

Borough Council Work Session Meeting

October 26, 2020

A Work Session Meeting of Souderton Borough Council was called to order at 7:00 pm, on the above date, by President Brian Goshow with the following members present:

President Brian Goshow	Mayor John R. Reynolds
Vice-President Julie Munden	
Councillor Donna Rogers	Junior Councillor Nick Mancini
Councillor Richard Godshall	
Councillor Daniel Yocum	Borough Manager P. Michael Coll
Councillor Daryl Littlefield	
Councillor Edward Huber (Zoom)	Police Chief James P. Leary

Absent from this meeting were Borough Councillors Ned Leight and Matt Mscichowski. Access to the work session was also available through Zoom, which was coordinated through Vice-President Julie Munden. Councillor Edward Huber participated in the work session through Zoom.

President Brian Goshow noted that the purpose of this work session is to review the draft 2021 Budget. Borough Manager Michael Coll presented a draft of the General Fund, Fire Tax, Library Tax and Capital reserve Fund Budgets for the 2021 calendar year. The Borough Manager reviewed the line item budget for each of the funds, addressing questions or concerns from Borough Council as the budget line items were presented and discussed. The Borough Manager recommended consideration of a real estate tax rate increase for the General Fund from 5.20 mills to 5.35 mills. The increase was necessitated by anticipated reductions in Earned Income, Local Service and Real estate Transfer Tax revenues. The increase will also offset growth in expenditures in the Police Budget and preserve an acceptable level of revenue growth for capital expenditures.

The Borough Manager recommended an increase in the Special Fire Tax rate from 0.25 mills to 0.27 mills. The increase is recommended to offset potential increases in workers compensation premiums for the fire company.

The overall real estate tax rate will increase from 5.78 mills to 5.95 mills for the 2021 Budget and calendar year. The overall real estate tax rate remains below the median average tax rate for Montgomery County Boroughs.

The Borough Manager discussed the draft 2021 Budget for the Sewer Operating and Sewer Capital Funds. The Sewer Operating Budget allocates funds for the hiring of an entry level operator in anticipation of the retirement of a senior operator. The Sewer Capital Budget allocates funds to replace a chemical storage tank, repair the main air supply line to the treatment units and replace deteriorated steps and safety railings throughout the plant. The 2021 Budget will not increase the sewer user fees.

Following review of the 2021 Budget, Borough Council adjourned to an Executive

Session at 9:20 pm for the purpose of reviewing the candidate selection for the Police Chief position. Borough Council convened to public session at 10:00 pm and there being no further business the meeting was promptly adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Michael Coll, Secretary