

**SPECIAL
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
November 21, 2023**

A special meeting of Boyertown Borough Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Council President Frank Deery. Council members present in addition to Mr. Deery were Charles Heller, Barry Christman, Keith Endy, Charles Neubauer and Gene Gabel. Council member Jeffrey Cascino and Mayor Lorraine Carnes were absent.

Also in attendance was Borough Manager Patricia Loder and Tom McHugh.

Mr. Deery called for public comment; no comments were forthcoming

2024 Proposed Budget

Mr. Heller and Mrs. Loder reviewed the 2024 Proposed Budget. Mr. Heller stated that eighty five percent of the budget line items are unchanged from the current years' budget. The largest increase in cost in the General Fund is the Eastern Berks Regional Police line item, which reflects a cost increase of \$88,665. The proposed budget includes a real estate tax millage of 9.04; an increase of .40 mills over the 2023 millage of 8.64. This will generate an additional \$65,000 in real estate tax revenue. Mr. Heller and Mrs. Loder noted that surplus revenue realized from the Act 511 Taxes will be transferred to the Capital Improvement General Fund to be used to fund improvements needed to stormwater infrastructure, roadways, bridges, and other miscellaneous general fund expenditures.

The 2024 Proposed Water Fund budget includes a six percent increase in water rates, as recommended by the Public Utility Committee in 2023. The budget reflects an increase in water plant operational costs in the amount of \$108,000. The cost increase is due to increase labor, chemical and utility costs.

The proposed Sewer Fund budget reflects a deficit of \$92,205. The budget reflects an increase in plant operational costs in the amount of \$87,070. This cost increase is due to increase labor, utility and chemical costs. SSM, Inc. is preparing a rate increase proposal to generate a total annual revenue of \$1.2 to \$1.3 million. This will cover the deficit and phase in the increase revenue that is needed to fund the Capital Improvement Sewer Fund and pay the annual debt service on the 2024 General Obligation Note. Annual debt service payments on the 2024 General Obligation Note will begin in 2025.

Mr. Heller reviewed recommended employee wage increases. Following discussion Mrs. Loder was provided direction concerning employee increases in 2024.

Mr. Deery inquired if there were any other concerns or comments on the Proposed Budget. No comments were forthcoming. The Special Council Meeting scheduled to be held at 6:00 p.m. on November 29th will be cancelled. The 2024 budget will be approved at the final Council Meeting of 2023 scheduled to be held on December 19th at 7:00 p.m.

There being no public comment or further business to conduct a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. was made by Mr. Deery and seconded by Mr. Heller.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder
Borough Secretary