

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING
LOCATION: AUDITORIUM/ZOOM
May 15, 2023**

A **SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING** of the City Council was held on Monday, May 15, 2023. Attendance was in-person and by Zoom. The meeting was attended in person by Mayor Elinor Carbone, City Comptroller Robin Stanziale, Treasurer Dan Farley, Councilors Armand Maniccia, Drake Waldron, and Keri Hoehne. Public Works Director Ray Drew and WPCA Administrator Edward Tousey were also in attendance. Councilors Anne Ruwet and David Oliver joined via Zoom. Council Paul Cavagnero was absent.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

CITY BUDGET:

Mayor Carbone told the Council about how the Budget Subcommittee and the Department Heads have all made recommendations or adjustments to the City Budgets. She asked the Council if they would like to go through each department and accept the budget or approve the bottom line of the budget. On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Council voted 4-1 with Councilor Hoehne being opposed to accepting the budget's bottom line. Mayor Carbone explained to Council that the Public Hearing for the City's Budget is scheduled for May 22, 2023, after the Joint Meeting with the Board of Finance. She reminded the Council that she is not seeking approval of the bottom line, but accepting with the understanding that there will be potential amendments after the Public Hearing.

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted 3-2, with Councilors Hoehne, and Ruwet opposed to accepting the total proposed City portion of the department budgets in the sum of \$68,161,588 which is an increase of \$6,346,238 over last year's budget, subject to potential amendments as may be warranted after the Public Hearing. Mayor Carbone explained the largest budget drivers, which are debt service, \$1,690,000 from the 2022 & 2023 bond issuances, and an increase to Capital Projects which is the planned restoration of zeroed out Capital in 2018, also Boards and Agency's \$200,000 appropriation for Cannabis Revenue Qualified Expenses, and Health Insurance. Councilor Ruwet shared why she is not in favor of the proposed Budget due to the increase in the Mil Rate. Councilor Maniccia asked if there were any reliable revenue projections, Mayor Carbone said that the premium from the bonds sold would cover a portion of the interest of the debt service. She went on to say that without revenue information the Budget Subcommittee kept looking for Department cuts to minimize the impact on taxpayers.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:52 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by
Heather Abraham, Asst. City Clerk*

ATTEST:


CAROL L. ANDERSON, CITY CLERK