

BOROUGH OF BRADLEY BEACH

BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 21, 2023 AT 4:00 P.M.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT, PUBLIC MEETINGS MAY BE HELD IN PERSON OR BY MEANS OF COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT TO INCLUDE STREAMING SERVICES AND OTHER ONLINE MEETING PLATFORMS (N.J.S.A. 10:4-8b).

THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN-PERSON AND THROUGH THE ZOOM MEETING PLATFORM, BEING BROADCAST FROM BOROUGH HALL, 701 MAIN STREET, BRADLEY BEACH, NJ 07720. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR THIS BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING OF APRIL 21, 2023 WAS AVAILABLE IN PERSON OR THROUGH THE ZOOM LINK POSTED TO THE WEBSITE. THE MEETING WAS NOTICED IN THE NEW COASTER AND THE COAST STAR ON APRIL 13, 2023 IN ADDITION TO RESOLUTION 2022-265 ADOPTED DECEMBER 13, 2022 FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023 WAS ADVERTISED IN THE NEW COASTER, THE COAST STAR, AND THE ASBURY PARK PRESS ON DECEMBER 15, 2022.

WITH ADEQUATE NOTICE HAVING BEEN GIVEN, THE MUNICIPAL CLERK IS DIRECTED TO INCLUDE THIS STATEMENT IN THE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fox opened the meeting with a salute to the flag.

Sunshine Law

The meeting has been noticed publicly according to the Open Public Meetings Act requirement.

ROLL CALL 4:00 P.M.

Present: Councilwoman DeNoble, Councilman Weber, Mayor Fox
Interim Borough Administrator, Gregory C. Fehrenbach
Chief Financial Officer, Anthony Mannino
HFA Partner, Robert Alison
Municipal Clerk, Erica Kostyz
Deputy Municipal Clerk, Michele Whille (ZOOM Operator)

2023 Municipal Budget Workshop Discussion:

Mayor Fox stated this meeting was scheduled to accommodate schedule conflicts and explained the importance of this meeting given the upcoming Budget Introduction to occur at the April 26th Council Business Meeting and thanked all in attendance.

Mayor Fox introduced the Chief Financial Officer Anthony Mannino and the Interim B.A. Gregory Feherenbach. Mayor Fox stated Mr. Feherenbach has been instrumental in assisting with the budget. Mayor Fox also introduced Bob Alison with Holman Frenia Alison.

Mayor Fox and Mr. Feherenbach went over the following objectives using a Power Point presentation:

Budget Priorities

- **Maintaining s the level of service residents are accustomed to.**
- **Upgrades to aging infrastructure.**
- **Anticipation of near future needs of the town.**

Budget Challenges

- **Insufficient Revenues as opposed to excessive spending.**
- **Non-recurring revenues from the 2022 Budget that cannot be in the 2023 Budget (Capital Surplus, Utility Surplus and American Recovery Program).**
- **Revenues that were properly anticipated in 2022 were not realized (Uniform Construction Fees and Fees and Permits).**
- **Funds that had to be anticipated in 2022 that are not available in 2023 (Municipal Relief Funds).**
- **Inflation and costs of goods and services needed to operate Municipal Services.**

Budget Actions taken:

Administrative staff examined the draft budget to identify budget accounts for adjustment, recalculation and correction. Accounts included:

- **Salary and Wage Accounts**
- **All other Expense Accounts**
- **Capital Improvements**
- **Reserve for Uncollected Taxes**

Meeting the Challenge

This examination resulted in significant reductions and/or corrections to many of the accounts. Thanks to the diligence of administrative staff in all departments, several reductions were able to be affected.

- **Departmental line-item cuts - \$173K**
- **Capital Improvement Cuts - \$555K**
- **Zero-based Salary re-run - \$64K**

Budget: Prudent, practical, and manageable

This budget which required an estimated tax levy increase of approximately 20% has been reduced to a true tax levy increase of 5.3%.

This budget retains the ability to continue providing the level of service to which residents and visitors have become accustomed. Further reductions will necessitate reductions in services to the Bradley Beach Community.

Additional items presented

- **Services provided to the residents (ex. Police, Court, Public Information, Fire/First Aid, Library, Recreation Programs, etc.)**
- **Estimated 2023 Tax Levies.**

Mr. Mannino gave an overview of the following:

- **Revenues and Appropriations for the Current, Sewer Utility and Beach Utility Funds**
- **Capital Budget and Capital Plan**
 - **General Capital (Improvements to DPW Building, Recreation Improvements, Sinkhole Elimination and Fifth Avenue Improvements).**
 - **Sewer Capital (DPW Building, Sylvan Lake Bulkhead, and Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation).**
 - **Beach Capital (Bulkhead Extension)**
- **Statistics to include Average Residential Home Values for 2022 and 2023**
- **Tax Rates for 2022 and 2023 for Local Municipal and Library.**
- **Reserve for Uncollected Taxes for 2022 and 2023**
- **Certification of New Construction**

Appropriations CAP – N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.2 – 1977 CAP Law

-
- **Tax Levy Cap**
 - **Maximum Allowable Amount to be raised by Taxation**
 - **Actual amount to be raised by Taxation.**
 - **2023 CAP Bank**

Council Comments:

Councilwoman DeNoble had inquiries about the 2022 Surplus and Fire Department and First Aid Appropriations, deferred School Taxes, Healthcare and Pension increases, and transfer of monies from surplus to the current fund.

Mr. Mannino and Mr. Fehrenbach addressed these inquiries.

Councilwoman DeNoble feels this budget is a good start, however more work needs to be done and all funds must be looked at thoroughly and every expense needs to be accounted for. Ms. DeNoble also suggested looking further into Shared Service programs.

Councilman Weber inquired how many employees' salaries are being drawn from the Sewer Account.

Mayor Fox responded approximately 15 to 16 employees have part of their salary drawn from the Sewer Account.

Councilman Weber suggested removing the Plastic Film program and doing dual stream recycling.

The following residents commented and had inquiries regarding Budget Presentations, tax increases, salaries, payroll, surplus, health benefits and pensions, beach badge revenue . Inquiries were answered by Mr. Mannino.

In Person:

Mary Backstrom, 218 Fourth Avenue

Thomas McGuire, 610 Brinley Avenue

David Jennings, 406 LaReine Avenue

Rick Bartolomei, 116 Newark Avenue

Don Greenberg, 302 Park Place Avenue

Linda Duffy, 312 Brinley Avenue

Anita Nazario, 116 Newark Avenue

Mea Molin, 302 Fourth Avenue

Nancy Meadow, 805 Beach Avenue

Jim Shissias, 112 Fourth Avenue

Brigitte McGuire, 610 Brinley Avenue

Thomas J. Coan, 612 Third Avenue

Cindy Lukenda, 218 Fourth Avenue

Eileen Shissas, 112 Fourth Avenue

ZOOM: None

ADJOURNMENT

Fox/Weber moved to adjourn the Budget Workshop Meeting at 5:50 p.m.

BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING ADJOURNED: 5:50 P.M.


Erica Kostyz, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk