

BUDGET WORK SESSION

November 14, 2022

A special meeting of the St. Clair Borough Council was held to prepare the 2023 Budget on Monday, November 14, 2022. The meeting began at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, St. Clair Municipal Building.

In attendance were council members: Thomas Adamchick, Joann Brennan, Cheryl Dempsey, Thomas Dempsey, Tony Klazas and President William Dempsey. Absent were Judy Stednitz-Julian and Mayor Richard Tomko.

Also present were Borough Secretary Roland Price, Treasurer Carol Sutzko, Police Chief William Dempsey, Acting Sergeant Brad Blanner, Engineer Brian Baldwin, Barbara Artz and Fire Chief Frank Uhrin.

The Police, Fire and Engineering Departments were reviewed in preparation of the 2023 budget. Each line item was reviewed. A copy of the budget, as estimated for each department, is made part of the minutes by reference. Major or large items will be mentioned in the minutes.

Police Chief William Dempsey and Acting Sergeant Brad Blanner were present to discuss 2023-budget.

Chief Dempsey is unable to secure part-time patrolman to man all the shifts. Two patrolmen are on the injured list. To run a 24 hour, 7-day a week police force, the chief needs at least 6-full time officers. To remain competitive the part-time patrolman rate should be increased to \$21.50 PH.

Chief Dempsey stated exams will be administered by the Police Civil Service Commission to create an eligibility list. Two officers should be hired to replace the two officers currently out on medical leave. Council decided to allocate \$270,243 for the patrolman salaries.

Part-time salaries were reduced to \$50,000 due to the hiring of full-time officers.

Minor Equipment \$55,000 for two new police vehicles. The lease would cost \$55,000 for three years.

Fire Chief Frank Uhrin appeared before the Council to complete the Fire Department budget.

Engineer Brian Baldwin reviewed the grants, zoning and project status for 2023. Recreation Department, Capital Construction consists of the Little League Field and the Northward Basketball Courts , 135,000. A copy of the Engineer's analysis is made part of the minutes by reference.

The General Fund Receipts and Administration Departments were reviewed.

Salaries increases were set at 3% for all employees. Union and Police increases would be held in abeyance until the new contracts were negotiated. Both the police and teamster's union contracts expire December 31, 2022.

Tax Department was reviewed.

Borough Buildings were reviewed. Capital construction \$10,000 was allocated for the installation of a heating unit to warm the municipal building sidewalk.

Recreation Department was completed.

Miscellaneous Department:

Employer Benefits Department was completed. Health care costs increased by 13.3%.

The Transfers Debt Departments were completed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:21pm.

Roland Price

Borough Secretary

BUDGET WORK SESSION

November 15, 2022

A special meeting of the St. Clair Borough Council was held to prepare the 2023 Budget on Tuesday, November 15, 2022. The meeting began at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, St. Clair Municipal Building.

In attendance were council members: Thomas Adamchick, Joann Brennan, Cheryl Dempsey, Thomas Dempsey, Judy Stednitz-Julian, Tony Klazas, and President William Dempsey. Absent was Mayor Richard Tomko (recovering from surgery).

Also present were Borough Secretary Roland Price, Treasurer Carol Sutzko, Barbara Artz, Electric Light Superintendent Bob Petrozino, and Street Department Superintendent Kevin Dempsey.

A memo from Mayor Richard Tomko was handed out to each council member and is made part of the minutes by reference.

The Electric Light and Street Departments were reviewed in preparation of the 2023 budget. Each line item was reviewed. A copy of the budget, as estimated for each department, is made part of the minutes by reference. Major or large items will only be mentioned in the minutes.

Electric Light Department:

Electric Light Superintendent Bob Petrozino asked council to, at a minimum, hire a part-time lineman in order to continue to provide service in a timely manner. The CodeRed contract was also discussed whether or not to expand to unlimited minutes for an additional \$1,000. After discussion, the contract will remain the same.

Petrozino estimated the Energy Electric Sales of \$3,700,050.00.

Street Department:

Street Department Superintendent Kevin Dempsey reviewed the Street Department Budget.

Major Equipment New truck with plow. \$50,000

Council reviewed the budget completing line items remaining.

Fire Chief's salary was increased by \$100.00.

Each Assistant Fire Chief received a \$50.00 wage increase.

The School Crossing guards received a .50 hourly wage increase.

Janitor was given a 3% salary increase \$17,150.

Borough Secretary Price requested \$4,000 to update the Borough employee's handbook. The Administration Department, Association Dues and Expenses new total is \$15,000.

Sutzko stated the FEMA payment for the repairs for the Lawton Street Bridge, from the 2018-Flooding event, and the administrative fees total approximately \$244,000. \$165,000 of that amount will be used to pay off the loan for the construction of the Lawton Street Bridge. The General Fund Receipt page, Federal Grants, the line item was increased by 183,000 and the State Grant increased by \$141,000. The Debt Department, Sinking Fund, was increased by \$165,000 reflecting the payment to the Lawton Street Bridge bank note.

Council increased the solid waste collection fees by \$2.00 per customer per month. The General Fund, Sanitation Collection line was increased by \$48,000.

General Fund Receipt page, Electric Department transfers is \$1,547,807.

The budget was short by \$314,778.00. In order to balance the budget, a .02 per KW rate increase in the electric light rates was proposed bringing in an additional \$360,000 in revenue. The various line items were adjusted to reflect the rate increase.

The budget being balanced, the meeting adjourned.

**Roland Price
Borough Secretary**

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

November 16, 2022

A special meeting of the St. Clair Borough Council was held on Wednesday, November 16, 2022. The meeting began at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, St. Clair Municipal Building.

In attendance were council members: Joann Brennan, Cheryl Dempsey, Thomas Dempsey, Judy Stednitz-Julian, Tony Klazas, and President William Dempsey. Absent were Thomas Adamchick and Mayor Richard Tomko (Recovering from Surgery).

Also present included Borough Secretary Roland Price, Treasurer Carol Sutzko and Barbara Artz.

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilwoman Brennan read the council prayer.

Council President Dempsey announced the purpose of the meeting was to tentatively adopt the 2023 Budget, and adopt the East Norwegian Township Police Contract.

A motion was made by T. Dempsey, seconded by Klazas to tentatively adopt the 2023 budget; approved.

A motion made by Klazas, seconded by T. Dempsey to amend the agenda to allow action on the electric light rates; approved.

A motion was made by T. Dempsey, seconded by C. Dempsey to authorize the advertisement of amending Ordinance Number 440 Amending the Electric Light rates for St. Clair, increasing the electric rate by 0.02 per KWH; approved.

A motion was made by C. Dempsey, seconded by Klazas to authorize the adoption of the East Norwegian Township Police Protection Agreement increasing the yearly rate to \$85,000 for 2023 and increasing it by \$1,000 for each year until 2027; approved.

A change to the 2023 council meeting schedule was discussed.

A motion was made by T. Dempsey, seconded by Klazas to adjourn the meeting, approved.

Roland Price, Borough Secretary