Public Hearing can be held is twenty-eight days from tonight - April 23rd – which happens to be the second Council meeting in April. Since DCA is not signing off on the Budget this year, the Town does not have to wait, assuming Council is comfortable with a Public Hearing and Adoption.

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

ROLL CALL

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

2. The Clerk read (Resolution #19R-68) A RESOLUTION OF EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATION

President Baxter said that this is routine before the Budget is adopted.

There were no questions or comments from Council. No members of the Public were present. Ms. Wollert then moved the Resolution, seconded by Mr. Schroth. Council President Baxter called for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

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

3. The Clerk read (Resolution #19R-69) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CY2019 RESERVE BUDGET TRANSFERS

President Baxter stated this is also routine. The total amount is \$7,900.

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

ROLL CALL

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

4. The Clerk read (Resolution #19R-70) A RESOLUTION OF CONCURRENCE BY THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING DESIGNATING BUS STOPS ON COUNTY ROAD 583 (PRINCETON AVENUE)

There were no questions or comments from Council. No members of the Public were present. Ms. Steward then moved the Resolution, seconded by Ms. Wollert. Council President Baxter asked for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

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

5. The Clerk read (Resolution #19R-71) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TAX ASSESSOR TO ACT AS AGENT FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING FOR THE PURPOSE OF FILING AND SETTling TAX APPEALS ON BEHALF OF THE TAXING DISTRICT FOR THE TAX YEAR 2019

There were no questions or comments from Council. No members of the Public were present. Mr. Schroth then moved the Resolution, seconded by Ms. Steward. The Council President called for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

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

6. The Clerk read (Resolution #19R-72) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A LEASE AGREEMENT FOR 355 4TH STREET BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING, THE EWING TOWNSHIP REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY, AND THE COUNTY OF MERCER

President Baxter said that the rent is \$2,500 per month for the County to store seized vehicles on this property which is the Township's old Fourth Street Garage. This is for use of the yard and possibly the building if the County chooses to renovate.

The Mayor said that the County can use the building but then this agreement will need to be renegotiated. The Mayor does not believe the County will do that as it is too expensive to renovate the building. The Mayor added that the Township will also get the largest portion of any forfeiture money that goes through this property. The Township can also store its repossessed vehicles there and, if the Township needs an undercover car, we can get it from them.

There were no questions or comments from Council. No members of the Public were present. Ms. Keyes-Maloney then moved the Resolution, seconded by Ms. Steward. President Baxter asked for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

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

7. The Clerk read (Resolution #19R-73) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PERFORMANCE BOND RELEASE FOR B & W KIDS ACADEMY, 1640 PENNINGTON ROAD (BLOCK 142/LOT 15) – EWING ENGINEERS REMINGTON & VERNICK R&V #1102-I-082

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

ROLL CALL

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

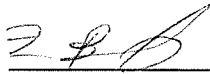
The above referenced New Business Resolutions are available in the Clerk's Office in the 2019 Resolution Book Number One.

CLOSED SESSION

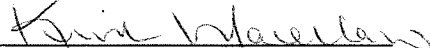
(None for this Meeting)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business President Steward called for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Steward so moved seconded by Ms. Wollert. It was agreed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.



Kevin Baxter, President



Kim J. Macellaro, Municipal Clerk