

BUDGET MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
HELD AT THE
MUNICIPAL COURT /COUNCIL CHAMBERS
10 LAWLOR DRIVE, OAKLAND, NEW JERSEY
SATURDAY MARCH 28, 2015

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: By Council President Pignatelli at 10:01 am.

ROLL CALL: Council President Pignatelli called the meeting to order and the Clerk called the roll. Present: Councilmembers Coira, Jensen, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Talamini, Visconti. Absent: Mayor Schwager. Also Present: Lisa M. Duncan, Borough Clerk; Richard Kunze, Borough Administrator; Donna Mollineaux, Chief Financial Officer.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG:

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT: Council President Pignatelli announced this meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law duly announced and included in the schedule of regular meetings.

EXCUSE ABSENCE:

On motion of Councilman Jensen, seconded by Councilwoman Coira, the absence of Mayor Schwager be excused.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Coira, Jensen, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Talamini, Visconti.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Councilman Jensen asked the Police Chief to give an overview of the Department and the highlights of the budget including a summary of capital.

Chief Kasper advised that the Police Department consists of the Patrol Division, Detective Bureau, Traffic Bureau and Records Bureau. The Department currently has 24 uniformed officers, 4 full-time civilian dispatchers and 2 civilian administrative staff. The Police Department enforces criminal laws, motor vehicle laws and Borough ordinances within the Borough and are the first responders for all first aid and fire calls as well. The Police Department is involved with the schools with providing programs and dealing with safety and security issues.

The Police Department is currently going through the Accreditation process. It is a 16 month process. All policies had to be rewritten and the facility had to be updated and upgraded. The onsite inspection took place on March 23rd and we were told it was flawless. Chief Kasper gave kudos to the Department and especially Lt. Chris Eldridge. The next step will take place in June when Chief Kasper must go before a panel that makes the determination whether the Department receives accreditation. Councilman Pignatelli commented that this is a big step forward for the Police Department. Chief Kasper responded that it increases the level of professionalism of the Department. Once accredited, there is a yearly review and then every three years there is a re-accreditation. Councilman Pignatelli offered congratulations to the Department.

Chief Kasper advised that the operating budget is essentially the same. There is an increase for technology. There is an additional \$ 1350 for the morpho fingerprinting license. He explained that the Borough got the license plate reader 3 or 4 years ago on a grant. We now have to pay for support and maintenance. There is an increase in uniforms and medical testing because of anticipated retirements. We have to send the new candidates for medical testing and we must outfit them. The guns and ammunition budget is increased because we need to replace the pepper spray. There are some reductions in line items but overall the Police are requesting an additional \$ 7,000 in the operating budget. Chief Kasper advised that there is a cost to increased technology. Mr. Kunze explained that the Police Department presently has a traditional email system but they will be moving to a secure Cloud system. Councilman Pignatelli gave kudos to the Chief for keeping expenses down. Councilman Kulmala explained that the new technology makes it easier on the Department's IT officer and frees him up for other duties. Chief Kasper concurred that it will free the IT officer up to do more police work.

Discussion turned to the Capital Budget. Chief Kasper is requesting new lockers to upgrade the locker room. The original lockers are over 30 years old and are not designed for law enforcement. Councilman Pignatelli asked how they would be installed. Chief Kasper advised the vendor will install the lockers but the DPW will do any other work needed.

Chief Kasper advised that fingerprinting must be done electronically now. The benefit is that they get the results immediately instead of having to wait weeks. The last fingerprint machine was obtained through a grant over five years ago. There is now new technology so the Department is required to get a new machine. Unfortunately there are no grants available now. They won't need to replace this machine for years unless the requirements are changed. Councilman Kulmala asked if the volunteers and coaches still have to go to Paramus for their fingerprints. Chief Kasper responded that the volunteers must go to Paramus. There are only certain things the Police Department can do in-house and that is governed by the State Police.

Chief Kasper explained that it is necessary to purchase a new 911 console. The old one is antiquated and parts are no longer available to repair it. He explained that the Borough is exploring the possibility of outsourcing dispatch. If we decide to outsource, then the 911 console is not needed. Chief Kasper explained he is requesting money for Phase 3 of the security camera project. Councilman Pignatelli asked how long security tapes are kept. Chief Kasper responded they are kept for 30 days unless there is an issue and then they can be kept longer. Councilman Jensen asked about vehicle purchases. Chief Kasper responded that vehicles are charged to the operating budget. Councilman Jensen asked if there is a requirement for body cameras. Chief Kasper responded there is no mandate yet. These security cameras are for the building.

Councilman Jensen thanked Chief Kasper.

OPENED FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

On motion of Councilman Jensen, seconded by Councilman Visconti, this portion of the meeting be opened for public discussion.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Coira, Jensen, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Talamini, Visconti.

No comments made.

CLOSED FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

On motion of Councilman Jensen, seconded by Councilwoman Coira, this portion of the meeting be closed to public discussion.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Coira, Jensen, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Talamini, Visconti.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

On motion of Councilman Jensen, seconded by Councilwoman Coira, the meeting be adjourned at 10:22 am.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Coira, Jensen, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Talamini, Visconti.

Lisa M. Duncan, Borough Clerk
April 22, 2015

Mayor Linda H. Schwager

Date Approved