

**MINUTES
BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Budget Discussion
November 2, 2022
6 P.M.**

Council met as a Committee of the Whole in-person at Borough Hall. Council members present were: Ms. Jordan, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Trotter, Mr. Blatt, Ms. Graham and Mr. Trabel. Mr. Rufe was absent. Also, in attendance were Cordula Voges (Finance Director), Mr. Quarry (Public Works Supervisor) and guests. Mr. Gratz (Borough Manager) participated remotely.

Council President Blatt opened the meeting stating that there is only public comment on the budget at this meeting, no other comments will be taken. The public may also comment at any of the future scheduled Council Meetings.

Council President Blatt asked everyone to rise for the PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

OLD BUSINESS

2023 Budget Follow-Up (GF, LF, Capital)

Council President Blatt asked for questions and comments. No comments were made.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (NEW BUSINESS)

2023 Budget

Mr. Gratz presented the highlights of the proposed Health & Sanitation, Sewer, Fire and Library Funds Budgets 2023 supported by visual power point slides highlighting newly added and quantitative changes of some revenue/expenditure line items.

- Health & Sanitation Fund

President Blatt stated that no utility fee increases are contemplated.

- Sewer Fund

Mr. Gratz stated that in 2023 all the data from the completed sanitary sewer inspection will be compiled and analyzed to plan the actual sanitary sewer rehabilitation.

Mr. Gratz also stated that the City of Bethlehem bulk sewer charges might increase in the future, because the scheduled calibration and startup installation of a new meter and telemetry on Broadway will produce more accurate data.

President Blatt stated that no utility fee increases are contemplated for 2023.

Regarding legal expenditures for collections President Blatt stressed that Sheriff's sales remain the last resort in the collection process.

- Fire Fund

Mr. Gratz stated that the Fire Tax continues to be accumulated to fund the future replacement of a ladder truck in 2029 which will cost approximately \$1.2 million.

- Library Fund

The Library Tax and the Bethlehem Area Public Library service charges remain the same as the previous year.

Mr. Gratz is only expecting nominal changes in various other fees. Utility fees and Real Estate Taxes remain unchanged.

COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS – None.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – Discussion on Agenda Items (Budget) - None.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:17 pm Council President Blatt concluded the committee meeting of a whole. He stated that next week's budget meeting may not be needed, but will be determined at the next Council Meeting.

Council President Blatt reminded of the next regular Council Meeting to be held on November 7th.

**BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

By:

Norman E Blatt - President of Council

SUBMITTED:

BY:

Cordula Voges, Finance Director

ATTEST:

By:

Eric Gratz, Borough Manager

Next Ordinance – 873

Next Resolution – 2022 - 28