

MUNICIPALITY OF KINGSTON TOWN COUNCIL

BUDGET HEARING

NOVEMBER 4, 2020

MINUTES

The Town Council of the Municipality of Kingston was held in Council Chambers, 500 Wyoming Avenue, Kingston, Pennsylvania, on Wednesday, November 4, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

The following members of Council were present.

Mr. John Schumacher - excused	Mr. Anthony Diction - Vice-President
Mrs. Roberta Rowlands	Mrs. Nancy Cooper
Mrs. Margaret Neville	Mr. Rob Jacobs

Mr. Robert Thompson, President - excused

Others present: Paul J. Roberts, Jr., Mayor; Paul Keating, Administrator; Harry Mattern, Esq., Solicitor; Julie Norton, Secretary

**CITIZENS' REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL:** Bonnie Chocallo of 146 Sharpe Street spoke to council about installing a four-way stop sign at the intersection of Sharpe Street and Mercer Avenue. Ms. Chocallo states that cars are parked illegally and many times there are near accidents. The "No Parking" is not enforced. Cars are parked illegally. Mr. Keating said that this is the first he has heard of this, but the Chief of Police is here this evening and will take down more information from you and will work on it in the morning.

**BUDGET HEARING:**

Mr. Keating said that this is the first budget hearing and first draft. There will be no tax increases for 2021. There will be quite a few changes to the Rec Center. COVID has had an impact on the programs at the Rec Center.

For some good news, our revenue exceeds expenses. There is a \$30,796.22 increase in revenue from 2019.

Since this pandemic first struck this area, the department heads were instructed to reduce their spending. In 2019, \$7,619,609.22 or 84.43% was spent, and to

this date Kingston has spent \$7,442,582.06 or 79.38% which is \$177,000.00 less in spending. Mr. Keating credits the department heads. Also, the interest has been refinanced on our pensions which is \$60,000.00 less than 2019.

Our capital bond savings of \$200,000.00 is a sizeable budget surplus during a pandemic.

All of the above is very good news for Kingston.

Ordinances 2020-8 and 2020-9 has not changed from last year.

The Mayor and Mr. Keating have been working on the budget for a while. Each and every year it becomes a little more difficult because we are a landlocked community and need to be progressive as well. The shading on your sheets are cues as a reminder that a particular item needs to be looked at more closely.

\$1,147,024.00 is what is budgeted for real property taxes.

LST tax is budgeted at \$290,000.00. EIT, as of this date, we are at 80% and it should be 80.03%, which is very good.

Our total Act 511 Taxes is \$5,310,796.00; however, Berkheimer is projecting conservatively. Turkey Hill has not paid their mercantile tax as of this date.

All licenses and permits are projected at \$475,050.00. Our permit fees have increased by \$52,000.00 since 2019. Cable TV, Comcast and Service Electric's, license may decrease due to YouTube TV, Hulu, Amazon Prime, etc..

Total Fines and Forfeits projected at \$140,000.00.

Kingston's interest and rents are budgeted for \$28,500.00.

Total Intergovernmental Revenue (Grants) are \$6,369.00.

Total Miscellaneous Revenue i.e., insurance refunds, health premium refund, pave cuts and sewer rentals is \$107,640.00.

Total charges for services is budgeted for \$1,228,521.00. Spring Clean-Up has been incorporated into the budget and total garbage recycling revenue is \$657,500.00. Garbage sticker sales have increased since COVID. Our recycling fee is close to \$100.00 per ton. Mr. Keating and the Mayor are working on this matter and have a few meetings scheduled regarding recycling. A discussion with council will be necessary, moving forward, regarding a recycling fee.

Total Revenue is \$9,769,249.00. Are there any questions on the revenue before moving forward? Council had no questions.

Moving on to our expense...

Total Administrative Expenditures are \$664,292.00.

Total Tax Collection Expenditures \$37,852.00.

Total Municipal Building Expenditures is \$37,417.00. An added expense is the Stormwater fee.

Total Police Expenditures is \$2,160,295.00.

Total Ambulance/Rescue Expenditures is \$56,798.00.

Total Fire Service Expenditures is \$2,809,169.00.

Total Volunteer Fire Allocation is \$31,465.00.

Total Building and Zoning Expenditure is \$171,138.00. Building Inspections Services and Permits, which includes fees, are performed by BHW Inspections.

Total Board Expenditures is \$3,550.00.

Total Communication Expenditures is \$80,350.00.

Total Sewer Expenditures is \$3,150.00.

Total Solid Waste Expenditures is \$453,406.00. There will be no clutter clean-up in 2021; however, we may have a bulk clean-up where residents can dispose of one large item for a fee.

Total Recycling Expenditures is projected \$286,730.00 which is an increase from 2020.

Total Street Expenditures is \$802,200.00

Total Street Lighting Expenditures is \$4,000.00.

Total Library Expenditure is \$108,350.00.

Total Recreational Expenditures is \$26,000.00 which is a decrease of \$27,500.00. There were no park programs this year.

Total Park Expenditures is \$45,775.00.

Total Swimming Pool Expenditures is \$12,000.00 which is \$4,500.00 higher than 2020 and it could possibly be more.

Total Flood Control Expenditures is \$17,000.00.

Total Motor Pool Expenditures is \$65,350.00.

Total Miscellaneous Expenditures is \$14,351.00. \$4351.00 is Kingston's Agreement with SPCA.

Total Employee Benefits is \$1,055,006.00.

Total Insurances is \$127,343.00.

Total Bond Debt is \$300,998.00.

Total Capital Expenses is \$179,387.00. Since COVID there is a \$60,113.00 decrease in Capital spending.

\$211,577.00 is budgeted for the Rec Center for 2021. That is a \$52,296.00 increase from last year or 32.83% which will be needed to keep the rec center running.

TOTAL PRELIMINARY EXPENDITURES budgeted for 2021 is \$9,769,249.00.

Are there any questions, before moving on. Council had no questions.

Our Capital Budget of \$179,387.00 which was just read is a break down in detail of what makes up those line items.

Our Liquid Fuels budget is \$413,455.00. Salt has remained the same at \$77.19 per ton for 2021. Two years ago, salt was \$74.29 a ton.

Total 2021 Parks and Recreation revenues budgeted \$346,820.00 which will be funded by the General Fund. Programs have been cut by 30% due to COVID. A comparison will have to be made with the other Centers around town who offer programs. The gym is open to members only. Kingston is losing money, since COVID.

Kingston Community Pool budget is \$210,575.00. The revenues and expenses balance. A decision will need to be made regarding the Pool. Do we open or not?

The 2021 Pension Activities funds total Revenue and Income Sources is \$983,480.00. and if the market allows.

The 2020 Community Advancement Fund total revenues is \$255,593.00.

That rounds out the initial reading of the Municipal Budget. Mr. Keating thanked the Mayor and Council.

Mr. Thompson thanked Mr. Keating and the Mayor for all of their work. If anyone has any questions or comments, please contact Mr. Keating.

budget for adjusted net appropriation for real estate tax at 1.550 mills is \$1,049,741.11. That number will be updated in November when we receive more assessment information from the County. The numbers should go up, but not by any significance. 1.550 mills for what we do and what is offered in Kingston is not a lot.

Earned Income Tax counts for 50% of all revenues. In your packets, you will see a break down from Berkheimer asking them to certify what their projections will be. Mr. Keating agrees with some of this information and disagrees with some of the information. Some numbers need to be tweaked.

Does anyone have any questions regarding the worksheets? There were no questions.

**AGENDA ITEM:**

It was moved by Mrs. Cooper and seconded by Mr. Jacobs that Resolution **2020-28**; Authorizing the Administration to Apply for \$\_\_\_\_\_ of Funds through the LSA Program for the 2021 Kingston Municipal Building Renovation Project

Motion carried and so ordered.

The vote of Council was recorded as follows:

Mrs. Rowlands – Yes      Mr. Jacobs – Yes      Mrs. Cooper – Yes

Mrs. Neville – Yes      Mr. Dicton - Yes

Motion passes.

It was moved by Mrs. Rowlands and seconded by Mrs. Neville that Resolution **2020-29**; Authorizing the Administration to Apply for \$\_\_\_\_\_ of Funds through the LSA Program for the Kingston Municipal Building Parking Expansion Project

Motion carried and so ordered.

The vote of Council was recorded as follows:

Mrs. Rowlands – Yes      Mr. Jacobs – Yes      Mrs. Cooper – Yes

Mrs. Neville – Yes      Mr. Dicton - Yes

Motion passes.

It was moved by Mr. Jacobs and seconded by Mrs. Rowlands that Resolution **2020-30**; Authorizing the Administration to Apply for \$\_\_\_\_\_ of Funds through the LSA Program for the 2021 Third Avenue Expanded Parking and Pedestrian Safety Project

Motion carried and so ordered.

The vote of Council was recorded as follows:

Mrs. Rowlands – Yes      Mr. Jacobs – Yes      Mrs. Cooper – Yes

Mrs. Neville – Yes      Mr. Dicton - Yes

Motion passes.

It was moved by Mrs. Neville and seconded by Mr. Jacobs that Resolution **2020-31**; Approving a Borrowing from Fidelity Deposit and Discount Bank

Motion carried and so ordered.

The vote of Council was recorded as follows:

Mrs. Rowlands – Yes      Mr. Jacobs – Yes      Mrs. Cooper – Yes

Mrs. Neville – Yes      Mr. Dicton - Yes

Motion passes.

## **REPORTS:**

Any questions regarding the financial report, please contact the Administrator.

The Department of Public Works collected 265.35 tons of garbage and 103 tons of single stream recycling.

The Kingston Police Department responded to 748 calls in Kingston and 36 calls in Pringle.

The Kingston Fire Department responded to 396 calls.

The total number of memberships to the Rec Center is 451.

Code Enforcement issued 4 violation letters, 2 Non-Traffic Citations, and conducted 19 residential inspections.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Keating had no new business.

Mayor Roberts had no new business.

Attorney Mattern said that Mr. Stewart has appealed our response to his Right-To-Know request regarding Pool Membership information. Mr. Mattern feels that this information is protected constitutionally. We have finally received an Order from the Supreme Court Denying Franconi's Petition for Allowance of Appeal. Franconi could request a Reconsideration. Hopefully, that won't happen. Once the back taxes are paid to Kingston, this matter should be done.

Mrs. Rowlands thanked Attorney Mattern for his hard work on the Franconi matter. She also thanked Mr. Keating for all of his hard work.

Mr. Jacobs also thanked Attorney Mattern for his hard work on the Franconi matter. He also thanked Mr. Keating for all of his hard work. Mr. Jacobs asked if Administration new how Kingston did on the questions that were on the recent Ballot. Mr. Keating said that they both passed.

Mrs. Cooper thanked Mr. Keating for his work in Kingston and his accounting for everything on the budget. Mrs. Cooper encourages residents and council to purchase "Back the Blue" signs from the police department.

Mrs. Neville congratulated Attorney Mattern on the Franconi matter. Mrs. Neville feels that virtual or telephonic meetings, either one, would be okay.

Mrs. Cooper and Mrs. Rowlands are in favor of whatever everyone else is comfortable in doing.

Mr. Dicton thanked the Mayor and Mr. Keating for all of their work on the budget. Mr. Dicton thinks that Mr. Jacobs' idea of using the phone for meetings is a good idea, just as we did before. Mr. Keating stated that our subscription is paid until April 2021, so by having our meetings via telephone is not a problem.

There being no further business, it was moved by Mrs. Cooper and seconded by Mrs. Neville to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL:

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Anthony Dicton - Vice-President

ATTEST:

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Julie Norton, Secretary  
November 4, 2020