

**NORTH BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP
MINUTES...**

**SPECIAL MEETING
June 29, 2023**

A special meeting of the North Brunswick Township Council was held on Thursday, June 29, 2023 (**Via Virtual Conferencing**) at 3:32 pm.

Mayor Womack called the meeting to order.

Roll call:

Yays: Ms. Guadagnino, Messrs. Andrews, Socio and Mehta

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent: Hutchinson and Davis

Ms. Russo announced that the notice requirements of the law have been satisfied. Notices were sent by certified mail on June 27, 2023 to the following:

- a) The Home News Tribune
- b) Star Ledger

Notice receipts are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office. Also, notices were posted on the doors in the Municipal Clerk's Office Trailer # 1 and filed in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

Mayor Womack lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilwoman Hutchinson logged in at 3:34 pm

Councilman Davis logged in at 3:35 pm

Also present: (Via Virtual Conferencing) Business Administrator Justine Progebin, Township Attorney Ron Gordon, Esq., Director of Parks, Recreation & Community Services Lou Ann Benson, Police Chief Joe Battaglia, Director of Community Development Michael Hritz, Acting Director of Department of Public Works Steve Bloyed, Chief Financial Officer Cavel Gallimore, Court Administrator Kim Molnar, Clerk Lisa Russo and Administrative Secretary Marilu Ruiz.

Reports from Mayor, Council, Administrator, CFO

Councilman Socio announced that the Rapid Swim Team won their 1st meet of the year. Next meet is on Saturday at an away game. Best of luck to them.

Mayor Womack asked CFO Cavel Gallimore to explain the increase.

Ms. Gallimore explained the 7.9 cent increase.

Councilman Andrews asked should it be higher what would it mean.

Ms. Gallimore explained possible higher increases.

Business Administrator Justine Progebin explained that their will be further discussions.

Mayor Womack mentioned that the Township will not be doing much hiring.

Councilman Andrews mentioned that the Township has reduced its staff drastically and are working kind of on bare bones. Our Police Dept. seems to be doing a lot with our community. We had a major hit from the Health Insurance.

Mayor Womack mentioned he is hoping things can help before next years budget hearing. If we do 7.9 this year we may do better next year.

Ms. Progebin explained the increase of 7.9 and not hiring additional staff, it will all be on hold.

Mayor Womack asked about the reimbursement by FEMA for the reconstruction of the Municipal Building.

Ms. Progebin explained the reimbursement process and the decisions.

Ms. Gallimore explained the reserve policy. The funding would have to be done out of this year's timeline. 90% of funding round about number would be 30 million.

Councilman Andrews mentioned we probably be better off to fund a little and balance the difference.

Ms. Progebin explained the assessments and increases.

Councilman Davis asked if there are some positives for next year. Do we take the shot of more funds coming in next year?

Mayor Womack asked Ms. Progebin about a 9.0 tax increase Ms. Gallimore explained that she had a 10% amount calculated.

Councilman Socio asked what the Levy was.

Ms. Gallimore explained the increases.

Mayor Womack mentioned doing the right thing would probably be doing 10 cent increase.

Councilman Andrews mentioned that we have been facing inflation and other things with the Municipal Building and we are getting killed with the Medical Insurance.

Mayor Womack spoke about the Police Comp. buy outs.

Ms. Progebin explained that they will all sunset if they were grandfathered in.

Councilman Andrews asked if there is money set aside to cover those lump sum payouts cost.

Ms. Progebin explained the deferred charges \$10,000 and the increase cost of garbage and transfer of money for other things. She also, explained how Ms. Gallimore puts money in budgets to pay out.

Councilwoman Guadagnino asked about the increases of 7.9 to 9 to 10 what does it equate to.

Ms. Gallimore explained the fees.

Township Attorney Ron Gordon asked if the Library Levy will change, Ms. Gallimore explained that it will not change.

Mayor Womack explained that he is not happy that we have to have this increase.

Mayor Womack called for a motion to an amendment for the amount on item 4a on the consent agenda for the Preliminary Tax Levy to \$37,677,459.24 so, moved by Mr. Andrews second by Mr. Davis.

Roll call:

Yays: Ms. Hutchinson, Ms. Guadagnino, Messrs. Andrews, Davis, Socio and Mehta
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent:

Mayor Womack called for a motion to approve item 4a on the consent agenda. Motion made by Mr. Andrews to approve item 4a on the agenda, second by Mr. Davis.

Consent Agenda

- a. 220-6.23 Approving Municipal Tax Levy for the Fiscal Year 2024

Mayor Womack opened the Public Hearing.

No public comment

Mayor Womack called for a motion to close Public Hearing, so moved by Councilman David second by Councilman Socio.

Roll call:

Yays: Ms. Hutchinson & Ms. Guadagnino, Messrs. Andrews, Davis, Socio and Mehta
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent:

Mayor Womack called for a motion to Adjourn Meeting so moved by Councilman Socio second by Councilwoman Guadagnino.

Roll call:

Yays:

Ms. Hutchinson & Ms. Guadagnino, Messrs. Andrews, Davis, Socio and Mehta

Nays:

None

Abstain:

None

Absent:

Adjourn 4:12 pm

Lisa Russo

Municipal Clerk