



**Minutes**

**Council Chambers**

**March 7, 2019**

**Budget Meeting**

**818 Teaneck Road**

**7:00 PM**

**Teaneck, New Jersey 07666**

**I.**

THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ADJOURN THIS MEETING  
NO LATER THAN 11:00 PM  
TOWNSHIP BUDGET REVIEW AGENDA  
LEGAL OPENING & PUBLIC INPUT - 7:00 PM  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. CALL TO ORDER**

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
James Dunleavy	Councilman	Present	
Gervonn Romney Rice	Councilwoman	Present	
Keith Kaplan	Councilman	Present	
Henry J. Pruitt	Councilman	Late	
Mark J. Schwartz	Deputy Mayor	Absent	
Elie Y. Katz	Deputy Mayor	Late	
Mohammed Hameeduddin	Mayor	Present	
Dean Kazinci	Interim Township Manager	Present	
John L. Shahdanian	Township Attorney	Late	
Issa Abbasi	Township Clerk	Present	
Omar Stovall	Keyboarding Clerk1	Present	

**IV. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by Resolution No. 27-2019, sending a copy to the newspapers officially designated for 2019 by way of Resolution No. 233-2018, filing a copy in the Township Clerk's Office and posting it on the Municipal Building bulletin board, and the Mayor hereby directs that this statement be included in the minutes.

Mayor Hameeduddin read the following into the Record:

Township Administration Present at Tonight's Meeting Are:

- Dean Kazinci, Interim Township Manager
- Issa Abbasi, Township Clerk
- Omar Stovall, Keyboarding Clerk
- Clarence Barnes - Building Maintenance Worker
- Ronn Goodman - Volunteer Cablecaster
- Township Department Heads

#### **Upcoming Events/Council Meetings**

- 1) The next televised Council Budget Meeting will take place on Thursday, March 14, 2019 with Public Input beginning at 7:00 PM.

#### **V. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR GOOD AND WELFARE AND PUBLIC INPUT ON ANY MATTERS**

Mayor Hameeduddin declared that any members of the public who wished to be heard came forward and stated their names for the record. Comments were limited to three minutes per person.

Jane Irwin - read a statement urging Council to hire a second employee for senior programming at the Rodda Center and provided reasoning for same.

Alan Sohn - referenced prior tax and debt increases since 1998; referenced the 2019 6-year capital budget plan and the cost for certain projects in the future; and wished to see a more complete list of capital items and expenditures.

Roosevelt Sills - thanked DPW for their efforts in a removing snow after a recent snow storm; supported Ms. Irwin's comments respecting the addition of an employee in Recreation to service Senior Programming; and asked the Council to undertake improvements

Micki Shilan -thanked DPW for their efforts during this past week's snow storm; spoke about the current closure of the Rodda Center; her affinity for the programming and services offered by the Rodda Center for senior residents and the camaraderie built with fellow attendees at the Rodda Center; and questioned the reasoning behind breaks in program and services at the Rodda Center.

Carol Otis - re-iterated the request to add an additional employee at the Rodda Center and spoke about the need for senior residents to remain active with exercise classes.

Dr. Charles Powers - spoke about the importance of an added position to be included in the 2019 budget for a senior citizens recreation attendant; referenced the availability of the Annual Financial Statement; and questioned the accounting of the Municipal Open Space Trust Fund.

Natalee Addison - spoke in favor of adding an additional full-time employee in the senior division at the Rodda Center and further spoke in favor of budgeting for the maintenance of the Rodda Center.

Wilhemina Jackson - urged Council to accommodate the needs of senior residents by adding an extra staff member in the senior center.

There being no further persons who wished to speak, Mayor Hameeduddin declared the public comment portion of the meeting closed.

Mayor Hameeduddin inquired whether any member of the Council or the Manager wished to respond to the public's comments.

Councilwoman Romney Rice thanked the seniors who spoke and attended tonight's meeting.

Mayor Hameeduddin thanked all in attendance and made a motion to review table of organization of the Recreation Department with personnel subcommittee.

Seconded by DM. Katz.

**Roll Call**

Yes - Councilman Dunleavy, Councilwoman Romney Rice, Councilman Pruitt, Councilman Kaplan, Deputy Mayor Katz, Mayor Hameeduddin.

No - None.

Mayor Hameeduddin thanked all department heads for their work throughout the year and reminded all that their work did not go unnoticed.

**VI. BUDGET DISCUSSION**

1. Review - Recreation Department -

Ms. Crockett appeared before the Township Council. She discussed staffing throughout all the department's divisions; the need for a second full-time senior center recreation attendant; and cited increased enrollment statistics.

Interim Manager Kazinci provided figures of the salary and operating budget for the Recreation Department. He also reviewed requested capital items requested under the Recreation Department.

Mayor Hameeduddin questioned the usage of Hawthorne Park's pool and suggested a bathroom and concession stand be placed in the area instead of a repaired pool.

Councilwoman Romney Rice asked about figures for usage for the Hawthorne Park pool.

Ms. Crockett advised that the usage of the pool was by summer camps through the Board of Education and provided an estimate figure of usage of the pool by the public.

Councilman Kaplan questioned what would be involved in repairing of Hawthorne Park's pool.

Ms. Crockett advised of the major repairs needed for the pool in addition to new costs for ADA compliance.

Interim Manager Kazinci spoke about the capital requests for security cameras at the Rodda Center in addition to Votee Park pool updates.

Councilman Dunleavy asked about the impact of the splashpad given a budget item for a drainage study at Phelps Park.

Ms. Crockett advised that the study may impact the location of the splashpad.

Councilman Dunleavy spoke about the need to prioritize programming and spoke about the flat level of state aid provided since 2011. He also supported senior residents' desire to age in place.

Mayor Hameeduddin asked if the repair of the walking path at Votee Park could be included in the budget.

Interim Manager Kazinci felt that these repairs could be included in the current year's maintenance budget.

Council discussed the possibility of additional prefabricated bathrooms in Phelps Park and increased expenditures proposed for light rentals at various parks.

Interim Manager Kazinci responded that pre-fabricated bathrooms could be included in 2020 for Phelps Park.

2. Review - Police Department Budget -

Police Chief Glenn O'Reilly appeared before Council.

Deputy Mayor Katz asked for the figure of 911 calls made to the County.

Chief O'Reilly advised he could deliver such a figure to the Council.

Chief O'Reilly referenced his discussion with Interim Manager Kazinci to bring dispatch in-house. He further provided a breakdown of the cost in the capital budget for a new dispatch center including equipment and training; felt that his personnel could handle dispatch and 9-1-1- calls better in-house; and spoke about the importance of seconds compared to minutes with respect to dispatch.

Councilman Kaplan asked if there was data to backup claims of minutes versus seconds.

Chief O'Reilly noted that he could provide said data to the Council.

Councilwoman Romney Rice asked if there was any advantage in moving dispatch to Bergen County.

Chief O'Reilly referenced his prior recommendation as Deputy chief not to move to the County for 9-1-1 response or police dispatch.

Councilwoman Romney Rice asked if dispatch would be handled by civilian employees or uniformed employees.

Chief O'Reilly responded that dispatch would be handled civilians and would not require any additional personnel and discussed the method by which dispatch operations are handled by the County of Bergen.

Councilman Dunleavy spoke about his personal experience with dispatch efficiency.

Chief O'Reilly and Interim Manager Kazinci spoke about the familiarity with the Township with its dispatchers and continued to support the retention of in-house dispatch services.

Councilman Pruitt asked about the potential savings from outsourcing such operations.

Chief O'Reilly spoke about the capital expenditure one-time for dispatch center operations and the operating savings by handling dispatch operations in-house.

Interim Manager Kazinci spoke about the potential change to a civilian for an administrative aide in the Police Chief's Office. Interim Manager Kazinci and Chief O'Reilly spoke about the need to have a \$23,000 expense for an audit of the evidence room required for accreditation.

Councilman Kaplan inquired if an option was available to relocate evidence off-site for data collection.

Chief O'Reilly felt that once the inventory was completed and unneeded evidence was legally purged that there would not be a need for off-site storage of evidence or data.

3. Review - Fire Department -

Chief Jordan Zaretsky appeared before Council.

Interim Manager Kazinci asked Chief Zaretsky to review his capital budget request for Council.

Chief Zaretsky spoke about the need for fiber optic cabling across the Township including a cost saving estimate of \$60,000 annually;

Chief Zaretsky and Interim Manager Kazinci advised that they would put together a comprehensive report for Council's review respecting this proposal.

Chief Zaretsky referenced a recent incident respecting a response to a fire through Bergen County's 9-1-1 dispatch and the subsequent delay in response. He also spoke about the benefit of alarm signaling that would provide the fire department with more definitive signaling as to what type of fire was at the building.

Councilman Dunleavy asked how far down the road Hackensack was with utilizing fiberoptic cabling and if economies of scale could be realized with shared services.

Chief Zaretsky advised that there was potential to solicit state and federal agencies, however, he is currently in contact with Hackensack and neighboring municipalities with respect to fiberoptic cabling. He was certain that linkage with Hackensack would afford more linking with neighboring municipalities.

Interim Manager Kazinci reported that 30 eligible employees could retire with 22 in the Police Department and 8 in the Fire Department with an additional 25 more officers in 2020. He further spoke about the operating budget's impact with new employees and spoke about the uncertainty of current employees' status unless they provide advanced notice with respect to their retirement.

Councilwoman Romney Rice thanked Chief Zaretsky for his recent presentation to the community and questioned if fiber optics would assist with new construction and fire response.

Chief Zaretsky spoke about being in favor of a more efficient response to fires and provided Council with an update with respect to dispatch services with neighboring municipalities.

Deputy Mayor Katz asked for an update with respect to fire box usage.

Chief Zaretsky advised that the fire boxes are still being used and are maintained. He further advised that the fire boxes are being used by schools and in the commercial district.

Mayor Hameeduddin spoke about the Fire Chief's advantage with respect to dispatch and was excited to expend funds for fiberoptic cabling.

4. Review - Clerk's Budget -

Clerk Abbasi appeared before Council. Interim Kazinci and Clerk Abbasi advised Council of the reduced operating budget due to no May municipal election.

Deputy Mayor Katz asked if a pro-rated ordinance was in effect for pro-rated parking permits.

Clerk Abbasi responded that such an ordinance needs to be introduced and duly adopted and was on the radar of him and the Manager.

Clerk Abbasi further advised Council of his request to fund \$25,000 for the revision of the General Code and also discussed the need for same. He further spoke about the timeline for the revision of the Township's Code.

Councilman Dunleavy asked about the breakdown of the cost for the Code revision.

Clerk Abbasi responded that the price was a one-time cost and was priced out on a schedule of accomplishments and noted that the revision of the Code was considered a special emergency and could be bonded over five years.

Councilwoman Romney Rice spoke about the up-to-date search access online of the Township Code.

Councilman Kaplan spoke about the importance of having an updated Township Code online given recent adoptions of ordinances that revised the Code.

Clerk Abbasi referenced a situation wherein a resident inquired about obtaining a permit to slaughter chickens in their backyard based on the Township Code.

Mayor Hameeduddin recommended Councilman Kaplan and Clerk Abbasi get together with the Township Attorney and work on the revision of the Township Code. He also asked if the Clerk had any further requests.

Clerk Abbasi advised that his staffing level was adequate at this time and the revision to the Code was the most pertinent need.

Mayor Hameeduddin thanked Clerk Abbasi for his handling of the Clerk's position and the CFO's position concurrently since 2017.

Councilman Dunleavy and Councilman Kaplan also thanked the Clerk for his swift responses and work with the 2019 budget.

Clerk Abbasi advised that he, the Manager, CFO Supervisory Services vendor, auditor, and bond counsel would be working on a debt management plan shortly.

5. Review - Capital Budget -

Mayor Hameeduddin wished to review what items could be afforded in a 2019 bond issue and its affect on our debt issue.

Interim Manager Kazinci spoke about the timeline of the Annual Financial Statement.

6. Review - Various Budget Accounts -

This agenda item was not discussed.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Hameeduddin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 PM.

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Katz.

By way of a voice vote, no member of Council objected to adjourning the meeting.