

BUDGET MEETING MARCH 8, 2017

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Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. read the following statement led the flag salute.

IN COMPLIANCE WITH CHAPTER 231 PUBLIC LAWS OF 1975, NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS GIVEN BY NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE ATLANTIC CITY PRESS ON MARCH 6, 2017, THE HAMMONTON GAZETTE, EGG HARBOR AND HAMMONTON NEWS, ON MARCH 8, 2017 AND POSTED AT TOWN HALL

Roll Call:

Committee Present: Edward Hagaman, Christopher Silva, Mayor Brown

Committee Absent: Larry Riffle, John Walther

Municipal Clerk: Kimberly Johnson

CFO: Dawn Stollenwerk

Public Works: Steve Sperlak, Superintendent

Police Department: John Thompson, Chief

Budget Discussion: Mayor stated at the last meeting there was no quorum however; officials and employees present stayed to discuss possible financial opportunities and reductions, for example, Transfer Station, chipping, and Municipal Court. Mr. Brown reported to qualify for any transitional aid through the State we would need to be almost bankrupt. Mr. Silva questioned the utilization of the Transfer Station versus residents who pay a private contractor. Mr. Sperlak stated about 1,000 cars utilize the Transfer Station on a weekend. Clerk and CFO to supply information regarding trash tags and bulk permits. Mr. Silva stated we need to research innovated grants. Mayor stated we also need the funding. Committee discussed the need to identify the grants that can assist the municipality. Mr. Silva stated due to the change in the law regarding Class II Officers, he suggested due to a revenue shortfall in the Court of \$40,000.00, that we hire two Class II Officers and designate them to traffic enforcement. Committee discussed the costs and benefits of additional officers. Mr. Silva suggested generating revenue while increasing public safety.

Chief Thompson stated he currently has three cars over 125,000 in mileage and three additional that are over 100,000, noting the replacement program was working well. Mr. Sperlak stated he has trucks that will need replacement as well. CFO stated the cost of the police cars need to be in the municipal budget and the SUV's can be funded in the capital. Chief Thompson stated the cars are approximately \$13,000 for three years and the smaller SUV's are around \$40,000. Mr. Silva asked the increase on budgeting \$100,000 in the capital plan for vehicles for the Police Department and Public Works. CFO reported to increase the debt service by \$50,000 would equate to three cents. Mayor Brown questioned our current debt. CFO reported our debt is currently 1.7 million and explained the balance on the bond anticipation notes adding we pay \$288,000 a year in debt service. Committee discussed the impact of the school referendum, Atlantic County and Greater Egg Harbor Regional taxes. CFO reported we earned \$240,000 less in 2016 and \$156,000 less in revenue leaving \$74,000 in surplus for 2018. Chief stated he has been reviewing current township ordinances in regards to fines.

Mr. Silva requested a breakdown of the legal fees. Ms. Stollenwerk stated she will supply and noted we should try to do some foreclosures which will assist us financially in the long term. Committee continued to discuss the difficult decisions regarding shared service and decrease in services that needs to be investigated in the very

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near future. CFO commented on the decreasing in State Aid and the increase in fees for municipal projects. Committee discussed the municipal fleet and the cost of taking vehicles home. Mayor asked Committees' preference regarding this proposed budget noting the Recreation Association, Historical Society are requesting funding as well as road repairs that have not been addressed. Mayor stated moving forward we need to address the budget at all meetings. Mr. Silva recommended introducing the budget at the March 28th meeting and review ways to create revenue and review analysis from Department Heads. Committee discussed overtime in the police department, detail rates, overhead costs, e-ticketing, personnel in the Public Works Department, chipping, and the revaluation. Committee agreed to discuss the budget at the meeting on March 14th to review and discuss legal billing, trash tags, impact of special officer's on public safety, chipping hours, and introduction will be on the 28th. CFO to prepare increases for the detail ordinance for consideration.

Mayor Brown entertained a motion to adjourn; so moved by Mr. Silva seconded by Mr. Hagaman. RCV: Yeas: All voted yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Johnson,
Municipal Clerk