

## **BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG**

### **MINUTES**

#### **SPECIAL MEETING MARCH 27, 2019**

**6:30 PM**

**MAYOR'S STATEMENT:** Mayor Keith S. Balla called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 special 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**

Gibbs [ P ] Black [ A ] Nehls [ P ] Sopko [ P ] Goodloe [ P ] Eisenberg Knegten [ P ]

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

There were 3 members of the Public present.

#### **INTRODUCTION OF 2019 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

Proposed Ordinance OR:19/06 entitled: "ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK WHEN THE COLA IS EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN 2.5 PERCENT (N.J.S.A. 40a:4-45.14)" was introduced.

Council President Gibbs moved Ordinance OR:19/06 be given its first reading. So Ordered. Council President Gibbs moved the Ordinance be adopted on first reading and the Clerk be directed to publish the ordinance and notice of public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nehls and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Gibbs, Nehls, Sopko, Goodloe, Eisenberg Knegten, "aye." Public Hearing to be held April 4, 2019.

R1:03/27/19 SP Introduction of OR:19/06 – CAP Bank Ordinance

Councilman Sopko moved R2, as follows: I hereby introduce the 2019 municipal budget in the amount of \$15,336,000, setting the public hearing on the adoption of the budget for April 25, 2019 at 7:30 PM. The Borough Clerk will handle the advertisement in accordance with law and the Clerk and CFO will forward the appropriate budget documents to Trenton. This budget is fully compliant with all State of NJ finance and budget rules and regulations. The budget is \$139,042 under the levy cap. Taxes for local government purposes in 2019 will increase an average of \$134.40 for an average assessed home of \$714,870 translating to an increase of 3.2%. The average assessed home in 2018 was \$711,262. I want to thank Administrator Tom Atkins, CFO Bill Hance, and the other members of the executive team for their diligence and hard work.

Councilman Nehls seconded the motion, and upon Roll Call, the vote was as follows: Gibbs, Nehls, Sopko, Goodloe, Eisenberg Knegten, "aye."

R2:03/27/19 SP Introduction of 2019 Municipal Budget

Council President Gibbs said this budget is as good as budgets get, noting that with pension payments going up, they were still able to add monies for a beautification program that the residents can look forward to. Councilman Sopko concurred that this was a good budget with was no scrambling, and he is sure the residents will appreciate it.

The following Resolution was introduced by Councilman Sopko, seconded by Councilman Nehls, and upon Roll Call, the vote was as follows: Gibbs, Nehls, Sopko, Goodloe, Eisenberg Knegten, “aye.”

R3:03/27/19 SP      Authorizing Self-Exam – 2019 Municipal Budget

## **PUBLIC PORTION**

No one from the Public desired to be heard.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned to the call of the Chair to the next scheduled Council meeting to be held on April 4, 2019 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle DeRocco, RMC  
Clerk