

MINUTES
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
CITY COUNCIL & BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY
City Hall Auditorium
May 6, 2019

Vol. 26, Page 813

A **SPECIAL JOINT MEETING** of the City Council and the Board of Public Safety was held at the City Hall Auditorium on Monday, May 6, 2019.

Present were Mayor Elinor Carbone, City Councilors Frank Rubino, Gregg Cogswell, Anne Ruwet, Marie Soliani, Paul Cavagnero, and Fred Simon, and Board of Public Safety Commissioners Angelo LaMonica, Robert Conforti, Glenn McLeod, Richard Zaharek, and Darlene Battle. Corporation Counsel Atty. Victor Muschell, City Comptroller Alice Proulx, Deputy Comptroller Gina Casper, Police Chief William Baldwin, Jr., Captain Wayne Newkirk, Fire Chief Peter Towey, and Deputy Chief David Tripp were also present. Commissioner Douglas Benedetto was absent.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Police Department Budget

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Board voted unanimously to review, discuss, and tentatively approve the proposed Police Department budget for the fiscal period from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, as presented, for a total of \$9,114,717. Councilor Simon abstained.

Councilors Cogswell and Ruwet requested an overview and breakdown of the proposed budget. Chief Baldwin described some of the cuts that were made to his original budget proposal and Commissioner Conforti expressed his disappointment with the amended budget that was approved by the Board of Public Safety.

Police: Animal Control Budget

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Board voted unanimously to review, discuss, and tentatively approve the proposed Animal Control budget for the fiscal period from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, as presented, for a total of \$286,177.

Chief Baldwin described some of the cuts that were made to his original budget proposal. He also explained some of the factors driving the proposed 3.42% increase from the current fiscal year budget, including hiring two new per diem Animal Control Officers.

Police: Traffic Unit Budget

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Board voted unanimously to review, discuss, and tentatively approve the proposed Traffic Unit budget for the fiscal period from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, as presented, for a total of \$397,560.

Mayor Carbone identified alternative funding sources for the 2019-2020 fiscal year that would alleviate some of the costs that are typically incurred by the Police Traffic Unit. She stated that the repainting of various roads would be covered by the bonding package that was approved in November, 2018, and announced that the City received a grant for parking lot improvements and signage in the downtown area.

Fire Department Budget

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Board voted unanimously to review, discuss, and tentatively approve the proposed Fire Department budget for the fiscal period from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, as presented, for a total of \$5,542,562.

Chief Towey described some of the cuts that were made to his original budget proposal in order to get down to a 2.5% increase from the current fiscal year budget. Councilor Rubino requested clarification regarding the calculation of salaries and wages. Chief Towey and Ms. Proulx explained.

Fire: Volunteers Budget

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Rubino, the Board voted unanimously to review, discuss, and tentatively approve the proposed Volunteers budget for the fiscal period from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, as presented, for a total of \$41,082.

Councilor Cogswell requested an update on the Volunteers and Chief Towey's relationship with them. Chief Towey informed the Council that the Volunteers' response times are improving and stated that they have a healthy working relationship.

Fire: Emergency Management Budget

On a motion by Councilor Cogswell, seconded by Councilor Simon, the Board voted unanimously to review, discuss, and tentatively approve the proposed Emergency Management budget for the fiscal period from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, as presented, for a total of \$34,930.

Chief Towey explained that the retirement of Rick Dalla Valle and restructuring the Deputy Emergency Management Director position will result in savings for the fiscal year 2019-2020 budget.

Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Simon, seconded by Councilor Cogswell, the Boards voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

ATTEST:

Respectfully submitted by
Jonathan R. Draper, Asst. City Clerk


CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK