

**BOROUGH OF MIDLAND PARK
280 GODWIN AVENUE
MIDLAND PARK NJ 07432
JANUARY 26, 2023
6:00 P.M. BUDGET SESSION MINUTES**

On January 26, 2023 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. Agenda items for the meeting were listed on the Borough website.

Mayor Shortway called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M., noting the date as January 26, 2023, 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 | Absent |
| | Councilman Kruis | Present |
| | Councilwoman Peet | Present |
| | Council President DeLuca | Present |

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Administrator/Clerk Wendy Martin, Chief Financial Officer Laurie O'Hanlon, and Borough Deputy Clerk Mari J. Margiotta.

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.

BUDGET DISCUSSIONS:

1. Budget Updates (to be emailed by CFO)

Chief Financial Officer Laurie O'Hanlon stated, after many hours of review, the increase in municipal taxes will be 6.9% which is \$227.00 per average household at this time. The discussion ensued regarding the Fire Prevention vehicle that was requested by Fire Prevention Official Michael Rau. Ms. O'Hanlon informed the Governing Body that the funds for this purchase would come from monies collected from Fire Prevention. **Councilman Braunius** was opposed to this purchase but rather use the funds to offset Mr. Rau's salary. **Councilman Braunius** was also opposed to the Police Department's request for the purchase of new firearms and the Recreation Department's asking for a golf cart.

Borough Administrator/Clerk Wendy Martin summarized the funding and the timeline of the 2023 Road Resurfacing projects.

Councilman Braunius questioned the necessity of ordering the eight (8) requested radios for the Fire Department. The suggestion of 4 was made. **Councilman DeBlasio** questioned if all the radios need to be compatible. A decision on this matter will be made once more information is available.

Council President DeLuca stated the Library Board members have discussed the Library's roof. The **Council President** forwarded their concerns to the Governing Body. Borough Administrator/Clerk Wendy Martin reported the Superintendent of Public Works Matthew Tauber examined the roof and told

Ms. Martin that the roof is not due for an upgrade for another six (6) more years.

Chief Financial Officer Laurie O'Hanlon discussed the increases and the costly matters in the 2023 Budget: increases in health benefit costs, increase in PFRS, paying back the \$400k to the Bond Ordinance, and more retirees on Medicare.

Borough Administrator/Clerk Wendy Martin reported Superintendent of the Department of Public Works Matthew Tauber has not received applications for the job posting for a Recycling Center attendant. There has been no interest, he believes since the position requires to work on Saturday and for the hourly pay of \$17.00. Ms. Martin projected in the future the Department of Public Works will need an additional staff member due to the possibility of the Borough acquiring the upper and lower maintenance of the Sunset fields. Ms. Martin will ask Mr. Tauber to readvertise the Recycling Centers position for \$20.00 per hour.

Borough Administrator/Clerk Wendy Martin asked the **Mayor** and **Council** for their consent regarding the 2023 Borough staff's increases. **Councilman Kruis** and **Councilman DeBlasio** agreed with the 2.75% Borough staff increase.

The subject of the tax percentage increase was discussed again. **Councilman Kruis** recommended the taxpayers receive the pie chart as in previous years from the Tax Collector.

There being no further business to address, at 6:59 P.M., on a Motion by **Councilwoman Peet**, Seconded by **Councilman DeBlasio** and carried, **Mayor Shortway** adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Martin, RMC
Borough Administrator/Clerk