

Pen Argyl Borough Council held a Special Council Meeting on Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 7:00 P.M in the Borough Social Hall.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Council President Joseph LeDonne opened the Council Meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Council Members present and responding to roll call: Joseph LeDonne, Tammy Kemp, Scott Brumbaugh, Charles Kandl Jr., John Apgar, Stephanie Cooper and Josephine Hildabrant. Councilwoman Janell Connolly was absent.

Also present were Mayor Stephen Male, Borough Solicitor Peter Layman, Borough Manager Robin Zmoda and Borough Secretary Juli Lemak.

Visitors:

None.

Discussion and Tentative Adoption of Year 2024 Budget:

General Fund - \$2,847,109.00 - 13 Mills (No increase)
Sewer Fund - \$1,527,600.00
State Fund - \$285,549.00
Reserve Fund - \$2,740,100.00
Garbage Wealth Fund - \$500,000.00
Reserve Wealth Fund - \$760,000.00

Tax Structure:

Real Estate Tax Millage - 13.00 Mills (no increase)
Per Capita - None
Local Services Tax (LST) - \$52.00
Real Estate Transfer Tax - 1% - Shared Equally with School District
Earned Income Tax - 1% - Shared Equally with School District
Sewer Rental Fee - \$114.00 Minimum Quarterly Charge per Unit/10,000 Gallons
\$13.50 per Thousand Gallon over 10,000 Gallons
\$14.26 per person at Schools
\$171.10 per quarter for non-metered wells
Garbage fee- Garbage fee waived for the year 2024

Discussion and Tentative Adoption of Year 2024 Budget con't:

The Borough Assessment Valuation for 2024 is \$66,900,200; 2023 was \$66,817,200; 2022 was \$66,969,800; 2021 was \$67,093,100; 2020 was \$67,029,500; 2019 was \$67,113,200; 2018 was \$67,092,500; and 2017 was \$67,572,400.

Prior Years Millage: Years 2020 to present remains at 13 Mills.

Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant made a motion to adopt the Tentative Year 2024 Budget, seconded by Councilwoman Tammy Kemp. Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members: Joseph LeDonne, Tammy Kemp, Scott Brumbaugh, John Apgar, Stephanie Cooper and Josephine Hildabrant. Council Member Charles Kandl Jr. voted no. There being seven (6) yes votes and one (1) no vote, the motion carried.

Tax Structure & Sewer Rental Fee:

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to adopt the Tentative Year 2024 Tax Structure with a 13 Millage Real Estate Tax and the sewer rental rate of \$114.00 minimum quarterly charge per unit for 10,000 gallons, with an increase of \$9.00 to the quarter base rate of \$105.00, \$13.50 per thousand over 10,000 gallons, a 8.57% rate increase for unmeasurable water consumption from \$157.59 to \$171.10, and a 8.57% increase for bodies in the public and private schools from \$13.13 per quarter to \$14.26 per quarter, seconded by Councilman Scott Brumbaugh. Unanimous by roll call.

Millage Resolution, suspend Residential Garbage Charges and Repeal Per Capita Tax Ordinance:

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to authorize Borough Manager Zmoda to prepare a Resolution for the 13.00 Tax Millage and collection of annual tax for 2024, seconded by Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant. Unanimous by roll call.

Councilman John Apgar made a motion to authorize Solicitor Layman to prepare and advertise the necessary ordinance to suspend residential garbage charges under Section 60-4D for the calendar year of 2024 for adoption at the Council Meeting of Tuesday, December 12, 2023, seconded by Councilwoman Tammy Kemp. Unanimous by roll call.

Councilman Charles Kandl Jr. made a motion to authorize Solicitor Layman to write an ordinance repealing Ordinance 341, approved on December 5, 1966 imposing the \$5.00 per annum levied and assessed upon each resident or inhabitant of the Borough of Pen Argyl between the ages of 18 years and under 65 years, seconded by Councilman John Apgar. Unanimous by roll call.

Buy back of two (2) weeks unused vacation:

Councilman Scott Brumbaugh made a motion to buy back two (2) unused weeks' vacation for management employees, seconded by Councilwoman Stephanie Cooper. Unanimous by roll call.

Sanitation, Solid Waste & Recycling:

Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant made a motion for Borough Solicitor Peter Layman to amend the Sewer Ordinance to reflect a \$9.00 rate increase to the quarter base rate of \$105.00 to \$114.00, a 8.57% rate increase for unmeasurable water consumption from \$157.59 to \$171.10, and a 8.57% rate increase for students in the public and private schools from \$13.13 per quarter to \$14.26 per quarter, seconded by Councilwoman Stephanie Cooper. Unanimous by roll call.

Adjournment

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Stephanie Cooper. Unanimous by voice vote. Council meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Juli Lemak
Borough Secretary

Council Meeting & Final Adoption of Budget – Tuesday, December 12, 2023 – 7:00 P. M.