

March 1, 2005

A special meeting regarding the 2005 Municipal Budget was held on the above date.

Mayor Martin presiding

PRESENT: Council members Villari, Smyth, Gilmore, Cesaretti, Alls-Moffatt and Auditor Robert Stewart

ABSENT: Council member Daniel

The following statement was read by Mayor Martin:

Public notice of this meeting, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, has been given by the Municipal Clerk in the following manner:

(a) Having written notice of this meeting published in the Burlington County Times on March 1, 2005

(b) Posting written notice on the official bulletin board on February 28, 2005

Mr. Stewart announced that presently, we are looking at a 23.4 cent increase in our local municipal purpose tax rate. Mr. Stewart stated that there are two major reasons for this: delinquent property owners not paying their taxes on time (in particular the owner of the Nuway Shopping Center) and loss of revenue. A lengthy discussion ensued on these issues. Mr. Stewart commented that the Borough could hold an accelerated tax sale. This would hopefully force the property owners to pay their taxes by the December 31st deadline. Mr. Stewart reviewed this process with the Governing Body. It was the consensus of Council to seriously consider this option.

Council then reviewed in detail all of the individual budget line items to determine where cuts should be made.

Council then reviewed and discussed in detail the Borough's present sewer charges and the fact that the sludge costs are expected to increase substantially. The Borough will be going out to bid for this. Mr. Stewart was asked how much the tax rate would go up if Council decided to incorporate the sewer billing with the taxes. Mr. Stewart responded that just that alone would mean a 23 cent increase in our tax rate. Discussion resumed. It was the consensus of Council to increase the sewer rates by \$100.00 for this year. Property owners would be billed this additional fee in October. It was also the consensus of Council that in 2006 we would have a bi-annual sewer billing. Council will consider the issue of incorporating the sewer charges into our tax rate sometime in the future.

ORDINANCE 4-05

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 106, ARTICLE II, SEWER RATES, OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVERTON IN THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY

The above Ordinance was read by title only by Mr. Smyth, who moved for its adoption. This was seconded by Mrs. Villari. A poll vote was then taken. Dr. Daniel absent, Mr. Smyth aye, Mrs. Villari aye, Mr. Gilmore aye, Mr. Cesaretti nay, Mrs. Alls-Moffatt aye. Second reading and a public hearing on the Ordinance will take place on April 6, 2005 at 7:00pm.

CANCELING CERTAIN UNEXPENDED IMPROVEMENT AUTHORIZATIONS

For Council's consideration, Mr. Stewart stated that there exists certain improvement authorizations with unexpended balances totaling \$254,631.31 from Bond Ordinance 2002-4. Mr. Stewart explained that this pertains to the purchase of and/or Renovations to a Municipal Building. Mr. Stewart stated that Council could cancel some of this balance so that the money would be available for other capital expenditures. A discussion ensued, with the majority of Council agreeing to cancel \$100,000.00 to Capital Surplus.

RESOLUTION 26-05

A RESOLUTION CANCELLING CERTAIN UNEXPENDED IMPROVEMENT AUTHORIZATIONS (IN FULL IN RESOLUTION BOOK)

The above Resolution was read by title only by Mrs. Alls-Moffatt, who moved for its adoption. This was seconded Mrs. Villari. A poll vote was then taken. Dr. Daniel absent, Mrs. Villari aye, Mr. Smyth nay, Mr. Gilmore aye, Mr. Cesaretti aye and Mrs. Alls-Moffatt aye.

PROPOSED SALARY INCREASES FOR EMPLOYEES NOT COVERED BY A BARGAINING UNIT

Mrs. Alls-Moffatt moved that we give all full-time employees a 3% salary increase and that we give all part-time employees 1 ½% salary increase. This was seconded by Mr. Gilmore. A poll vote was then taken. Dr. Daniel absent, Mrs. Villari nay, Mr. Smyth nay, Mr. Gilmore aye, Mr. Cesaretti nay and Mrs. Alls-Moffatt aye. The motion failed.

Mr. Gilmore moved that we give all full-time employees a 3% salary increase and that we give all part-time employees a 2% salary increase. This was seconded by Mrs. Alls-Moffatt. A poll vote was then taken. Dr. Daniel absent, Mrs. Villari nay, Mr. Smyth nay, Mr. Gilmore aye, Mr. Cesaretti nay and Mrs. Alls-Moffatt aye. The motion failed.

Mrs. Villari moved that we give all of our employees a 3% salary increase. This was seconded by Mr. Smyth. A poll vote was then taken. Dr. Daniel absent, Mrs. Villari aye, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Gilmore nay, Mr. Cesaretti nay and Mrs. Alls-Moffatt nay. The motion failed.

Mrs. Villari moved again that we give all of our employees a 3% salary increase. This was seconded by Mr. Smyth. A poll vote was then taken. Dr. Daniel absent, Mrs. Villari aye, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Gilmore nay, Mr. Cesaretti abstained, Mrs. Alls-Moffatt nay and Mayor Martin aye.

It should be noted that Mr. Gilmore and Mrs. Alls-Moffatt were of the opinion that the full-time employees should receive a higher percentage salary increase than the part-time employees. It should also be noted that Mr. Cesaretti was of the opinion that all of the Borough employees should be given the same salary percentage increase as those employees covered by a bargaining unit.

PROPOSED CAPITAL POLICE BUDGET DISCUSSION

Council reviewed the department's requests. After some discussion, Mr. Gilmore moved that we place \$25,000.00 in our capital budget to only cover the additional costs for the police vehicle and police equipment (lap tops). This was seconded by Mrs. Alls-Moffatt. A poll vote was then taken. Dr. Daniel absent, Mrs. Villari nay, Mr. Smyth nay, Mr. Gilmore aye, Mr. Cesaretti aye and Mrs. Alls-Moffatt aye.

CAPITAL BUDGET

Mr. Stewart reviewed what would be included in our capital portion of the budget: \$250,000.00 for a road program, \$5,000.00 for park improvements and \$25,000 for police equipment. Council concurred.

RESOLUTION 27-05

A RESOLUTION INTRODUCING THE 2005 MUNICIPAL BUDGET (IN FULL IN RESOLUTION AND MINUTE BOOK)

The above Resolution was read by title only by Mr. Smyth, who moved for its adoption. This was seconded by Mrs. Alls-Moffatt. Mr. Smyth announced that the budget would be published in the Burlington County Times on March 27 and that a second reading and a public hearing will be held on April 13, 2005. Mr. Smyth further stated that this budget has a tax levy of \$1,701,000.00 which equates to a 9.9 cent increase per one hundred dollars which would equate to \$147.95 on a home assessed at \$150,000.00. The tax rate increase (percentage wise over the previous year) is 8.23%.in the local municipal tax rate for this year. A poll vote was then taken. Dr. Daniel absent, Mrs. Villari aye, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Gilmore aye, Mr. Cesaretti aye and Mrs. Alls-Moffatt aye.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Nancy Washington, 201 Main Street raised concern about the amount that we pay in legal fees.

Mrs. Washington also raised the issue that our Police Chief does not work a shift. Mrs. Washington commented that our previous Chief's have always done this. She doesn't understand why the present Chief does not. Mrs. Washington also commented that the Chief already has secretarial support.

There being no further budgetary issues to be discussed, Mr. Smyth moved that the meeting be adjourned. This was seconded by Mrs. Alls-Moffatt, with all present voting in the affirmative.

Mary Longbottom, RMC
Municipal Clerk