

Jim Thorpe Borough Council
2018 Budget Work Session Meeting
October 26, 2017

Meeting called to order by President Gregory Strubinger at 6:30 p.m. in the Memorial Park Hall, 103 East Tenth St, with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for the men and women serving our country.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Curtis Jackson	McGuire	Thomas Highland
Joanne Klitsch (a)	Jay Miller	Kyle Sheckler (a)
Gregory Strubinger	Mayor Michael Sofranko (a)	Manager Maureen Sterner
Boro Secy McClafferty		

Council Elect – Edith Lukasevich was present

Public Comment

No public comments

Purpose of the meeting is to discuss the 2018 Budget

Borough Manager Sterner said council has 2 scenarios. Draft 3 Option 2 is the feasibility which is the borough garage, moving the police and administration over to the Memorial Hall.

Draft 4 is Option 3 of the feasibility study which is the borough garage, moving the police downstairs, minor repairs to the hall keeping it as it is, and the Administration dept. taking over the entire municipal building. She has the debt coming in 2018, what we are spending in 2018 the balance spending in 2019 will be put in the Capital Reserve fund. So you see the money is being held for the project.

Mr. Miller asked if there are payment on this? Is this a 2.01 mill increase?

Borough Manager Sterner said what you would be looking at is a 2.01 mill increase on either option. Then in 2019 you will need 1.03 mills for option 2 and .81 mills for option 3 for 2019.

Mr. Miller for 2 mills increase it would be about \$140.00 increase for property owners. This is to keep the office where it is, move the police to the hall and a new garage.

Borough Manager said option 2 is the Police/Administration at the hall and option 3 is Admin staying at the municipal building.

Mr. Jackson said option 2 is the Police/Administration moving to the memorial hall. Administration will be top portion of the hall, slight renovations to the hall and the Police will be downstairs and a new garage out across from the Water plant.

Mr. McGuire said having a community center is the best thing to do. We could lease the current municipal building out.

Council discussed the Police/Administration building for several minutes.

Mr. Jackson asked the manager to reach out to the County to see if they would be interested in renting the municipal building for the Office on Aging.

General consent of Council is to hold a public hearing for the residents to explain why this is needed.

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Mr. Miller asked what did you come up for Water, Sewer and Garbage.

Borough Manager Sterner said Garbage would be no increase, Water, & Sewer would be 5% increase instead of 10%. she converted some of the manager and Public Service Manager's payroll coming out of the General reduced it to 10% and put that in Water.

Mr. Miller informed council that the Water tank is due for power wash and painting, we need to put money aside for this project.

Mr. Jackson asked if this is 5% base and volume?

Borough Manager Sterner said both.

Mr. Miller said Sewer we have over a million in Capital Reserve. Do we need to increase the Sewer rates for 2018? How do we justify raising the rates?

Borough Manager Sterner said she does not think it is necessary to raise the rates for 2018 for Sewer.

Mr. Miller said Council needs to justify what they are doing. If Council decides to go with the Borough garage Mr. Yaich can do a lot of site prep work by cutting trees down and grading in the winter time.

Mr. Jackson asked if there is any consideration for when the existing garage is taken down for additional turn grounds over to the park. Is this considered in the budget?

Mr. McGuire said they are talking about making that into parking.

Mr. Miller asked what is the pay back on the loans and was it for 30 years.

Borough Manager Sterner said 30 years pay back and High Street wall is included.

General consent of Council is that the Sewer fund there we will do zero increase in rates.

Mr. Jackson asked what is the expected increase in Water?

Borough Manager Sterner said Water \$1,169,294.00 to \$1,224,294.00, increase about \$50,000.00

Mr. Jackson asked that we put the \$50,000.00 from Sanitation into the Water. He feels the Landfill should have \$350,000.00 to \$400,000.00.

Mr. Miller said we should keep at least \$500,000.00 in case we have a slide or something there.

Borough Manager Sterner said we can do Water zero increase and do a transfer of \$50,000.00 out of the Sanitation Capital Reserve account.

Borough manager Sterner asked Council if they would like to do another budget workshop meeting?

Mr. McGuire said Council is legislation and the future of the town. We need to focus on this. We need to do thing all along to keep it running smoothly. We have to do what is right for the town.

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Mr. Miller said we should reach out to Jens Damggard.

Borough Manager Sterner said she has reached out to Jens Damggard because she wanted to make sure with all the borrowing that we already have that we are within our borrowing base.

General consent of Council is to set up a meeting to give the people the opportunity to understand what Council is doing with it all.

Borough Manager Sterner said Council has not discussed the salary increases, she has base figures in there but Council has to give direction on that.

Mr. Jackson asked if there are any concerns with water on the side where they would like to put the new borough garage?

Mr. Miller said core borings can be done to check on this.

MOTION: Jay Miller second Curtis Jackson to adjourn.

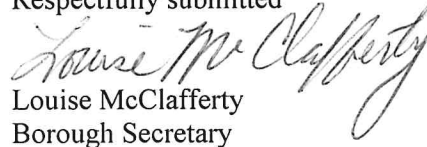
YES 5

NO 0

ABSENT 2 Joanne Klitsch & Kyle Sheckler

Adjourned at 7:42

Respectfully submitted



Louise McClafferty
Borough Secretary