

BUDGET WORKSHOP

President Guy Ramsey called the workshop to order at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Macungie Institute, 510 E. Main Street, Macungie, PA. Present were Council members Chris Becker, Robert Bogert, Dorothy Kociuba, Jean Nagle, Guy Ramsey and Joseph Sikorski. Also present were Borough Manager Chris Boehm, Mayor Rickie Hoffman and Administrative Assistant Cynthia Hartzell. David Boyko was absent. Also present were Council-elect Debra Cope and Greg Hutchison.

Borough Manager Boehm presented the final draft of the budget as discussed at the December 1 budget workshop. The final draft showed a surplus of about \$42,000 after adjusting the line items as discussed at the last workshop. Borough Manager Boehm questioned Council if they want to decrease the tax millage or keep the millage at 9.95 which is a 3 mil increase. Council Members did not want the large increase in taxes. They discussed the Borough personnel at length. The majority of Council Members noted they want to keep the Public Works union employee with least seniority which happened to be the mechanic. Council discussed different scenarios of the personnel in question and could not get a majority vote.

The budget workshop was recessed at 7:40 pm with the intention of reopening the workshop at the end of the Council meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

President Guy Ramsey called the December 5, 2011 meeting of Macungie Borough Council to order at 7:40 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Macungie Institute, 510 E. Main Street, Macungie, PA.

ATTENDANCE

- Council Members: Chris Becker
Robert Bogert
Dorothy Kociuba
Jean Nagle
Guy Ramsey
Joseph Sikorski
- Mayor: Rickie Hoffman
- Solicitor: Attorney Timothy Siegfried
- Borough Manager: Chris L. Boehm
- Administrative Assistant: Cynthia Hartzell
- Absent: David Boyko

PUBLIC COMMENTS

a. Prior Public Comments

1. Paul Smith – 419 E. Main Street dog feces violations - President Ramsey reported he spoke to Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Brian Nixon who noted he did not observe a significant violation of the regulation of dog feces at 419 E. Main Street. President Ramsey

referenced the dog attack complaints would be dealt with by the police, not the code enforcement officer. He noted Mr. Smith had spoken with Chief Harry about the complaints.

2. Tim Romig – 52 Race Street outstanding violations - President Ramsey reported Zoning Officer Nixon found the only outstanding violation was objects located in the floodplain. Zoning Officer Nixon sent a letter to the property owner addressing the violation.

b. Public Comments

1. Tim Romig, business owner of 50 Race Street, Macungie, made some comments pertaining to the budget. Mr. Romig hoped Council would approve a budget with no tax increase.

COUNCIL COMPLIMENTS, COMPLAINTS, PETITIONS AND APPEALS

a. Council Member Becker remarked that the tree lighting event went well even though it rained. Mayor Hoffman agreed and noted a few people attended the event.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. November 7, 2011 meeting - Council Member Sikorski made a motion to approve the November 7, 2011 meeting minutes as amended, second by Council Member Nagle. Motion carried: 6 ayes

b. November 14, 2011 budget workshop - Council Member Sikorski made a motion to approve the November 14, 2011 budget workshop minutes, second by Council Member Nagle. Motion carried: 6 ayes

c. November 15, 2011 workshop - Council Member Becker made a motion to approve the November 15, 2011 workshop minutes, second by Council Member Kociuba. Motion carried: 3 ayes, 3 abstain (Council Member Sikorski, Nagle, and Bogert were absent)

d. November 21, 2011 meeting - Council Member Kociuba made a motion to approve the November 21, 2011 meeting minutes, second by Council Member Sikorski. Motion carried: 5 ayes, 1 abstain (Council Member Nagle was absent)

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Treasurer's report of November 30, 2011
- b. Payment of invoices as listed totaling \$152,392.82

Council Member Sikorski made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, second by Council Member Kociuba. Motion carried: 5 ayes, 1 nay (Council Member Nagle would like to see the legal bills before giving approval)

CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Municipal Retirement Trust, re: Monthly report
- b. Federal Emergency Management Agency, re: Post-Disaster Floodplain Manager Refresher training – Borough Manager Boehm reported Zoning Officer Nixon and she will be attending the training.
- c. Patricia Krulle, 218 S. Church Street, Macungie, re: Comment about the 2012 budget
- d. Brown & Brown of Lehigh Valley, Inc., re: Workers Compensation Insurance
- e. Zoning Officer, re: November 2011 Report

REPORTS

- a. Solicitor
 1. Wastewater Ordinance Revisions – This will be carried due to Solicitor Siegfried waiting for a return call from Allentown Solicitor.
 2. Uniform Construction Code Amendment – Solicitor Siegfried continues his review of the amendment.
 3. Sidewalk Ordinance – Solicitor Siegfried provided the final draft. Zoning Officer Nixon had two comments on the final draft. Council agreed to keep the Borough Engineer under the Performance and Maintenance Bonds Required. The other comment pertained to the time line of 4 days between the Planning Commission meeting and the next scheduled Borough Council meeting where the appeal would be heard. Solicitor Siegfried recommended a word amendment that Council accepted.
 4. Vacating Unopened Street – This is being carried.
- b. Mayor
 1. Mayor Hoffman announced Macungie Holiday is Saturday, December 10th. He noted there are a lot of events and encouraged everyone to attend.
- c. Borough Manager – no report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - PART I

- a. Sidewalk Ordinance – Borough Manager Boehm requested authorization to move forward with advertising for adoption of the sidewalk ordinance.

Council Member Becker made a motion to authorize advertisement for adoption of the sidewalk ordinance at the next meeting with this evening's amendment, second by Council Member Bogert. Motion carried: 6 ayes

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - PART II

- a. Emergency Management Plan - This will be carried.
- d. Wastewater Ordinance Revisions – Borough Manager Boehm recommended adoption of this ordinance even though no comments have been received from Allentown. Borough Manager Boehm noted the wastewater ordinance was adopted in 2010 and this amendment was for permit requirements for wastewater haulers. The new Council Members would have to be educated about the ordinance unless Council would adopt it this year. If comments are received from Allentown about any changes needed to the ordinance, a revised ordinance could be adopted at that time. Council preferred to have Allentown’s comments before adoption of the ordinance. Council Member Sikorski suggested sending a letter to Allentown giving them a date of adoption of the ordinance. Solicitor Siegfried will send the letter to Allentown.
- e. Uniform Construction Code Amendment – This will be carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Adoption of 2011 Preliminary Budget – The budget workshop will be continued after the general meeting.
- b. Workers Compensation Insurance – Borough Manager Boehm requested permission to talk to a representative at Brown & Brown about a workers compensation trust. She noted Tom Bailey had called her about putting together insurance quotes. It was the consensus of Council to permit Borough Manager Boehm to talk to the two agencies.

ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA – No other items to discuss.

After a brief recess, Council continued their discussion on the preliminary budget. Council Members each expressed their thoughts of what personnel positions should be in the budget and the tax millage. After some time, Council Member Becker made a motion to eliminate the full time officer, eliminate the 30 hour officer, mandate the police department to provide 24/7 coverage and reduce the least senior union administrative position to a 24 hour/week. The motion died without a second.

After further discussion, Council Member Bogert noted he would agree to the least senior union administrative position being reduced to 24 hours/week with no benefits, eliminate the 30 hour police officer and the full time police officer and reduce the non-union administrative position to 24 hours/week with no benefits.

After some discussion about Council Member Bogert’s comment, a majority of the Council Members agreed to approve of the budget as proposed by Council Member Bogert and with a .68 tax mil increase.

Council Member Bogert made it clear his proposal was made to help the citizens of the Borough. He would be happy to pay the tax increase for the Borough’s services. Council Member Bogert does not feel the Macungie Institute will be viable without a full time building coordinator position.

Council Member Becker made a motion to continue this meeting and reconvene on December 12, 2011 at 7:00 pm for the purpose of adopting the preliminary budget, second by Council Member Kociuba.
Motion carried: 6 ayes

The workshop was recessed at 10:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Hartzell
Administrative Assistant