

**BOROUGH OF MIDLAND PARK
280 GODWIN AVENUE
MIDLAND PARK NJ 07432
FEBRUARY 24, 2022**

6:00 P.M. BUDGET SESSION MINUTES

On February 24, 2022 at 6:00 P.M., the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Midland Park conducted a meeting at Borough Hall located at 280 Godwin Avenue as previously advertised. Agenda items for the meeting were listed on the Borough website. There was also an option for the public to access the meeting electronically by Toll-Free number 1-866-899-4679 Access Code: 335-352-949.

Mayor Shortway called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M., noting the date as February 24, 2022, and that there will be a 3-minute limit to each individual addressing the Governing Body during the Open Public portion of the meeting.

SUNSHINE LAW STATEMENT: This meeting is being held in accordance with the Sunshine Law, notice having been published according to law with a copy on file in the Borough Clerk's Office and a copy posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building.

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| Roll Call: | Mayor Shortway | Present |
| | Councilman DeBlasio | Present |
| | Councilman Damiano | Present |
| | Councilman Iannone | Present |
| | Councilman Kruis | Present |
| | Councilwoman DeLuca | Present |
| | Council President Peet | Present |

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Administrator/Clerk Wendy Martin and Certified Financial Officer Laurie O'Hanlon.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

This will be the only Open to the Public portion of the meeting. No further discussions will take place once the Budget portion of the meeting begins.

There were no members of the public present or on the line at this time.

BUDGET DISCUSSIONS:

1. Budget Discussion

Council President Peet stated her findings after perusing the Budget document. There were significant decreases in revenue from the following departments: Court, Building, and Recreation.

Laurie O'Hanlon, Chief Financial Officer, responded that COVID-19 affected these departments for the past two years. The forecasted revenue is projected to be higher than in 2020 and 2021.

Ms. O'Hanlon, reviewed the health benefit portion of the Budget. The costliest parts are the benefits being paid for retired employees. There are currently (21) twenty-one retired employees and some including their spouses that the Borough pays for their benefits. **Councilman Damiano** asked if there is a cap on Medicare. Ms. O'Hanlon will call the State to find out more details on capping Medicare (P.L. 2018 Chapter 88).

The Governing Body discussed the percentage increase the Borough staff has had in the past. For the last (3) three years, Midland Park has given 3% salary increases. This percent was given so that the Police Departments employees could be on the same pay levels as surrounding municipalities. After some brief conversations, the Mayor and Council agreed for 2022 the salary increase would be 2% for the Borough administrative staff.

There being no further business to address, at 6:32 P.M., on a Motion by **Councilman Kruis**, Seconded by **Councilwoman DeLuca** and carried, **Mayor Shortway** adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Martin, RMC
Borough Administrator/Clerk