



**CITY OF LAMBERTVILLE
SPECIAL SESSION
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 27, 2018, 6:30 P.M.
PHILLIP L. PITTORE JUSTICE CENTER
25 SOUTH UNION STREET
MINUTES**

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT.

Mayor DelVecchio called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. noting that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act with the posting of the meeting agenda on the city's website and bulletin board at City Hall, and notices were emailed to the Times and Democrat, various individuals on the list serve and department heads.

ROLL CALL.

The City Clerk called the roll as follows:

Present: Councilwoman Asaro, Councilman Sanders, Council President Stegman and Mayor DelVecchio.

Absent: Councilwoman Warner.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Kyle Czerniak, the newly sworn Police Officer, led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE.

The City Clerk led the public in a moment of silence in honor of those serving in the United States Armed Forces.

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 04-2018: A CAP Bank Ordinance.

Mayor DelVecchio read the ordinance into the record by title. He informed the members of the public present that City is permitted to raise taxes by 2% over the 2017 final budget when the difference is not appropriated and retain it as an exception to the final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 04-2018

CALENDAR YEAR 2017

ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK

(N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A:4-45.1 et.seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said final budget appropriations

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to 0.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations; and,

WHEREAS, a municipality may, by ordinance, bank the difference between its final budget appropriations and the 3.5% increase authorized by this ordinance when said difference is not appropriated as part of the final budget; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Lambertville City, County of Hunterdon, hereby determines that this difference in the amount of \$103,116.78 that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to the final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, that any amount authorized herein above that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION: February 27, 2018

SECOND READING AND ADOPTION: March 29, 2018

Mayor DelVecchio asked for a motion to introduce on first reading Ordinance Number 04-2018. Council President Stegman made a motion to introduced Ordinance Number 04-2018 on first reading. Councilwoman Asaro seconded the motion. An affirmative roll call vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor DelVecchio informed the members of the public present that the public hearing is scheduled for March 29, 2018.

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2018 BUDGET.

Mayor DelVecchio reviewed the line items of the 2018 Budget with the members of the public present. He gave the following overview:

REVENUE

- I. Costs to Taxpayers - \$1,155.13. This is an increase of \$17.19 for the year or \$1.43 per month.
 - A. Based on an average home value of \$377,494 - an increase of 1.51% from 2017.
 - B. Based on a tax rate of .306 - the same as 2017.
 - C. Based on Assessed Value of 771,114,982 - an increase of 1.47% from 2017.

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Mayor DeVecchio commented that in 2017, the city's bond rating by Standards and Poor was upgraded City to AA citing: 1. Strong budgetary performance; 2. Very strong budgetary flexibility; 3. Very strong liquidity; and 4. Strong institutional framework.

II. Surplus - 435,454 which is 8.36% of the budget compared with 9.04% for 2017. 2018 Surplus is 6.47% less than 2017.

A. Surplus is calculated at year's end. We have averaged 1,023,300 in Surplus for the last 4 years.

B. After appropriation, 2018 will have 552,378 in Surplus account compared with 531,332 in 2017.

C. At the end of this calendar year, we will regenerate Surplus to the levels of the previous 4 years.

III. Local revenue includes: ABC Licenses; Licenses; Fees & Permits; Court; Interest on Taxes; Meters; Construction & USFA. 2018 number is 915,746 which are 17.59% of budget compared with 17.25% in 2017. 2018 number is 1.59% less than realized in 2017.

Councilman Sanders asked what line items are anticipated to increase in anticipated revenue for 2018. Mayor DeVecchio commented that he feels this will, overall, be significantly more because of the Zoning Officer/Fire Official's increased time, increase in road jobs, and the increase in ticket fees for overdue parking meters. Councilman Sanders commented that parking meter revenue is down; however, we have seen a bump in the use of ParkMobile.

IV. State Aid is flat at 415,070. It is 7.97% of budget compared with 8.01% in 2017.

V. PILOT's include: Eco no Tech; South Hunterdon Apartments and Community Investment Strategies. 2018 number is 103,568 which is 1.99% of budget compared with 1.84% in 2017. The PILOT's are 5.82% more than realized in 2017.

A. Econo Tech has new agreement with the City and 40,182 reflect that.

VI. Additional revenue is: Cable TV; Reserve for Debt Service; Reserve for Open Space; Hotel Tax; Capital Fund Balance; LMUA; Library and Reserve for Sale of Assets. 2018 number is 559,589 which is 10.75% of budget compared with 9.48% in 2017. 2018 is an 8.75% increase from 2017 actual.

A. Cable TV - 23,133 is an actual number that we have already received.

B. Reserve for Debt Service is 240,000 up from 172,500. After appropriation, there is 1,016,620 in account compared to 460,457 in 2017.

C. Reserve for Sale of Assets is only non-recurring revenue in budget at 9,831. It is .19% of budget.

VII. Delinquent Taxes - 129,467 or 2.49% of budget compared to 3.68% in 2017. It is 25.97% less than realized in 2017 due to our collection rate of 99.09%.

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Council President Stegman asked what the old tax collection rate was from 2014. Mayor DelVecchio commented that it was around 97%. Council President Stegman commented that this is proof that you can do more with less.

VIII. Taxes - 2,357,130 - an increase of 30,218 from 2017 or 1.30%. It is 45.26% of budget compared to 45.18% in 2017.

EXPENSES

I. Salaries - 1,697,337. 2% increase plus PBA contract. 32.59% of budget compared to 33.24% in 2017. .98% increase from 2017 actual.

A. Court S&W - 76,002 - 2% for everyone plus 1,200 for back up judge.

B. Fire Inspector S&W - 23,250 - D'Amore doubled his time in Lambertville.

Councilman Sanders asked about the salaries in the collective bargaining agreement. Mayor DelVecchio said it was 4% for the higher ups and the bottom 4 employees didn't receive a pay raise.

Mayor DelVecchio also commented that the Zoning Officer/Fire Official is working two days a week instead of one day.

II. Benefits include: Health Benefits; PERS; Social Security & PFRS. 2018 number is 1,007,865 which is 19.35% of budget compared to 19.82% in 2017. 2018 is a 1.43% increase from 2017 actual.

III. Professionals include: Auditor; City Attorney; Prosecutor & Public Defender. 2018 is 107,860 which is 2.07% of budget compared to 2.26% in 2017. 2018 is .14% less than 2017.

IV. Library - 262,713 is set by statute. 5.04% of budget which is the same as 2017. Library is both revenue and an expense.

V. Utilities include: Fuel Oil; Gasoline; Telephone; Diesel Fuel; Electricity; Sewerage; Water & Natural Gas. 2018 number is 99,538 which is 1.91% of budget compared to 1.67% in 2017. 2018 is 4, 54% more than 2017 actual.

A. Fuel Oil; Gasoline and Diesel Fuel were all increased by 8.50%.

VI. OE - Other Expenses - 571,611 which is 10.98% of budget compared to 11.17 in 2017. 2018 is 1.10% more than 2017 actual.

A. Clerk OE - 28,500 - 2017 minus QScend, Legal and Horowitz. Additions were elections, coded systems, Edmunds & Keziah Tuft.

B. Finance OE - 13,000 - 2017 plus Edmunds.

C. Dog Regulation OE - 100 - St Hubert's is paid out of Animal Control Fund.

VII. Capital/Debt is 1,090,463. 2018 is 20.94% of budget compared to 20.14% in 2017. 2018 is 5.17% more than 2017 actual. 2018 increase due to the following: the City plans to issue bonds in September; a Green Acres 2% loan payment & a capital receivable payment.

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VIII. Reserve for Uncollected Taxes is flat at 345,000. 6.63% of budget compared to 6.70% in 2017.

Benefits, Library, Debt & Reserve for Taxes is 51.96% of budget compared to 51.69% in 2017.

Mayor DelVecchio asked for any questions or comments from the public. There being no comments from the public, Mayor DelVecchio asked for a motion to introduce the 2018 Budget.

Resolution Number 53-2018

A Resolution to Introduce the 2018 Calendar Year Budget

WHEREAS, the City of Lambertville introduced the budget at the special session held Tuesday, February 27, 2018 for the purpose of introducing the 2018 CAP Bank Ordinance and the 2018 Calendar Year Budget, and

WHEREAS, the City Clerk noticed the papers of the special session on Thursday, February 23, 2018 and

WHEREAS, the following is a list of Mayor and Council Members with their respective term expiration dates: David M. DelVecchio – Mayor, Term Ends 12-31-2018, Beth Asaro – Councilwoman, Term Ends 12-31-2020, Wardell Sanders – Councilman, Term Ends 12-31-2019, Steven M. Stegman – Council President, Term Ends 12-31-2019, Elaine Warner – Councilwoman, Term Ends 12-31-2020, and

WHEREAS, Cynthia L. Ege, Certificate Number C-1629 is the Registered Municipal Clerk, Christie Ehret, Certificate Number N-0738 is the Chief Financial Officer of the City of Lambertville, Cynthia McBride is the Certified Tax Collector, Certificate Number T1142, and Robert B. Cagnassola is the Registered Municipal Accountant, Certificate Number 50 and Phillip J. Faherty, III is the Municipal Attorney, and

WHEREAS, the publication of the summary of the 2017 Budget will be placed in the legal section of the March 5, 2018 edition of the Times, and

WHEREAS, the public hearing on the final adoption of the budget will be held on March 29, and

WHEREAS, copies of this resolution along with three certified copies of the 2018 budget and the required attachments will be forwarded to the Director, Division of Local Government Services on Wednesday, February 28, 2018, and

WHEREAS, a full copy of the introduced budget will be posted to the City's website at www.lambertvillenj.org, a copy will be sent to the Free and Public Library, and a copy will be made available for public inspection at City Hall during the hours from 9 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by Mayor and Council of the City of Lambertville, in the County of Hunterdon, in the State of New Jersey, that the 2018 Calendar Year is hereby introduced with a motion made by XXX and seconded by CCC.

Adopted: February 27, 2018

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Councilman Sanders made a motion to introduce the 2018 Budget. Councilwoman Asaro seconded the motion. An affirmative Roll Call vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor DelVecchio informed the members of the public present that the public hearing on the 2018 budget will be held on Thursday, March 29, 2018.

CORRESPONDENCE – none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

DOG & CAT LICENSES are due by February 28, 2018 to avoid the \$25 late fee.

LANDLORD REGISTRATIONS are due by April 1, 2018 to avoid the \$50 late fee.

PARKING PERMITS for metered parking expired on December 31, 2017. The fee is \$45 and you must bring your driver's license and registration for the application.

JUSTICE CENTER PARKING: Currently space numbers 16, 18 and 22 are available for lease at the Justice Center. The fee is \$55 per month. Call Shelley at 609-397-0110 for additional information.

PUBLICPARTICIPATION/PETITION OF CITIZENS AND PUBLIC DISCUSSION.

Mayor DelVecchio announced that he had two things to announce and they are as follows:

1: The City received notice of the award of a grant from the State of New Jersey DOT in the amount of \$175,000.00 for George Street between Jefferson and York Streets, and Coryell Street between Main and Franklin Streets.

Discussion ensued. Council President Stegman expressed concern for the amount of runoff on Cottage Hill during a down pour and he would like to see this addressed. He also suggested that we put in for Church Street between Main and Franklin Streets. Discussion ensued about making Church Street one way.

2: COAH hearing is tomorrow in Somerville, NJ.

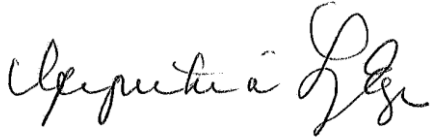
3: Sustainable Jersey application is underway. We have a good crew working on the Silver Star. The Mayor met with them about energy and recycling gold star and I think we are going to be able to do both.

ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m. with a motion made by Council President Stegman and seconded by Councilwoman Asaro. An affirmative voice call vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

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Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia L. Ege, CMR, RMC, City Clerk



The February 27, 2018 special session minutes were approved at the regularly scheduled session of the Governing Body held on March 20, 2018.