

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
SPECIAL MEETING – MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MINUTES
MARCH 2, 2017
6:00 PM**

OPENING STATEMENT: Mayor Stephen K. Pote called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM and made the following statement: Under the provisions of N.J.S.A.10:4-6 et seq., notice of the time and place of this meeting was given by way of annual notice to the Courier News, Echoes Sentinel, and Star Ledger, and posted at Borough Hall.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG and a MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN, SERVING HOME AND ABROAD.

ROLL CALL

Joren [P] Black [A] Nehls [P] Gibbs [P] Mobus [P] Sopko [P]

Also present were Administrator Tom Atkins, CFO Bill Hance, Clerk Michelle DeRocco, and Deputy Clerk MaryAnn Hance.

DISCUSSION

Proposed 2017 Municipal Budget

Administrator Tom Atkins said the proposed budget could be introduced on March 16th and the Public Hearing and scheduled adoption would be held on April 20th. The 2017 appropriations as proposed shows an increase of \$356,709 or 2.5% which complies with legal requirements.

Mr. Atkins pointed out the primary reasons for this increase and identified some recommended budget highlights. The 2017 recommended appropriation for the 5% Capital improvement fund is \$125,000 and if this is approved by the Mayor and Council the total would be \$360,991. Mr. Atkins further explained the proposed local government purpose tax rate per \$100 of assessed valuation equals \$0.5861 which is an increase of .0114 or 1 and 14 hundredths of a tax point which is equivalent to an increase in the tax rate of 1.98%.

Mr. Atkins added that this recommended budget is not budgeted to the full cap in 2017 and the Borough will have \$97,382 of cap room which will go into the levy cap bank for potential use in the 2018 budget. He also said the proposed State Aid anticipated is \$700,092. In 2016 the Borough picked up 99.51% of taxes to be collected which is excellent.

Mr. Atkins explained his recommendation for this year's budget is \$825,000 of anticipated fund balance which is an increase of \$25,000 over 2016.

Mayor and Council had several questions and Mr. Atkins and Mr. Hance responded. After discussion it was the consensus of the Governing Body to introduce the 2017 Budget at the March 16th Council meeting.

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PUBLIC PORTION

No public were in attendance

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 P.M. to the Call of the Chair and to the next scheduled Council meeting March 2, 2017 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

MaryAnn Hance
Deputy Clerk