

BOROUGH OF GREENCASTLE
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
December 9, 2019
60 N. Washington Street

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Ben Thomas Jr., Councilmembers: Frank Webster Jr., Larry Faight, Joel Amsley, H. Duane Kinzer, and Matthew Smith. Also present was Borough Manager Lorraine Hohl and HR/Finance Manager Emilee Little. Council President Steve Miller and Councilman Wade Burkholder participated via phone.

Vice President Faight called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

An invocation was given by Councilman Frank Webster.

Vice President Faight led the Council, staff, and audience in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

Vice President Faight noted that the meeting was being recorded by staff.

Presentations by Elected Officials

Mayor's Presentation

Mayor Thomas discussed the 2020 real estate tax rates and stated that for every dollar in taxes paid by Borough residents, the Borough of Greencastle receives 10 cents.

Manager's Presentation

Hohl gave an overview of the 2020 proposed budgets stating that public comments and department priorities were collectively taken into consideration in the preparation of these budgets. Hohl highlighted increased staffing, sewer system improvements, and IT upgrades as significant 2020 budget expenses. Additionally the stormwater fund and associated expenditures were specifically addressed.

Overall Budget Projections

Hohl stated with the tax rate remaining at 15mils, the general fund total revenue is projected to be \$1,789,960.00 and expenditures are estimated to be \$1,813,970.16. The 2020 proposed budget is expected to operate at a deficit of approximately \$24,000 funded by the cash fund balance.

Opportunity to be Heard

Vice President Faight invited Borough citizens to address Council with specific issues of concern, reminding them of the public comment policy.

Joe Krouse of 41 Edward Drive apologized to Vice President Faight for his previous comments.

Eddie Baxter of 117 Carowinds Drive commended council. Mr. Baxter brought up increases to specific line items including travel, small tools, wellness program expenses, and sewer improvements. Mr. Baxter also requested that we put the proposed budget online for the public to view and commented on different retirement options specifically an IRA vs a pension plan.

Mayor Thomas commented that several Administrative & Finance budget meetings were held and there was no public involvement at those meetings. Mayor Thomas ensured that line items were evaluated thoroughly and as a result there was no millage rate increase for 2020.

Charlie Eckstine of Williamson Avenue commented on the pension plan stating that the 0.5% increase could be a real burden to the Borough.

Tim Fetterhoff of 180 Baumgardner Drive discussed alternative retirement options, including a 401K or a contribution type plan rather than a pension plan, being beneficial to the Borough.

Brian Harbaugh of JCH Associates, questioned health insurance costs specifically contributions and plan options.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Administration & Finance:

1. On a Webster/Amsley motion the Council voted 6-1 (Kinzer opposed) to adopt the 2020 Municipal Budget as advertised and approve the 2020 tax resolution setting the millage rate at 15 mils.

2. Personnel:

1. Nothing to report.

3. Public Safety:

1. Nothing to report.

4. Public Facilities:

1. Nothing to report.

5. Community Development:

1. Public meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at 11:00 am.

6. Police Radios:

On a Faight/Webster motion the Council voted unanimously to approve the negotiation of a contract to occur in 2019 for the approved 2020 budget expense of new police radios.

7. Final Comments:

Kinzer: Suggested the Borough draft a presentation to Antrim Township requesting reimbursement for the Borough of Greencastle police activity required in the Township.

Mayor: Reiterated the importance of strategic planning.

Miller: "A lot of work went into this budget." Miller reminded citizens that the Borough will be reevaluating the retirement plan in 2020. Thanked Frank for his service.

Faight: Thank you Frank, Merry Christmas everyone.

On a Webster/Faight motion the Council unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lorraine K. Hohl
Borough Manager