City of Newark
Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 26, 2020

1. Call to order and announce a quorum is present.

Mayor Mark Wondolowski called the meeting to order 6.03 pm on Wednesday, August 26, 2020 and announced that a quorum was present. Those present were: Mayor Mark Wondolowski, Mayor Pro Tem Chris Raines, Councilmember Sean Phillips, Councilmember Darla Loggains Wood, Director of Public Works William Allen, Court Clerk Jenni Moore, Librarian Ashlee Sikes and City Secretary Jeanine Inman. Those absent: Councilmember Taylor Burton and Councilmember Richard Sidebottom

Mayor Wondolowski explained that he received a notice from Councilmember Burton that he would not be at tonight's meeting.

2. 2020 – 2021 Budget Workshop.

Mayor Wondolowski opened the budget workshop. He reminded Council that they would be discussing wages this evening and that at the last workshop the Council heard from the health insurance broker. He continued that the Councilmembers were tasked with reviewing the choices and to bring their choices to this meeting for further discussion. Mayor Wondolowski explained that Mayor Pro Tem Raines was working on a spreadsheet and would go over it. Mayor Wondolowski asked the Councilmembers about their choices. Councilmember Loggains Wood stated that she was for the HMO plan as it is the cheapest option. She continued that she has an HMO and is happy with it. She went on to say that it should be offered along with other choices. If an employee chooses a more expensive plan, it should be pay for the difference in costs. Mayor Pro Tem Raines suggested offering four plans with the HMO being one of them. The City would pay for a plan for each employee and if the employee wanted a different plan that costed more, then the employee would pay the difference in cost. Councilmember Phillips said that he understood that they would pick four plans to offer to employees. He continued that the health insurance broker said that some cities will pay only 50% of the insurance cost and the employees would pay the other 50%. It was understood that the City currently pays 100% of the cost. There was more discussion on the vision and dental plans and possibly offering a choice. If the employee wanted the other plan, then the employee would pay the difference. There was discussion on changes to the annual cost for the health insurance and wages. Life Insurance was discussed, and it was decided that the life insurance would remain part of the full-time employee benefit package. There was discussion on possible street improvements that would be completed this year and next. Council discussed putting part of the $9,000 overage back into the Library ($4,000), Water/Wastewater ($2,000), Administration/Court ($2,000) and the remaining as needed. Mayor Pro Tem Raines would reconfigure the budget worksheet per the changes discussed.

3. Roll call vote on proposed 2020 tax rate for the City's maintenance and operations budget and debt service budget.

Councilmember Phillips moved to propose an 2020 tax rate for the City's maintenance and operations of $0.514509; a debt service rate of $.062591 for a total proposed rate of $.577100 and Mayor Pro Tem Raines seconded the motion. Mayor Wondolowski asked for a roll call vote on the motion and the vote was:

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Raines voting in favor of the motion;
Councilmember Sean Phillips voting in favor of the motion;
Councilmember Darla Loggains Wood voting in favor of the motion;
Councilmember Taylor Burton and Councilmember Richard Sidebottom were absent.

Mayor Wondolowski declared that the motion passed.

4. Consider and act on setting the date(s) for the public hearing on the proposed budget and when the budget will be adopted.

The public hearing on the proposed budget and proposed tax rate and date of adoption of both will be on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

5. Consider and act on setting the date(s) for the public hearing on the proposed tax rate and when it will be adopted.

Item was discussed during agenda item# 4. The public hearing on the proposed tax rate and will be adopted on September 14, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

6. Adjourn.

Mayor Wondolowski adjourned the meeting at 7:36 pm.

APPROVED:

Mark Wondolowski, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jeanine Inman, City Secretary