

**ELIZABETHTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
SPECIAL BUDGET PUBLIC MEETING
November 30, 2023
Minutes**

A public meeting of Elizabethtown Borough Council was held on Thursday, November 30, 2023. Present were Councilmembers Lanty Moss, Tom Shaud, J. Marc Hershey, Phil Clark, Jeff McCloud and Jay Hynicker. Also in attendance were Borough Manager Ann Roda, Assistant Borough Manager Pamela Roberts, Public Works Director Jeff Kinsey, and Elizabethtown Police Interim Chief Shane Deardorff. Mayor Chuck Mummert was absent from the meeting.

President Hershey called the Public Meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Public Comment

1. Nick Petersen, 301 N Locust Street – Mr. Petersen asked that consideration be given to livestreaming or recording the meetings for interested parties who are unable to attend the meetings. Mr. Petersen also asked for consideration be given to changing the current trash system to allow for more than two 32-gallon bags to be picked up each week. He expressed concern about broken glass in the street that he presumes is coming from the recycling truck.

Old Business

1. Borough Manager Roda stated that Borough Council had been provided with Version 3 of the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget. Councilmembers discussed the request from GEARS for the proposed renovation project at their facility. Council agreed that \$25,000 should be set aside for the project for three years to provide the \$75,000 that has been requested. Councilmembers discussed the need for a sewer rate increase to bridge the financial gap between revenue and expenditures in the sewer fund. A rate of \$120 or \$125 per residential unit were debated until it was determined that \$120 a quarter per unit would be sufficient in 2024. The new rate would begin to be billed in the second quarter of 2024.

A transfer of \$150,000 to both the parks fund and the capital reserve fund from the general fund were confirmed. It was also discussed that any proceeds from the sale of 101 E Plum Street would be split and transferred to the parks fund and the capital reserve fund. A millage rate increase was also discussed at length. Council chose to advertise a maximum millage rate of 6.2 mills but would likely be moving forward with a millage rate of 6 mills.

It was motioned by Vice-President Clark to advertise an ordinance to consider the establishment of the Real Estate Tax Rate for 2024 Fiscal Year at a maximum millage rate of 6.2 mills. Councilmember Shaud seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, Borough Council approved the advertisement of an ordinance to increase the real estate tax to a maximum millage rate of 6.2 mills.

It was motioned by Councilmember McCloud to advertise an ordinance to increase the sanitary sewer rate to \$120 per quarter for residential units and \$0.0105 per gallon per quarter

for commercial units. Vice-President Clark seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, Borough Council approved the advertisement of an ordinance to increase the sewer rate.

It was motioned by Vice-President Clark to advertise in the newspaper that the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Budget with the corrections discussed at the November 30, 2023 budget meeting would be available for public inspection at the Borough Office. Councilmember Hynicker seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, Borough Council approved the advertisement of the public inspection period for the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget.

President Hershey stated that the special budget meetings scheduled for December 14, 2023 and December 28, 2023 would be cancelled.

New Business

1. Borough Manager Roda updated Borough Council on the Borough's current electric and natural gas rates with IGS. Staff recently met with IGS, who stated that the Borough has the opportunity to lock in rates for electric and natural gas that are slightly lower than what is currently used. Locking in the rates would help protect the Borough from rising costs but would also allow the terms of the agreement to be revised if there is a drop in rates.

It was motioned by Councilmember McCloud to authorize the Borough Manager to execute a revised agreement with IGS to extend the Borough's natural gas rate for 12 months and the electric rate for 24 months. Councilmember Hynicker seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, Borough Council authorized the Borough Manager to execute the agreement with IGS.

Council Remarks

- Councilmember McCloud had no remarks.
- Councilmember Hynicker had no remarks.
- Councilmember Moss had no remarks.
- Councilmember Shaud expressed his thanks for a quick budget meeting.
- Vice-President Clark thanked the public for attending and expressed his thanks to staff for preparing the budget.
- President Hershey thanked the public for attending and expressed his thanks for staff's time preparing the budget.

Adjourn

Upon motion by Councilmember Shaud and second by Councilmember Hynicker, and without objection, the meeting was adjourned by President Hershey at 7:11 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Roda
Borough Manager