

BUDGET/WORK SESSION

November 16, 2015

Attendees: Kali Sodano, Council President; Beverly Wolfe, Vice President; Barbara Heffelfinger, Arlene Harms, Sean Weckerly, Gianpiero Lo Piccolo, Anne Marie Kinsey, Borough Council; Bob Winkler, Mayor; Michael Savona, Solicitor; and Bob Pellegrino, Consultant

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council President Kali Sodano with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor's Report

The Mayor announced that borough streets will be swept on Monday, November 30th. Signs will be posted and residents will receive a letter.

2016 Budget

Bob Pellegrino provided a preliminary draft copy of the 2016 budget to Council this past Friday. There is information that hasn't been received yet to complete the process. Committee's requests have been included in the document. It also includes the following: increased police hours, roadwork, pump station upgrades, portable generators, traffic signal improvements and installation of battery back-up for traffic lights.

The roadwork totals \$500,000 which includes Rumpf Avenue, DeHaven Avenue, Julie Lane, Monroe Avenue, Clarissa Lane, Crescent Street and Cynthia Avenue. There are five roads that need base repair at a cost of \$90,000.00.

He included a ten percent increase in health insurance, 14% in liability insurance and a small increase in utilities. There will be a reduction in the workers' compensation insurance premium. Refuse rates are good and will remain the same.

Bob explained that in the back of the budget there are lettered tabs. Each section explains in a detailed breakdown what is included in the specific lines. There are still figures that need to be added in some sections. Arlene Harms asked about reviewing bids for services. Barbara Heffelfinger asked about budgeting for possible grants for next year. Codification process and costs were reviewed along with funds for the adoption of new ordinances. The details on the website have not been attained yet.

Council needs to decide if they want to continue with road projects or pay off the 2012 loan. Bob Pellegrino put funds in the budget for a different audit than what we have been getting from our current auditor. He suggests that the audit come with statements from the auditor about funds and a good breakdown of expenses. Our current audits have funds combined; Bob prefers to see them separated.

There is the possibility to submit an application for an ARLE Grant for street lights. DVRPC is offering municipalities a program to purchase LED lights from their vendor. The payback on the costs is about a year and a half in energy bills. Bob will get information for us to review.

Gian Lo Piccolo handed out information on health insurance plans and costs. They discussed the option of applying for medical insurance through Delaware Valley Investment Trust (DVIT). This can be done in 2016. Medical insurance plans can be changed at any time.

On November 30th the preliminary budget will be considered for adoption.

Finance

Solicitor Mike Savona received a letter from Thomas Profy, Solicitor for Neshaminy School District, requesting reimbursement by Pennel Borough for legal services paid by the School District for assessment appeals of properties in the borough. That amount is \$152.40, which is 10% of total cost of legal fees. There is usually some type of an Intergovernmental Agreement in place for reimbursement of costs. Council is fine with the response letter they sent to the school district July 15, 2015 declining payment for legal services. Mike Savona will send a response letter to Mr. Profy rejecting their request.

Due to the possibility of paying installation fees twice for the new phone system, Gian Lo Piccolo wants to hold off on approving the monthly fees and installation fee for the new phone system. Since the police building isn't ready for operation at this time, there may be a second installation charge.

Community Development

We received a notice from Frank Farry's office that there was a complaint about a tree overhanging a property on Parkview Avenue from Taddei Woods. In 2011 a certified arborist inspected the trees due to a complaint. Barbara Heffelfinger was told that a permit needs to be received to do routine maintenance on the trees at the Taddei Woods property because it is open space property. PECO will be notified by office staff to assess the tree and Barbara will speak to the property owner that made the complaint.

Unfinished Business

MOTION BY GIANPIERO LO PICCOLO TO APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF THE GAS HEATING UNIT BY JR MICHALSKI AS QUOTED IN PROPOSAL #2276 DATED NOVEMBER 6, 2015 FOR \$5,000.00 AND PECO TO CONNECT TO THE GAS LINE AT 37 W. WOODLAND AVENUE AS QUOTED BY PECO IN AGREEMENT DATED OCTOBER 23, 2015 FOR \$279.46. SECONDED BY SEAN WECKERLY.

Kali and Mike Savona walked through the police building with the Mayor. They would like to Phase out the list of work to be done and first concentrate on the first four rooms. The estimated move in date is March at this time. All work has to follow architectural drawings, be inspected by professionals and an official report filed and signed in the office.

Public Comment

John Stratz, 522 Hulmeville Avenue, volunteer residents cutting weeds for businesses on Route 1

Dave Cahill, 462 Cynthia Avenue, approved drawings, certificate of insurance for electrician, no public restroom, public viewing plans of new police building

Mike Smith, 127 DeHaven Avenue, overseeing of construction, volunteer releases for new police building, street lights out

Rick Flanagan, 466 Walker Avenue, electrician working on police building, read letter from his wife, Wendy Wiley about tripping hazard out front of borough hall

Sean Weckerly, 645 Bellevue Avenue, investigation of vandalized political sign with swastika on political sign

MOTION BY SEAN WECKERLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. SECONDED BY BEVERLY WOLFE. All ayes, carried.

Submitted by: Marie Serota, Secretary/Treasurer