

## Special Budget Work Session

September 26, 2022

A special Budget Work Session meeting of Souderton Borough Council, held in the rear Conference Room of the Souderton Municipal Building on the above date, was called to order by President Tracy Burke at 7:00 p.m. The Borough Council Work Session was attended by the following members and staff:

President Tracy W. Burke	Junior Councillor Elijah S. Steglik
Vice-President Edward Huber	Junior Councillor Estrela T. Sadiboko
Councillor Daryl Littlefield	
Councillor Julie Munden	
Councillor Donna M. Rogers	
Councillor Matthew Sholly	Borough Manager P. Michael Coll
Councillor Richard Walczak	
Councillor Courtnee Wampole	

Absent from the work session was Mayor Daniel Yocum and Councillor Matthew DiNenna.

President Tracy Burke announced that he intends to adjourn the work session no later than 9:00 pm. The Borough Council members agreed. President Burke further announced that he will move all requested presentations to the regular monthly Borough Council meetings instead of a work session meeting.

President Burke noted that the Finance and Budget Committee met with the Borough Manager to review and discuss the initial draft of the 2023 Budget. The draft 2023 Budget also makes certain assumptions concerning the police collective bargaining agreement and its effect on the overall budget. Borough manager Michael Coll distributed copies of the initial draft budget to Borough Council along with a tabulation of real estate tax rates implemented by all of the 24 Boroughs in Montgomery County for the 2022 calendar year.

Borough Manager Michael Coll summarized the initial draft of the 2023 General Fund Budget. The budget draft increased the overall total real estate Tax Rate to 7.25 mills, which is slightly above the current median tax rate levied by Montgomery County Boroughs in 2022. The 2023 Budget must also increase the quarterly trash service fees from \$107 to \$112 per quarter through 2023. The increase is necessary to cover the contracted rate increase under the current collection contract with J. P. Mascaro and Sons. The draft General Fund budget does not include any discretionary funds for special community events, such as a fireworks event.

Police Chief Brian Newhall provided written comments and requests concerning the draft 2023 budget which were just recently received. Borough Council reviewed the

suggested revisions with a consensus to incorporate the requests a revised budget draft for the next meeting.

Borough Council discussed the historical funding of the Indian Valley Public Library in comparison to the Fire Tax which supports the volunteer fire company. Considerable discussion was held concerning the historical higher funding for the library compared to the fire company. The consensus of Borough Council was to reduce the Library Tax rate from 0.33 to 0.27 mills and to increase the Fire Tax from 0.27 mills to 0.33 mills.

Borough Council discussed the renovation project for the Municipal Building. Councillor Julie Munden explained the reduction in the scope of work to implement the initial phase of the project, renovating the basement level, constructing the rear addition to increase the police garage space and provide a new entrance to the rear of the building and the basement level and complete a full renovation of the Police department offices which have not been addressed since the initial renovation of the building in the 1980's. It is unfortunate that renovations have not been completed in the past, but the renovation work is necessary to continue operations. The draft 2023 budget includes a borrowing of \$1,500,000 along with the earmarked use of \$740,000 in federal ARPA funds to complete this phase of the project. A motion was made by Councillor Julie Munden, seconded by Councillor Daryl Littlefield to include the borrowing and the Municipal Building renovations in the 2023 Budget. The motion was approved by Borough Council.

Borough Council will hold another Budget Work Session on Monday, October 10, 2022 to further review the 2023 Budget. The Parks and recreation Committee will be meeting on October 6 to discuss the swimming pool operations.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Michael Coll, Secretary