

## BUDGET MEETING

Mayor Robert Patten called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and read the Open Public Meetings Act statement which stated that adequate notice and posting of the meeting had taken place in accordance with the requirements of P.L. 1975, Chapter 231.

The flag salute was followed by the roll call.

### ROLL CALL

	PRESENT	ABSENT
<i>Mayor Patten</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Holtzclaw</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Laudenberger</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Quattrone</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Schneider</i>	6:10 PM	
<i>Councilmember Sikorski</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Thompson</i>	7:00 PM	

Also in attendance: Candace Gallagher, Borough Clerk/Administrator and George Lang, Chief Financial Officer (arriving at 6:15 pm.).

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was moved as submitted by Councilman Sikorski, seconded by Councilman Quattrone and approved by all in attendance at that time.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Patten opened the floor for public comment. No one came forward and the floor was closed.

### 2005 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Ms. Gallagher noted that this meeting had been requested by Council for the purpose of generally discussing the introduced budget. Discussion ensued.

Councilman Sackowitz questioned the need for inclusion in the capital budget of a speed trailer. He does not feel it would help curb speeding, and noted that "nothing works like reputation." Councilman Quattrone said that the trailer has been discussed for some time, and has never been included because it could be used on only a few streets. This will be discussed further with Chief Eufemia.

Council President Schneider suggested that the Borough hold a "construction permit sale" or find another way to encourage homeowners to make improvements, thereby generating added assessments.

Councilman Quattrone said that it may be time to "reopen the discussion of parking meters." Mayor Patten noted that Sgt. Reppy prepared a study in this regard which indicated that meters would not be cost effective for the Borough. Startup costs are high, and there is not enough parking downtown to make it worthwhile. Councilwoman Laudenberger said that, even if were cost effective, parking meters could cause shoppers to bypass our downtown businesses for fear of getting a ticket.

Mr. Quattrone said that the only way to significantly impact our budget may be to either cut staff or increase revenues. He expressed concern that new development "will bite us with school taxes." Councilman Sackowitz pointed out that Enchantment residents will not be adding any children to the schools.

Councilman Sikorski asked how much Enchantment will be paying in water-sewer connection fees. The Mayor replied that this will be upwards of \$300,000. Council President Schneider asked what our annual debt service is on the new water tower. Mr. Lang stated that at present, we have issued a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) and are paying only interest, which amounts to about \$20,000 per year.

The water-sewer budget was discussed, along with the possibility of raising water rates. It was determined that this is not likely to be necessary during 2005, particularly in light of connection fees that are anticipated. Councilman Sackowitz expressed interest in learning how much it would cost to run the sewer plant if it were not accepting gray water and grease.

Councilman Quattrone asked if the development of the Minute Maid property could be controlled so that it would allow only age-restricted housing. Mayor Patten said that this is possible, but the property would have to be rezoned. There are possibilities for this parcel other than housing, he said. Councilman Thompson said that the possibility of rezoning the property should be considered in order to give the Borough more control over it.

Councilman Sackowitz requested an assessment of what the market will bear in terms of rates that can be charged for gray water and septic.

Mayor Patten urged Council members to "continue thinking," and to share their thoughts on revenue enhancements and cost saving measures with Ms. Gallagher.

Upon motion by Councilwoman Laudenberger, seconded by Councilman Sikorski and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Candace B. Gallagher, RMC  
Borough Clerk