



PRINCETON
MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF PRINCETON
MINUTES • MAY 2, 2016

Special Meeting

Monument Main

10:15 AM

1 Monument Drive, Princeton, NJ 08542

I. STATEMENT CONCERNING NOTICE OF MEETING

The following is an accurate statement concerning the providing of notice of this meeting and said statement shall be entered in the minutes of this meeting. Notice of this meeting as required by Sections 4a, 3d, 13 and 14 of the Open Public Meetings Act has been provided to the public in the form of a written notice. On April 29, 2016 at 12:07 p.m., said notice was posted on the official bulletin board in the Municipal Building, transmitted to the Princeton Packet, the Trenton Times, the Town Topics and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The audience participated in the pledge of allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

The Municipal Clerk then called the roll.

Present for Council: Mayor Lempert, Councilwoman Butler, Council President Liverman, Councilman Miller and Councilman Simon.

Absent: Councilwoman Crumiller and Councilwoman Howard.

Also Present: Mr. Dashield, Administrator

IV. WORK SESSION

1. Workshop, 2016 Municipal Budget

Mr. Dashield reviewed with the Mayor and Council the budget amendment proposed at the April 25, 2016 Council meeting increasing the taxation amount by \$150,000.00 and increasing the surplus by \$150,000.00.

Mr. Dashield reviewed three options with potential savings.

Option #1 outlined staff recommended savings between salary/wages and other expenses for a total of \$204,100.00. Option #2, with a savings of \$97,000.00 had no impact on surplus and would require a policy decision by Council. Option #3, with a savings of \$75,000.00 would have an impact on surplus and was not recommended by Mr. Dashield.

Mr. Dashield said that he recommended that Council concentrate on proposed option #1.

(Option outline appended to this set of minutes.)

Mr. Simon said that with these proposed adjustments and a tax increase we would be flat. He said that it was too late in the year for more adjustments.

Mr. Miller said that we should look at possible structural changes.

Mr. Liverman thanked the Finance Committee for doing a great job.

Mayor Lempert said that it was the consensus of Council to pass the amendment and then look beyond for more savings. Mr. Dashield said that he was not sure that additional savings could be found.

Ms. Butler said that we need to start earlier to find additional savings. She said that we need to look at the police department to make sure that they are the right size. We should examine the benefits of composting and come up with a list that shows how we can better spend \$100,000.00.

Mr. Simon said that when the Public Works Committee meets again they can focus on looking for cost savings.

Mayor Lempert suggested looking on the revenue side, fees and revenue generation.

Mr. Dashield recommended reallocation of \$10,000.00 from Access Princeton salary and wage to Historic Preservation for taking on additional work.

Mr. Miller said that he recused himself from any discussion regarding the Library budget.

Mr. Liverman said that at this point in the year it is really too late to cut the Library budget and that he would not vote for that.

Mayor Lempert said that we should have an across the board policy with like agencies regarding budget appropriations.

Ms. Butler said that we will have two significant employee departures this year and we should account for any savings in salaries. She said that she wanted to make sure that the money did not just disappear.

Mr. Dashield said that the Engineers position would show in this year's budget and the Deputy Administrator's position would be in next year's budget.

Mr. Miller said that we as a governing body have been very responsive to the needs of our residents, but at what cost to our taxpayers.

Mr. Simon said that the Finance Committee began looking at several department budgets as far back as December. He said that he encouraged Administration to have difficult and uncomfortable discussions next year, find out where the priorities are and build public discussions into the process.

Mayor Lempert said that she agreed and asked that department heads be involved to come up with solutions.

Ms. Butler said that departments are going to defend the budget that they have. She said we continue to add things but are not honest about the actual cost. Ms. Butler said that we need to be more realistic, setting higher parameters and standards.

Mayor Lempert noted that the Finance Committee recommended that Council not move forward with resolution 16-115 to amend the budget at this time.

V. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 A.M.

Linda S. McDermott
Municipal Clerk
