

WORKSHOP MINUTES
MARCH 1, 2023
7:00 P.M. AT BOROUGH HALL

The workshop meeting of the Borough of Interlaken was called to order at 7:00 p.m., by Mayor Nohilly. Sunshine Statement was read by Clerk/Administrator, Lori Reibrich. "The notice of the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act has been satisfied by forwarding notice to the Coaster and Asbury Park Press. A copy of the notice is posted on the Borough bulletin board and is on file in the Borough Clerk's office."

Present: Mayor Nohilly, Councilmembers Horowitz, DeSarno, Blasucci

Absent: Council President Butler, Councilmembers Delia and Franks

Also Present: Municipal Clerk/Administrator Lori Reibrich, Borough Attorney Richard Shaklee, CFO Joseph Zanga and Borough Engineer Avakian

1. **PARK IMPROVEMENTS:** Borough Engineer Avakian recapped the installation of the playground equipment. The Council discussed the vibrant orange color that was not anticipated during the purchase. Borough Engineer Avakian explained that the representation from Game Time with limited number of colors. During the ordering process and included in emails, the Game Time Manager explained that orange would be the closest match to the current playground set. He did indicate it was not the same and would be brighter. In the color chart it looks more like a burnt orange than the reality of the bright orange it is today.

Borough Engineer Avakian stated that painting the new equipment is allowed and will not void the warranty.

Mayor Nohilly said that he does not want to paint the new equipment because it factory baked on color. Councilman Blasucci agreed for the same reason. Councilman DeSarno also did not want to see it repainted because possible chipping and maintenance.

Councilwoman Horowitz said that she went and viewed the equipment. She said that she doesn't feel it looks bad at all and that children will like it.

After continued discussion the Governing Body agreed not to repaint the new equipment and requested to have the old set painted to match.

2. **2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET DISCUSSION:**

CFO Joe Zanga presented the proposed budget that was determined by the Finance Committee at their annual budget committee meeting. CFO Zanga went over the appropriations, revenues and debt service. Some highlights of discussion include: The tax rate in Interlaken dropped again with assessments increasing with the fair market value. BA Reibrich and CFO Zanga proactively searched for health insurance alternatives for the Borough Employees and are moving to the CJHIF in May. This will greatly reduce the 22% increase that the State Health Benefit Plan increased. Joining the CJHIF brought the insurance costs to almost the same that

the Borough has been paying to the State before the large increase. Other not controllable increases were the pension increases from the State. CFO Zanga is certain the pension costs will go down next budget year. The pension system runs behind 2 years. With the retirement of the former CFO being in the pension system and the new hires not eligible, the Borough will see a cost reduction.

CFO Zanga briefly discussed the debt service as well as the cash balances on hand. Councilman Blasucci asked about some of the interest rates and the annual BAN sales. CFO Zanga explained the bonds that Interlaken sell are very small in comparison to larger towns. Drew Staffer, Bond Counsel, actively ask banks to bid on them. CFO Zanga stated that the Borough is very aggressive on debt which is excellent.

Council had brief discussion regarding how the tax assessments and the average residential tax correlation. CFO Zanga stated that the increase contained in this year’s budget is \$95 for the year about \$7.95 a month.

3. **NEW BUSINESS:** The next workshop a discussion will be had about the kayak storage units and how the Borough wants to control the usage.
4. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** Mayor Nohilly opened the floor for public comment. With no comments made, Mayor Nohilly closed the floor.
5. **ADJOURNMENT:** Councilman DeSarno made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Blasucci and unanimously carried.

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

Lori Reibrich, RMC
Borough Administrator/Clerk