

BUDGET WORK SESSION**November 13, 2023**

A special meeting of the St. Clair Borough Council was held to prepare the 2024 Budget on Monday, November 13, 2023, in Council Chambers, St. Clair Municipal Building, 16 S. Third Street, St. Clair. The meeting began at 6:00 p.m.

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

Also, present included Borough Secretary Roland Price, Treasurer Carol Sutzko, Barbara Artz, Engineer Brian Baldwin, Fire Chief Frank Uhrin, Electric Light Superintendent Bob Petrozino and Councilman-elect Norm Diehl.

The Engineering, Fire and Electric Light Departments were reviewed in preparation of the 2024 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.

Engineer Brian Baldwin reviewed the grants, zoning and project status for 2024. The award for the Thwing Street bridge can be as early as November 2023 and STS completion is near. The Zoning Ordinance Amendments were last compiled in 2005, updates should be done annually in January. The Little League can be done in 2024 and Northward Playground and John Siney Park can be pushed back, possibly to 2025.

Fire Chief Frank Uhrin appeared to complete the Fire Department budget. \$1,000 was allocated for fire watches, however there were none in 2023. \$500 each for two pedestal fire alarms for Woodland Terrace. \$2,500 per fire station per year from the Borough and \$1,000 per year towards the electric bill.

Electric Light Superintendent Bob Petrozino recommended at least \$50,000 for five poles to be replaced in Maintenance and Repairs. AMP- Ohio informed the Borough of increasing transfer fees including infrastructure, the costs will be forwarded onto the customers.

The Recreation Department spent \$1,000 for a handicap swing in the Northward Playground. A new chlorine tank is needed for the pool at a cost of \$5,000. \$70,000 allocated towards the Little League Grant.

Employer Benefits Department, an increase in health care cost has risen by 13.3%.

The General Funds Receipts were reviewed. The police equipment will be purchased using the General Fund in the amount of \$80,000 and then repaid through the Police Grant.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

**Roland Price
Borough Secretary**

BUDGET WORK SESSION**November 14, 2023**

A special meeting of the St. Clair Borough Council was held to prepare the 2024 Budget on Monday, November 14, 2023, in Council Chambers, St. Clair Municipal Building, 16 S. Third Street, St. Clair. The meeting began at 6:00 p.m.

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

Also, in attendance Borough Secretary Roland Price, Treasurer Carol Sutzko, Barbara Artz, Police Chief William Dempsey, Sergeant Brad Blanner, Street Superintendent Kevin Dempsey and Councilman-elect Norm Diehl.

The Police, Street and Buildings Departments were reviewed in preparation of the 2024 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 Dempsey and Sergeant Blanner were present to discuss the 2024 budget. The Chief reviewed local pay rates for part-time patrolmen and asked council to consider increasing the wage to \$25.00 to be competitive with other local communities. The volunteer fire police program within the Borough is cost effective compared to hiring outside the Borough. A donation for supplies for the fire police should be considered. Treasurer Carol Sutzko recommended reimbursement rather than a donation. A uniform stipend was increased to \$1,250. Replace the 40 caliber guns with 9 mm for the reasons of cost and availability of ammunition. \$4,900 for six guns with a buy back of \$1,200 resulting in \$3,700. New equipment for the vehicles will be covered under the Police Grant.

Street Superintendent Kevin Dempsey reviewed the Street Department Budget. Minor equipment such as weed whackers will need to be purchased. Purchasing a dump truck should be considered next year before the current truck is out of commission. Street sealing and hot & cold patch is a priority every year at \$25,000. A lift is needed in the garage at \$5,000 to easily maintain the borough vehicles.

Borough buildings were discussed. The Historical Society needs repair and electrical work supplies of \$1,500. Security cameras were recommended by our insurance if the budget allows.

Borough Secretary Roland Price recommended the purchase of computer software from Edmond's to track permits for Zoning and Code Enforcement in the amount of \$10,000. Discussion ensued of a cell phone stipend for employees who need a phone versus purchasing and maintaining cell phones. \$35 per month for employees will be the stipend for cell phones, except for the Street and Electric Light Superintendents. Due to the nature of their jobs, their cell phones will continue to be maintained by the Borough.

The remaining departments were discussed. The budget was calculated by the borough treasurer resulting in a deficit of approximately \$700,000. After deleting items, adjusting, and reducing line items, it was decided to raise the taxes by 3 mills for a total of 8 mills, raise the electric light rate by 0.01 per KWH and raise the residential garbage fees to \$27 per month.

The budget balanced.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

**Roland Price
Borough Secretary**

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**November 15, 2023**

A special meeting of the St. Clair Borough Council was held on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, in Council Chambers, St. Clair Borough Municipal Building, 16 S. Third Street, St. Clair. The meeting began at 6:30 p.m.

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

Also, present included Borough Secretary Roland Price, Treasurer Carol Sutzko, Barbara Artz and Councilman-elect Norm Diehl.

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilwoman Brennan read the council prayer.

Vice President Tom Dempsey announced the purpose of the meeting was to tentatively adopt the 2024 Budget, authorize the advertisement of the 2024, tax ordinance and to increase other revenue generating items

Public Comment – No public comment.

Treasurer Carol Sutzko announced the Borough of St. Clair is in good shape. She reviewed the developed 2024 budget with the changes that were made the night before to balance the budget.

On a motion made by Klazas, seconded by Brennan to tentatively adopt the 2024 budget. A Roll Call was taken. Roll Call – Brennan – YES, C. Dempsey – YES, T. Dempsey – YES, Julian – YES, Klazas – YES. Approved.

On a motion made by Klazas, seconded by C. Dempsey to authorize the advertisement of the Real Estate Ordinance increasing the real estate tax rate to 8 mills, approved.

On a motion by C. Dempsey, seconded by Brennan to authorize the advertisement of amending the Electric Light Ordinance # 441, increasing the electric light rate by 0.01 per KWH, approved.

On a motion by Klazas, seconded by Stednitz-Julian to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 pm, approved.

**Roland Price
Borough Secretary**