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WORKSHOP MEETING
MARCH 6, 2018
7:00 P.M.
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The Workshop Meeting of the Borough of Butler Mayor and Council was opened by Mayor Alviene who indicated that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act having been duly advertised and posted in Borough Hall.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Alviene, Councilman Fox, Councilman Meier, Councilman Travers and Council President Verdonik

ALSO PRESENT: J. Lampmann, Borough Administrator, J. Kozimor, Chief Financial Officer, R. Oostdyk, Borough Attorney and M. O’Keefe, Borough Clerk

Motion to Excuse the absence of Councilmen Calvi and Regis:

Moved: Fox

Second: Travers

All in favor.

Request from Butler Methodist Church for the use of Butler Park for the Cross Walk on March 30 and the Easter Sunrise Service on April 1.

Ms. O’Keefe explained that she had received a request regarding usage of the park on both occasions, this a yearly occurrence and they are good neighbors. The Mayor and Borough Council authorized the usage.

Discussion – Towing Rates – Mr. Malanga of Malanga’s Towing explained what and why the changes are needed, with the advent of the Predatory Towing Act if an item is not listed as part of the Municipal Code no charges may be assessed for any size vehicle other than a car. Additionally, there are eight cases pending, due to items not being listed in the local code, and the legal costs to the Towing Company have reached upwards of \$75,000. These items are included in the State of New Jersey towing fees and it would bring the Towing section of the Municipal code up to date. Mayor Alviene asked how was this dealt with previously, Mr. Malanga explained that he had charged in the past, however, it needs to be included in the code at this time. Currently in New Jersey the minimum insurance required is \$5,000 for some of the larger vehicles, as a result the various towing companies are being stuck with the vehicle along with the bill. If additional charges are incurred the tower must pay the charges with other vendors who were required to be used as part of the cleanup. Mr. Oostdyk polled the Mayor and Council a draft will be prepared and forwarded to Mr. Malanga for review. If the ordinance is acceptable by all parties then it will be introduced at the March Regular Council meeting.

Discussion – Capital Budget, Additional Funding Requests for the Fire Department and Library –

Mr. Kozimor noted that the 2018 Budget would see an increase of \$58.88 on the average assessed home, this is not including any increases from the Board of Education budget. Mayor Alviene noted that the library needs additional funding; the library received an endowment years ago, the terms of the endowment require that it be used for specific purposes. Council President Verdonik feels that perhaps they could use a portion of their endowment for expenses and the Borough could provide additional funding, and then they would need to find the additional funding in their budget. Councilman Fox noted that there might be some activities that need to be reviewed, as they do not attract as many people as others. The consensus of the Mayor and Council is that with the increase in their budget from the required funding, a portion from the endowment and an additional \$10,000 allocation from the Borough should cover this year’s shortfall.

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Discussion continued with the General Capital budget for 2018, several items while requested were not included in this budget, as they will be revisited in 2019. Council President Verdonik explained that the Water Utility and Electric Utility capital plans are self-funded by the utilities, thus no additional cost to the taxpayers.

The Mayor and Council concurred that the capital budget ordinances will be introduced at the April 17, 2018 meeting with adoption at the May 15, 2018 meeting.

OPEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Mayor Alviene opened the meeting to the public at this time.

Bob Norman, 31 Cascade Way had two questions one regarding the ordinance for underage drinking definitions as far as who can give permission for a minor to consume alcoholic beverages. It was also explained that the only permission that could be granted would be for the minor family member on the family premise. Mr. Norman also asked about an accident that occurred on February 28, 2018 on Route 23, involving a truck and a car carrier, he stated that the car carrier backed out onto Route 23 and he would like this practice to stop as he feels it is unsafe. Mayor Alviene explained that this is currently at the Morris County Prosecutor's office and no one comments can be made regarding it.

Ken Montanye, Co-Chair of the Butler Museum is present this evening with other members of the Butler Museum in support of the request for funding for the air conditioning at the Museum. The members requested that the Mayor and Council visit the Museum as the displays are constantly changing and other museums will be emulating how the Butler Museum is run.

Seeing no one else come forward to speak a motion was made to close the public portion of the meeting.

Moved: Fox
All in favor.

Second: Verdonik

Motion to adjourn
Moved: Verdonik
All in favor.

Second: Verdonik

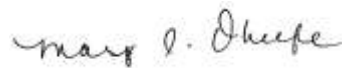
ADJOURNMENT: 8:24 p.m.

Adopted: May 15, 2018



Robert W. Alviene, Mayor

Attest:



Mary A. O'Keefe, RMC
Municipal Clerk
Dated: May 15, 2018