

BOROUGH OF BERLIN
SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP
MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2014
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
59 SO. WHITE HORSE PIKE
BERLIN NJ
7:00 PM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR ARMANO.

FLAG SALUTE LED BY MAYOR ARMANO.

SUNSHINE NOTICE: Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance to the Open Public Meeting Act, Pursuant to Public Law 1975, Chapter 231. Said notice has been advertised in the Courier Post showing the date, place and time of said meeting.

ROLL CALL: Mayor John Armano, Council President Bilella, Council members Maccaroni, Scelso, Kupchik, Pearce and Knight. Councilman Scelso was absent.

PRESENT ALSO: Solicitor George Botcheos, CFO Stephen Miller, Administrator Charleen Santora, Deputy Clerk Melissa Bovera and Adrian McKendry (CFO)

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

APPOINTMENT OF ADRIAN MCKENDRY TO CFO

Motion to approve made by Councilman Maccaroni, seconded by Councilman Knight. All members present voted in favor.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN AND ADRIAN MCKENDRY, CFO

Motion to approve made by Councilman Maccaroni, seconded by Councilman Knight. All members present voted in favor.

SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN AND THE TOWNSHIP OF WATERFORD FOR CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Motion to approve made by Councilman Maccaroni, seconded by Councilman Knight. All members present voted in favor.

DISCUSSION ON THE PROPOSED 2014 BUDGET

Councilman Maccaroni started the discussion informing council that the most recent document was dated March 19th and on page 8 of the budget worksheet it shows a \$.02 increase from last year.

Council went over every page of the budget and Steve Miller, CFO addressed all of their questions.

Discussion items were as follows:

Councilman Pearce had a question about the cost for advertising and also about the software maintenance cost. Councilman Pearce also had questions about the health care premiums and suggested that council consider alternatives when the borough hires new employees such as Obama Care. Also, discussed were the police salaries and Councilman Pearce wanted to know if it is possible for the police department to get out of some shared services agreements.

On page four of the budget worksheet the emergency management line items were discussed and council was informed that since Hurricane Sandy the state has set mandates and protocols have been put in place. Specific items discussed in regard to emergency management were clothing allowance, new equipment and miscellaneous. More clarification will have to come from Emergency Management Coordinator Richard Crain. Also, Charleen will ask that Lou Demarco attend the next caucus meeting to justify the proposed budget for the ambulance.

Councilman Pearce requested that \$300.00 be added to the parks and playgrounds line item for salaries and that \$200.00 be added to the Long-A-Coming line item. \$500.00 total will be taken out from the field maintenance line item to be used for the parks and playgrounds line and the Long-A-Coming line. The fees for the camp are increasing this year and there will be a \$25.00 late fee for those who do not register for camp by the deadline. The specifics will be given at the next caucus meeting.

Also the library was discussed. The library will be branching off to its own next year and will show separately on the tax bill.

On page seven, tipping fees, trash disposal, recycling and storm water management budgets were discussed. Also, court needs to add more court dates for the year; one more court date for every month resulting in 3 court dates a month moving forward.

Open space budget was discussed and Councilman Maccaroni suggested taking money out of legal and adding it in to open space. Also, the ambulance budget was discussed and a representative from EMS will come to council to go over their budget so that council is aware of how they are spending.

Budget will get introduced at the caucus meeting on April 1, 2014 at 7:00 in the municipal building.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Knight, seconded by Councilman Pearce. All members present voted in favor.



Charleen Santora,
RMC/Admin.