

Borough of Roselle Park Budget Meeting of March 9, 2017

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Charlene Storey	Borough of Roselle Park	Councilwoman	P	6:30 PM
Eugene Meola	Borough of Roselle Park	Councilman	P	6:30 PM
Joseph Petrosky	Borough of Roselle Park	Councilman	P	6:30 PM
Thos Shipley	Borough of Roselle Park	Councilman	P	6:30 PM
William Fahoury	Borough of Roselle Park	Councilman	P	6:30 PM
Michael Connelly	Borough of Roselle Park	Councilman	P	6:30 PM
Carl Hokanson	Borough of Roselle Park	Mayor	A	-

Councilman Shipley called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and said it is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act and adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by law.

All contracts awarded by Mayor and Council must comply with the affirmative action requirements of P.L. 1975, C.172. (NJAC 17:27).

As required by the Fire Prevention Code, he indicated the fire exists and the procedure to be followed in case of fire.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilman Meola moved at 6:33 p.m. to open the public comment portion of the meeting for agenda items only; seconded by Councilman Connelly and adopted.

Saul Qersdyn, 150 Berwyn Street

- Noted that there is an increase in the Assessment of Taxes line; asked the reasoning.
- Noted that there is an increase in the Public Defender line; asked the reasoning.
- Asked the impact of the third draft of the budget on an average house assessed at \$251,000 as opposed to \$253,000.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Councilman Meola moved at 6:38 p.m. to close the public comment portion of the meeting; seconded by Councilman Connelly and adopted.

Councilman Shipley turned the meeting over to CFO Ken Blum who reviewed items in the third draft of the 2017 municipal budget:

- Appropriations (Salaries and Wages Changes for the Third Draft):
 - Municipal Clerk Salaries and Wages
 - Financial Administration Salaries and Wages
 - Assessment of Taxes Salaries and Wages
 - Fire Official Salaries and Wages
 - Police Salaries and Wages
 - Recreation Salaries and Wages
 - Code Enforcement Salaries and Wages
- Appropriations (Other Expenses Changes for Third Draft):
 - Financial Administration Other Expenses
 - Legal Services and Cost, Tax Appeals Other Expenses

- Celebration of Public Events Other Expenses
- Social Security Other Expenses
- Maintenance of Free Public Library Other Expenses
- Workers Compensation Insurance Other Expenses
- Other Insurance Other Expenses
- Reserve for Uncollected Taxes Other Expenses

Mr. Blum noted that the third draft of the 2017 Municipal Budget reflects a tax increase of \$95.94 for the average house assessed at \$251,000.

Mr. Blum also noted that the mandatory increases faced by the Borough in 2017 total \$843,473, which factor heavily into any increase in taxes.

There were no changes in the Sewer Budget as of the third draft.

Councilman Meola asked about the increase in police overtime due to bail reform instituted by the State of New Jersey.

Borough Attorney Richard Huxford explained that the bail reform measure instituted by the State was a result of a binding referendum that was passed several years ago by the voters. The provisions of the reform have a potential to increase the workload for local Police Departments.

Mr. Blum stated that the known risk for additional overtime is substantial enough to increase the budget accordingly.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilwoman Storey moved at 6:54 p.m. to open the public comment portion of the meeting on any item; seconded by Councilman Connelly and adopted.

Saul Qersdyn, 150 Berwyn Street

- Asked if fireworks were included in this draft of the budget
 - Mr. Blum stated that they were, and that there is also a trust account for donations that assist in funding the annual fireworks show
- Asked if bulk pickups were included in this draft of the budget
 - Mr. Blum stated that they were, and that bids are out and due back on May 10th
- Asked what parades were included in the budget
 - Mr. Blum indicated that the Memorial Day parade is included
- Asked when garbage and recycling contracts were due
 - Mr. Blum indicated that those bids are also due back on May 10th with the current contracts set to expire during the summer
- Suggested that the Borough look into the potential for shared services regarding the additional work load associated with bail reform

There being no one else wishing to speak, Councilwoman Storey moved at 7:00 p.m. to close the public comment portion of the meeting; seconded by Councilman Meola and adopted.

INTERRUPT THE REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

Councilman Connelly moved at 7:02 p.m. to interrupt the regular order of business for a Closed Session Meeting; seconded by Councilwoman Storey and adopted.

Councilman Shipley read the Closed Session resolution and said Council would be discussing the following matters:

- Personnel Matter – Fire Prevention
- Personnel Matter – Recreation
- Personnel Matter – Tax Assessor

RESUME REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

Councilman Connelly moved at 7:34 p.m. to resume the regular order of business; seconded by Councilman Meola and adopted.

Councilman Shipley said that during Closed Session, Council discussed the following matters:

- Personnel Matter – Fire Prevention
- Personnel Matter – Recreation
- Personnel Matter – Tax Assessor

No Closed Session matters were resolved.

The Council agreed to have the 2017 Municipal Budget formally introduced at the Regular Meeting of the governing body on Thursday, March 16, 2017.

Mr. Blum said the next Budget Meetings to discuss the Capital Budget will be held on Thursday, March 30, 2017 and Thursday, April 13, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Councilman Connelly moved at 7:37 p.m. to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Councilman Meola and adopted.

Attest:

Andrew Casais, RMC
Borough Clerk