

**WORKSHOP MINUTES**  
**MARCH 3, 2021**  
**7:30 P.M. AT BOROUGH HALL**

**ZOOM: DETAILS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION POSTED ON THE WEBSITE**

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*“THE NOTICE REQUIREMENTS OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT HAVE BEEN SATISFIED BY FORWARDING NOTICE TO THE ASBURY PARK PRESS AND THE COASTER THAT THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING BEING HELD ON MARCH 3, 2021 AT 7:00 PM WILL BE HELD VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE UNDER THE GOVERNOR’S EXECUTIVE ORDER 107. A COPY OF THE NOTICE IS POSTED ON THE OFFICIAL BOROUGH WEBSITE WITH FULL DIRECTIONS ON HOW THE PUBLIC CAN ATTEND AND MAKE COMMENT AT THE MEETING. ALSO, A COPY WAS PLACED ON THE DOOR AT BOROUGH HALL AND IS ON FILE IN THE BOROUGH CLERK’S OFFICE.”*

Present: Mayor Nohilly, Council President Butler, Councilmembers Horowitz, Watson, Maloney, Franks

Absent: Councilman Delia

Also Present: Borough Attorney Richard Shaklee and Borough Clerk/Administrator Lori Reibrich

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1. **2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET DISCUSSION** – *Full Council Discussion; CFO Stephen Gallagher present*

CFO Gallagher presented the budget documents for the 2021 Municipal Budget.

The Governing Body had a discussion regarding the revenue estimates for 2021 and the decreases in revenue for 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The decrease in revenues is a main contributor to the details of the budget.

A brief discussion was had regarding the collective bargaining agreement for the DPW employees, and that the newest employee has reached the final step in the contract. This increase comes from the collective bargaining agreement for new employees as they complete steps upon hiring. Three years ago, the Borough hired its first new employee in 20 years.

Other items that were discussed included the increase in County tipping and dumping costs and the public utilities impending increase for the year.

CFO Gallagher and BA Reibrich discussed the win of the Police contract and how very beneficial it has been for the taxpayers.

The TOSA excess flows billing has not be received yet but the average cost remains in the budget as it does annually.

CFO Gallagher explained and discussed the new line item for 2021 that was included due to the Fire & First Aid request for equipment. Mayor Nohilly and BA Reibrich explained the Fire & First Aid contract, the Borough’s required percentage to be paid in times of new needs for equipment and the equipment itself that was requested by Allenhurst. The items requested are safety gear and equipment for the firemen, parts and items for trucks and equipment and updated signage required throughout the firehouse.

The Governing Body had a brief discussion regarding the capital improvement fund and what items should be included in the next couple of years. There was a discussion regarding the grant projects for the park as well as DOT funding for roads. BA Reibrich expressed the need to purchase a new garbage truck as requested by Foreman Norm Cottrell. The garbage truck is the most used piece of equipment for the department and has reached the end of its useful life. This item should be the capital project for next year. A discussion was had regarding leasing vs. purchasing vs. utilizing the co-op again for equipment purchasing. After discussion, the Governing Body believed that purchasing through the co-op without the need for bidding would most likely be the best option as done in the past. Council agreed that this item would be slated for the capital improvement plan and the Bond Ordinance for next year. There was a brief discussion on the possible purchase of a street sweeper in the future.

During the capital improvement fund discussion, Council President Butler and Councilman Watson discussed the upcoming Centennial for Interlaken. There had been a discussion in the past regarding the possible purchase of a clock tower and this should be considered for capital improvements. If not a clock, the Council agreed that something should be done to commemorate the 100 years of Interlaken.

In concluding the discussion, many points were made regarding the assessments and taxation numbers. The average assessed home in Interlaken climbed to \$793,052 from \$731,778 the year before. The tax rate in Interlaken will come down again this year. With all items considered during the discussion such as revenue losses due to covid, debt service, annual increases from purchasing sources out of the Borough control and a new employee step increase the budget will be introduced with a \$15 a month increase to the average assessed home.

BA Reibrich laid out the scheduling for the budget introduction and adoption for the year. Introduction will be on March 17, 2021 and the adoption/public hearing set for April 21, 2021.

2. **NEW BUSINESS** Councilman Watson questioned when the park improvement discussion will come to a workshop. Mayor Nohilly stated that the documents that include the timelines and instructions have not be sent to the Borough yet. BA Reibrich explained that the head of the Monmouth County Open Space Grant Program was in touch and was expecting to have documents in the coming weeks. The documents will fully explain the process of how to be compliant with the grant award. There are resolutions and documents to execute before any of the actual project design items can move forward. Mayor Nohilly explained that the Governing Body will have full opportunity to go over the process laid out by the Monmouth County Open Space Grant Program and move forward with the beautification project.

Councilman Franks thanked Councilman Waston for the receipt of a New Year's card and questioned if there should be a workshop this year for everyone to get together and send one as a group. This would be a nice gesture to come from all of Council. Mayor Nohilly said that this item would not require a Workshop but when the holiday season approaches the Council could discuss it during reports and correspondence to get a feel sending a card from all members.

3. **ADJOURNMENT** With no further discussion, Councilman Franks made a motion to adjourn the workshop, seconded by Council President Butler and unanimously carried.

	Mayor Nohilly	Council President Butler	Councilwoman Horowitz	Councilman Watson	Councilwoman Maloney	Councilman Delia	Councilman Franks
Motion to Approve							X
Motion to Second			X				
Approved		X	X	X	X		X
Opposed							
Abstain/ Recuse							
Absent/ Excused						X	

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Lori Reibrich, RMC  
 Borough Administrator/Clerk