

Mount Joy Borough Council
Special Budget Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2024

The Mount Joy Borough Council held a Special Budget Meeting on November 12, 2024.

Council President Hall called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Invocation was given by Council President Hall, followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call - Present were Councilors Crider, Eichler, Ginder, Greineder, Hall, Haigh, Kark, and Youngerman. Councilor Fahndrich was absent. Also present were Police Chief, Robert Goshen, Borough Manager, Mark Pugliese; Assistant Borough Manager, Jill Frey; Public Works Director, Dennis Nissley; Codes & Zoning Officer, Brett Hamm; and Community and Economic Development Coordinator, Rachel Stebbins. Mayor Bradley was present for a brief period of time. It should be noted that the video conferencing/audio/visual equipment was not functioning properly preventing Mayor Bradley remote access to the meeting after his brief attendance.

Greineder gave a **MOTION**, with a second by Kark, to approve the agenda. Kark gave a **MOTION**, with a second by Youngerman, to amend the MOTION to add item 6A, to discuss 101 W. Main St. *Motion carries unanimously.* Vote to approve the original MOTION as amended. *Motion carries unanimously.*

Girl Scout troop No. 743, along with troop leaders, Erica Rambish and Jess, came into attendance at the beginning of the Council meeting to observe and earn their Democracy badge. Mayor Bradley introduced the troop and Rambish gave an overview, explaining the troop is a combination of Daisies and Brownies and spans in age from kindergarten to 2nd Grade.

Public Input Period

Girl Scout member, Parker, asked how much money we spend on the parks. Hall said approximately \$250,000. He asked what she would like to see more of in the parks. She said slides.

Girl Scout member, Ruby, asked how the government makes the States on the flags. Hall said that each State has something special about it and then each State has the flag made with something special on it.

Girl Scout member, Amelia, asked how they make splash pads. Hall said they come up with the ideas and then they have to build the pipes so the water can come through.

Girl Scout member, Stella, asked how they get the animals away when they build something. Hall said that animals are very smart and know how to move away. He said if they do not move, we help them move away safely.

Girl Scout member, Willow, asked to know more about the Toys for Tots program. The Chief briefly explained.

Discussion on 101 W. Main St.

Hamm explained that 2-3 weeks ago, Paul Paulsen, our rental inspector, was required to do a rental inspection on the property due to a new tenant moving in. He said Paulsen had concerns for the condition of the building and called in a structural engineer, Jack McSherry, to inspect the building. It was determined that the building was unsafe. Hamm explained some of the deteriorating conditions and then gave some solutions. Mayor Bradley said that the people were removed from the property, so they are safe, but asked what this means for the roadway. Hamm said that we are looking into this now and seeking guidance from engineers and solicitors to find the next step.

2025 Budget Discussion and or Motions

Hall suggested going over the other funds first and then General Fund.

Pugliese reviewed the Capital Fund 2025 proposed budget and explained the general structure of the Fund, pointing out the mini-funds within that show allocated balances within each entity of the Borough such as Police, Parks, Traffic Control, etc.

Hall said he is not convinced on the \$16,000 proposed to spend for the AI tool. Pugliese stated that we could have better grant acceptance with data to back up our grant requests. Hall said he would be a bit less skeptical if we had better plans on exactly what we were going to do with the AI tool.

With a **MOTION** by Haigh, and a second by Ginder, approval was given for the proposed 2025 Capital Fund budget. *Motion carries unanimously.*

Pugliese reviewed the Refuse Fund 2025 proposed budget. He mentioned and explained line item 04.492.010 (Transfer to General Fund), and that this line item is used to cover costs in General Fund relating to Refuse and Refuse collection and that we audit this periodically.

Hall suggested changing line item 04.492.010 from \$250,000 to \$300,000.

On a **MOTION** by Haigh, and a second by Greineder, approval was given to change line item 04.492.010 (Transfer to General Fund) from \$250,000 to \$300,000. *Motion carries unanimously.*

Hall said that if we change 04.301.001 (Fund Balance) to \$149,818, the budget will be balanced. Council agreed to the change.

On a **MOTION** by Greineder, and a second by Ginder, approval was given for the proposed 2025 Refuse Fund budget. *Motion carries unanimously.*

Pugliese reviewed the Highway Aid Fund 2025 proposed budget. He stated that the State funds have decreased and that we will continue to use each year's allocation for road projects.

On a **MOTION** by Greineder, and a second by Ginder, approval was given for the proposed 2025 Highway Aid Fund budget. *Motion carries unanimously.*

The Administration & Finance Committee requested to and went into executive session at 7:42am. They returned at 7:47pm.

Greineder asked about line item 01.451.100(Florin Station) and if the building is going to the Mount Joy Borough Authority. Pugliese said he does not know when this is going to happen and that the agreement is with the Authority's Solicitor.

On a **MOTION** by Greineder, and a second by Ginder, approval was given to reduce line item 01.451.100 (Florin Station) from \$5,500 to \$1,000. *Motion carries unanimously.*

Greineder asked about line item 01.411.500 (Contribution to Fire Department Mount Joy) and if the amount is adequate. Hamm said that the last time he heard the FDMJ was still working on their budget for 2025 and that the shortfall was somewhere around \$80,000. Hall texted the Treasurer of the FDMJ and said that the current shortfall is \$18,000.

On a **MOTION** by Greineder, and a second by Ginder, approval was given to change line item 01.411.500 (Contribution to Fire Department Mount Joy) from \$75,000 to \$93,000.

Youngerman said that he would rather see the money go to the firefighters as a stipend. He said that there are other Municipalities that contribute and that they should contribute. He said the Mount Joy Borough should not have to cover the entire shortfall and would like to see other Municipalities cover as well. Hall said that he agrees with Councilor Youngerman and that others should also take the shortfall.

Haigh asked what percentage of calls for FDMJ are for Mount Joy Borough. Hamm said that Mount Joy Borough and Rapho Township have the two largest call volumes and that say 90% of all calls are between the two Municipalities, so 45% would be Mount Joy Borough.

Youngerman said that there was talk about an allocation formula across the population, number of calls and the amount of property value. He said he thought that was done. Hall said that it was proposed at one time, but it takes all four Municipalities to agree to it. Hall gave real budget contribution numbers for Mount Joy Borough, Mount Joy Township, Rapho Township and East Donegal Township.

Hall requested a roll call vote on the original MOTION. Councilors Crider, Eichler, Ginder, Greineder, and Haigh voting YES. Councilors Kark and Youngerman voting NO. Council President Hall abstaining. *Motion carries 5 to 2.*

Greineder asked about line item 01.410.314 (PD Legal Fees) and if that is what we need for next year. Hall said yes and that there are contract negotiations coming in 2025.

Youngerman suggested increasing the employee contribution for health care by \$10 per pay for family and \$5 per pay for single. In quickly trying to estimate, the savings would be approximately \$3,900 for the year. Hall said that another line item is reduced when changing the employee health care contribution. Frey said it is line item 01.487.156 (Hospitalization Major Medical). Crider said that a \$10 increase is not too much to ask for and would rather see it come in small increases instead of one large increase.

On a **MOTION** by Youngerman, and a second by Kark, approval was given to reduce line item 01.487.156 (Hospitalization Major Medical) by \$3,900 with a note stating that reduction will be due to increasing the employee contribution for health care cost. Councilors Crider, Eichler, Ginder, Greineder, and Youngerman voting YES. Councilors Haigh and Hall voting NO. *Motion carries 6 to 2.*

Haigh asked about line item 01.409.372 (Rail Enhancements Maintenance and Repairs) and what this involves. Pugliese said that it is the snow removal around the train station.

On a **MOTION** by Haigh, and a second by Youngerman, approval was given to reduce line item 01.409.372 (Rail Enhancements Maintenance and Repairs) from \$2,500 to \$1,500. *Motion carries unanimously.*

On a **MOTION** by Eichler, and a second by Crider, approval was given to increase line item 01.410.183 (PD Overtime Wages) from \$70,000 to \$80,000.

Kark asked if \$80,000 is sufficient and if there is a reason for the \$85,000 average each year. Chief said that he likes to increase in increments and that he wants to steer away from part-time Officers. Kark asked why it went up in 2024. Chief said due to injuries and Officers being out.

Vote on the main MOTION. *Motion carries unanimously.*

Haigh asked about line item 01.410.321 (PD Phone Communication Expense) and why the budget went from \$15,000 in 2024 to \$18,000 in 2025. Chief said it was the cost of faster routers that the department needed.

On a **MOTION** by Greineder, and a second by Ginder, approval was given to establish the milage rate to 4.75 for 2025. Hall said the MOTION is out of order and that we need an Ordinance to increase the milage rate. He said we need to increase the tax revenue line item instead. *Motion failed because it was out of order.*

Haigh stated that we have \$650,000 in the budget for the new Municipal complex. He asked what we do if the bids come in lower and we do not need the full amount of debt service we have budgeted. Hall said we can still amend the budget. He said if we are decreasing the dollar amount down, we can, but if we are increasing the dollar amount up by a significant amount, we cannot.

On a **MOTION** by Greineder, and a second by Haigh, approval was given to increase line item 01.301.100 (Real Estate Taxes-Current Year) by \$164,446, up to \$2,761,501. *Motion carries unanimously.*

On a **MOTION** by Greineder, and a second by Haigh, approval was given to reduce line item 01.301.001 (Transfer from Fund Balance) by \$1,898, down to \$505,305. *Motion carries unanimously.*

On a **MOTION** by Greineder, and a second by Ginder, approval was given for the proposed 2025 General Fund.

Youngerman stated that with \$6,069,000 in expenses for 2025, under Borough policy, we need to keep 25%, or \$1,517,000 in General Fund balance. He said we are getting close to that once the \$500,000 is used for fund balance. He said that if he votes NO, it is because of this one item.

Haigh said that he thinks the amount budgeted for EIT for 2025 is going to be higher than what we budgeted.

Hall thanked all of staff for their hard work and thanked Council for engaging and called for a vote on the main MOTION. *Motion carries unanimously.*

On a **MOTION** by Greineder, and a second by Haigh, approval was given to advertise all funds proposed for 2025. *Motion carries unanimously.*

On a **MOTION** by Greineder, and a second by Ginder, approval was given to draft an Ordinance for the increased milage rate and advertise for public review. *Motion carries unanimously.*

On a **MOTION** by Greineder, and a second by Kark, approval was given for the 2025 budgets be added to the December 2, 2024, Council meeting for action items. *Motion carries unanimously.*

Public Input Period

No Public Input Period.

Any Other Matter Proper to Come Before the Council

Eichler announced that Friday, November 15, 2024, from 5-9pm, there will be a fundraiser at Joy's Tavern for the Donegal Fish and Game Commission.

Haigh stated that the bid opening for the new Municipal complex is Thursday, November 12, 2024 at 2pm.

On a **MOTION** by Greineder, and a second by Ginder, meeting was adjourned at 9:08pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mark G. Pugliese I
Borough Manager