

STROUDSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING, DECEMBER 17, 2019
MINUTES

A special meeting of the Stroudsburg Borough Council convened at 6:20 P.M. on December 17, 2019 with the following members present: Council President James Smith, Vice-President of Council Boyd Weiss, Council President Pro-Tem Joanne Kochanski, Councilman Matt Abell, and Councilwoman Erica McCabe. Mayor Tarah Probst; Borough Solicitor Joseph P. McDonald, Jr.; and Interim Borough Manager Mary Pat Quinn were also present. Councilman Anthony Lanfrank and Councilman Mark Connors were absent.

Mr. Smith reviewed with Council the proposed 2020 Municipal Budget that was prepared by the Budget Committee. The total assessed value has gone from 56,006,040 to 432,563,990. 53 Pa.C.S.A. §8823 requires the Borough Council to establish an initial millage rate, which is 6.05 mils (46.75 mils is the tax rate for 2019). The law also mandates that the tax rate after a reassessment shall not exceed the initial millage rate by more than 10%. The Budget Committee provided two scenarios for Council's consideration: 1) Using the total allowable tax of \$2,880,110.60 and 432,000,000 as the total tax assessment would provide a 6.667 millage rate; or 2) Using the total allowable tax of \$2,880,110.60 and the total certified tax assessment of 432,563,990 would provide a 6.658 millage rate. The Budget Committee recommended option 2 with \$462,511 being used from the General Fund balance to balance the budget.

A budget comparison of the 2019 and the proposed 2020 revenues and expenses was reviewed. Mr. Abell suggested that the proposed appropriation of \$12,500 for professional planning services be increased to \$30,000 in order to support ordinance review that the Redevelopment Committee will be undertaking. He also suggested that fees be increased to cover costs.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Weiss to schedule a public hearing on December 30, 2019 at 4:30 P.M. to conduct a public hearing on the proposed initial millage rate of 6.05 and the proposed 2020 millage rate of 6.658. The motion was carried with all present voting affirmatively. (5-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 P.M. on a motion made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. McCabe. The motion was carried with all present voting affirmatively. (5-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions)