

**Mount Joy Borough Council Special
Budget Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2022**

The Mount Joy Borough Council held a Special Budget Meeting on November 3, 2022.

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

Invocation was given by Mayor Bradley, followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call - Present were Councilors Castaldi, Eichler, Fahndrich, Hall, Haigh, Roering, Ruschke, Youngerman, and Mayor Bradley. Councilor Ginder was absent. Also present were Borough Manager, Mark Pugliese, via Zoom; Assistant Borough Manager, Jill Frey; Public Works Director, Dennis Nissley; and Chief Goshen.

On a **MOTION** by Roering, and a second by Youngerman, approval was given to modify the draft agenda to include item 4a, a motion to adopt the agenda. *Motion carries unanimously.*

Public Input Period

Dale Murray, 120 Farmington Way, spoke concerning the structure of the spreadsheet for the budget. He feels, and has been asking, to allocate benefits per department.

2023 General Fund Budget Discussion

Pugliese gave a presentation of the 2023 Draft Budget. He reviewed the budget binders given to Council with the breakdown of each line item of the budget. He also reviewed the fund balances and the 5-year plan.

Youngerman recommended changing line item 01.341.001 (PLIGIT General Fund Interest Earnings) to \$70,000.00. Council agreed and change was made.

Haigh spoke of salaries of upper and middle management and strongly encouraged they be increased. He recommended the Borough Manager salary be set at \$93,000. Hall stated that if there is a general consensus, it can be changed. Mayor Bradley stated that the amount of time in a position needs to be considered. Haigh stated that the Manager is paid based on performance, not time. Council agreed on Managers salary set at \$92,000.00. Haigh stated the salaries of the Assistant Borough Manager and Public Works Director should also be discussed. Fahndrich said that she would like to hear the thoughts on those positions but is not ready to change anything until the rest of the budget has been gone through. Haigh said we can come back to salaries later.

Eichler recommended line item 01.400.300 (General Expense) be lowered to \$6,000 due to the trend. Council agreed and change was made.

Chief Goshen recommended eliminating line item 01.410.470 (Public Safety – Building Maintenance & Repair) and merging it into 01.409.370 (Municipal Building – Maintenance & Repair). There is no need to have two line items for the building's maintenance & repair. Council agreed and change was made.

Mayor Bradley asked about line item 01.409.372 (Rail Enhancements Maintenance & Repair). He said we budget high and do not use it. Pugliese stated that there is some movement on the PennDOT maintenance agreement, but it has not been finalized yet. Hall said that we have cut it back and we can cut it back more, but eventually the construction of the building will become maintenance. Mayor Bradley said that if we follow trend lines, we should reduce the line item to \$1,000. Majority of Council feels to keep it at \$2,000. Fahndrich and Castaldi suggested \$1,500.

Mayor Bradley asked why Fire Department Mount Joy's (FDMJ) budget request went through

Administration and Finance Committee instead of Public Safety Committee. Pugliese stated that it was due to the timing of when the request was received. Mayor Bradley asked why they are asking for an increase. Matt Kratz, President FDMJ, was present and reviewed a letter explaining reasons for the request; the cost of quality fire protection has increased and the continued development in the area and growing amount of traffic causes an increase in the need for services. He said that fuel costs and equipment costs are the two main drives.

Youngerman asked if Council wants to put money aside for economic development. Mayor Bradley asked who the money would be given to. He said that there is no organization asking for a contribution from the Borough and we are talking of giving when we have a budget with a shortfall. Haigh said the Borough has an obligation to generate revenue, which happens through business, which comes through economic development. Mayor Bradley said these conversations should have happened back in August long before budget season.

Hall noted that there is nothing in line item 01.492.100 (Transfer to Capital) and asked if Council wants to put something there now or wait until the next budget meeting when there are more solid numbers. Council decided to wait until there are more solid numbers.

Any Other Matter Proper to Come Before the Council

Hall offered a second public input. No public input was given.

On a **MOTION** by Eichler, and a second by Roering, meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mark G. Pugliese I
Borough Manager