

FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
SPECIAL BUDGET WORK SESSION MEETING
MARCH 26, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Byrd called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Byrd read the OPMA Act Statement into the record as follows:

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT

This meeting of the Fairfield Township Committee shall come to order. The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advanced notice of and to attend the meeting of the public bodies at which any business affecting their interests are discussed or acted upon. This meeting held on this 26th day of March 2018 at the Fairfield Municipal Building in Fairton New Jersey is held pursuant to notice of date, time and place of same having been submitted to The South Jersey Times, The Daily Journal, and The Press of Atlantic City on March 21, 2018 and also duly posted on the bulletin board in the lobby of the Township Hall.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG / MOMENT OF PRAYER

Mayor Byrd led the flag salute followed by a moment of prayer given by Committeeman Gonzalez.

ROLL CALL

The following roll call was recorded as follows:

Committeeman Clark, present; Committeeman Gonzalez, present; Committeeman Manson, present; Deputy Mayor Pierce, present and Mayor Byrd, present.

ALSO PRESENT

Township Administrator Wymbys, Chief Financial Officer Young and Township Clerk Gonzales.

Mayor Byrd announced that the Township Chief Financial Officer was present tonight to discuss and review the proposed draft 2018 municipal budget. Mayor Byrd advised the public that if they had any questions during the time that the Chief Financial Officer presents the budget to please state your question so that the Chief Financial Officer can explain if need be.

CALENDAR YEAR 2018 PROPOSED DRAFT BUDGET WORK SESSION

A proposed draft of the 2018 Municipal Budget was presented by the Chief Financial Officer, Neil Young. He advised that there is a no cent increase in the budget. The Chief Financial Officer went over the Current Fund Appropriations and explained the increase in line items such as Salaries and Wages and Other Expenses. For Salaries and Wages there was a 1.8% pay increase negotiation from the Union contract for employees in 2018. The Ambulance Service for 2018 is \$228,000.00 compared to \$164,000.00 as a result of hiring additional part time Emergency Medical Technicians. Salary and Wages for the Office of Emergency decreased in 2018 in the amount of \$2,100.00 compared to \$3,600.00. Code Enforcement for 2018 is \$15,800.00 compared to \$14,000.00 as a result of adding more hours to the Code Enforcement Officer.

He advised that under Other Expenses Foreclosed Property for 2018 is \$15,000.00 compared to \$6,000.00 in 2017 due to several pending foreclosures. Assessment of Taxes line item under Other Expenses for 2018 is \$4,000.00 compared to \$13,000.00 in 2017 due to the Revaluation. Legal Services for 2018 is \$45,000.00 compared to \$145,000.00 in 2017.

Mr. Young explained the sharp increase in Animal Control is \$28,000.00 for 2018 compared to \$18,500.00 in 2017 impacted as a result of the Cumberland County SPCA Animal Sheltering Services contract. The Employee Group Insurance for 2018 is \$94,000.00 compared to \$84,000.00 as a result of adding two (2) more employees.

Utilities received an increase in telephone, and street lighting. Gasoline decreased, for 2018 it is \$23,500.00 compared to \$28,000.00 in 2017.

He further explained the \$16,587.00 increase in the Deferred Charges and Statutory Expenditures Contribution to Public Employees Retirement System for 2018 is \$40,997.00 compared to \$24,410.00 from the prior year as a result of adding more Emergency Medical Technicians.

The total General Appropriations for 2018 is \$3,480,522.71 compared to \$3,155,646.93 from the prior year.

Mayor Byrd thanked the Chief Financial Officer for coming out tonight to discuss the proposed 2018 municipal budget. Mayor Byrd asked the Township Committee if they had any questions. There were none.

There being no questions from the Township Committee, Mayor Byrd advised that we will now go the Public Comment on the agenda.

At this time Mayor Byrd read the Public Comment into the record as follows:

PUBLIC COMMENT

In order for the Committee to conduct the business of the Township in the most productive manner possible, meeting attendees will be given five (5) minutes, all inclusive to comment on any agenda item(s) without comment or question from the Committee, but only on items specified on the agenda listed for the current meeting. Please step up to the microphone at the appropriate time, and state your name and address for the record.

Mayor Byrd entertained a motion to open the meeting to the public.

Deputy Mayor Pierce moved and seconded by Committeeman Gonzalez. Roll Call Vote: Clark, yes; Gonzalez, yes; Manson, yes; Pierce, yes and Mayor Byrd, yes.

Mrs. Cindy Zirkle, 24 Back Neck Road appeared and indicated that the drop in legal fees should be questioned.

There being no further comments to be received, Mayor Byrd entertained a motion to close the Public Comment.


Committeeman Manson moved to close seconded by Deputy Mayor Pierce. Roll Call Vote: Clark, yes; Gonzalez, yes; Manson, yes; Pierce, yes and Mayor Byrd, yes.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Township Committee, Mayor Byrd entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Committeeman Manson moved to adjourn seconded by Deputy Mayor Pierce. All members voted in the affirmative and the meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda M. Gonzales, RMC
Township Clerk