

Borough of Jamesburg
Special Council Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2007 - 6:00PM

CALL TO ORDER: 6:01pm - Mayor LaMantia called the meeting to order and announced that the same is being held pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act of 1974 and all provisions of the Act have been met. Any contracts awarded tonight or between tonight and the next meeting require the contractor to comply with P.L. 1975. In the event of a fire and pursuant to the N.J. Uniform Fire Code, members of the audience were requested to take notice of the exits at the front and rear of the Council Chambers as well as in the main hallway.

FLAG SALUTE: Led by Mayor LaMantia

ROLL CALL: Those Present: Mayor LaMantia
Council President Longo
Council member Carpenter
Council member Grimes
Council member Jennings
Council member Kostbar
Denise Jawdzik, Business Administrator

Those absent: Council member Morales

DISCUSSION: 2007 Local Municipal Budget

Finance Officer Denise Jawdzik made presentation regarding the proposed 2007 Local Municipal Budget of the Borough of Jamesburg:

"I want to begin this budget workshop by stating that Council can expect many changes before the actual introduction of this budget. I have been notified that the State is in the process of making a lot of changes to the CAP law. Although this will change how the appropriations appear in the budget, it should not change the amounts.

I have also gotten some actual amounts in for some of the appropriations that were estimates at the time this budget was prepared. None of these changes will create a substantial change to the total budget.

I have also received a Local Finance Notice from the State extending the dates for introduction of the budget so we will not introduce at the February 7th meeting. I have tentatively scheduled it for the February 28th meeting but if the State Aid figures are not released at that point we will have to schedule a special meeting prior to March 12th, which is the new date. I would expect that we will likely have to do that."

2007 Budget

This year's municipal budget is being introduced with a 14-cent increase. Most discretionary department Other Expense budgets have remained at the 2003 level. This does not account for Extraordinary Aid or any increase in Municipal Aid. These items will reduce the tax increase.

If we receive the same amount of Extraordinary Aid that we received in 2006, the tax increase will be reduced to four cents.

Appropriations without grants were \$4,784,641 in 2006 and are \$4,889,002 in 2007 – with a net increase of \$104,361. The largest increases are as follows:

* Police Increase	42,600 standard increase
* Pension	68,854 State Phase In Mandatory
* Library	24,822 Mandatory
* Engineering	15,000 New Traffic Light
* Gasoline	8,000 Economy

There were appropriation reductions in our EDA loan payment of \$39,000 because we had a large amount due last year and a \$40,000 reduction in the Capital Improvement Fund appropriation because we had UST remediation last year.

The Capital Improvement Fund will finance \$80,000 for the acquisition of a backhoe, \$40,000 was provided for in the 2006 budget and \$40,000 is in this budget. There are also funds in the Capital Improvement Fund Appropriation in the event we need to finance additional money for UST Remediation and also the possible costs for the acquisition of land in connection with the installation of a traffic light at Gatzmer & Lincoln Avenues.

Positive Outlook

The Borough has been aggressively paying down our outstanding debt. At the close of 2007, we will owe \$339,000. For a point of reference, in 1999, the Borough owed \$2,500,000. I expect to fully pay off in 2009.

** Be advised that up until the date of Introduction of the Budget, revenues and appropriations will be adjusted by any new revenues from grants or other sources.

Sheet 3b

We will have a CAP Bank this year to utilize in next years budget if necessary. It is extremely important to have a CAP Bank to use when the State keeps changing those items placed inside and outside CAP. This allows the Mayor and Council to make budgetary decisions instead of having the State dictate our budget.

Sheet 4

Surplus was generated by deferring the school tax again last year. As of the close of 2006, there is \$693,354 available for future deferments. The Borough will likely continue to defer as long as we can as this is an a legal option for municipalities to reduce the amount to be raised by taxation.

Our interest on investments exceeded anticipated amounts by \$51,000 due to the economy.

Sheet 5

Waiting for State figures. We will apply for Extraordinary Aid.

Sheet 7

We are still awaiting word from Helmetta as to whether they will renew the Interlocal Service Agreement. The amount anticipated is through the end of the current contract in April.

Sheet 8

Third Party Billing is based on prior year revenues, it has an offsetting appropriation which includes unexpended 2006 appropriations.

Sheet 8

Fire Prevention – same as above

Sheets 12 – 28

See above comments regarding Appropriations.

Sheets 34 – 36

Due to the fact that we increased the sewer rate last year, we are able to appropriate \$50,000 in the Capital Improvement Fund for sewer line rehabilitation. There will be no rate increase this year.

Council discussed the 17-18% increase that the State mandates be given to the Library, which is far higher than any other department is getting. Council also discussed the deferment of local school taxes as well as the sewer rate that will be remaining the same as last year. An ordinance will be prepared for the next Council meeting for a Sewer Rehabilitation project. Video from prior years will determine the priority list for sewer infiltration repairs. Council member Longo inquired about Stormwater Management matters and whether they are on target for existing deadlines, which Ms. Jawidzik stated they are. Council member Carpenter inquired about the future of the Library. Mayor LaMantia replied that the State of New Jersey needs to be approached about changing their funding formula to help make the library more affordable for the municipalities. Council also discussed the newly passed "Prompt Payment" law and its impact to the Borough. Denise Jawidzik stated that these new laws cost municipalities by increasing workload.

Members of the public wishing to address the Mayor and Borough Council must approach the podium and state their name and address for the record. There is a five (5) minute time limit for all comments and questions.

MOTION TO OPEN TO PUBLIC COMMENT:

PROPOSED BY: Kostbar

SECONDED BY: Carpenter

ALL IN FAVOR: Carpenter, Grimes, Jennings, Kostbar, Longo.

ABSENT: Morales.

None Opposed, None Abstaining.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No members of the public wished to be heard at this time.

MOTION TO CLOSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT:

PROPOSED BY: Jennings

SECONDED BY: Kostbar

ALL IN FAVOR: Carpenter, Grimes, Jennings, Kostbar, Longo.

ABSENT: Morales.

None Opposed, None Abstaining.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

PROPOSED BY: Jennings

SECONDED BY: Kostbar

ALL IN FAVOR: Carpenter, Grimes, Jennings, Kostbar, Longo.

ABSENT: Morales.

None Opposed, None Abstaining.

TIME OF ADJOURNMENT: 6:28 pm