

***Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey,
adequate notice of this meeting was provided by publication in
The Press and is posted on the bulletin board at City Hall.***

**The Common Council of the City of Corbin City reserves the right to consider, discuss
and/or take formal action upon Resolutions or Ordinances not appearing on the printed agenda.**

All stood for the Flag Salute.

Mr. Kane called the meeting to order at 5:06pm.

Members present: Mayor Schulte, Mr. Kane, Mrs. Kirn and Mr. Surran

Also, present: Mr. Harvey Cocozza from Ford-Scott Associates, Corbin City Auditor

Employees absent: Al Stanley, CFO

Privileges of the floor:

Open: Motioned by: Mr. Surran and seconded by: Mrs. Kirn

Public Comments: Carol Foster of 208 Head of River Road asked when the executive session budget minutes from January 27th meeting would be made public.

Close: Motioned by: Mr. Surran and seconded by: Mrs. Kirn

Budget discussion:

Harvey opened the discussion stating the tax levy is about \$1,000 under what it was last year and the tax rate is flat as of now.

- The ACUA Solid Waste and Health Care line items were reviewed and all is good for 2020.
- The EMS line item is according to the usage rate and that's not something the city can predict. The amount in the line item is the amount we paid last year (\$35,962). There was a discussion regarding the EMS increase from last year and the \$3,000 a year donation to the Fire Company from 2015, 2018 and 2019 was never paid. It was explained by the CFO those funds are no longer there and were transferred to pay the EMS increase that needs to be paid. The decision was made to take \$9,000 from the Buildings and Ground Miscellaneous Other Expenses that has \$11,586 in reserve. The donations for the years 2015, 2018 and 2019 will be paid when the budget is adopted.
- The School Board surplus will be going away this year and for the next several years. If we continue this way the surplus will be zero. In six years', time we should increase in smaller increments over time instead of one big hit. It was mentioned in last year's budget we cut back extra funds by \$25,000 otherwise we were looking at a 5.5 cent tax increase. We could increase the surplus by \$5,300 and that would be equivalent to less than a cent. It would be an additional \$8.36 on a \$100,000 assessment per year and a \$250,000 assessment would be \$21.00 a year.
- The surplus is \$120,000 down from 2019 (\$135,000).

Corbin City
Budget Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2020

- Modifications were made to the Other Expenses throughout the budget at last meeting.
- The line item for snow removal is a trust fund in the amount of \$6,000 the reserve has \$4,200.
- Employee salary increases: Mayor suggested holding off on employee increases for this year in order to help the budget numbers. He commented the salaries are decent for the amount of people here compared to other towns. Mrs. Kirn stated there has been a 2% increase since 2011. She commented not much has changed, there is not many residents or homes. It was asked how much would it help it was stated \$2,300. The Auditor stated it is actually \$1,200 for the increases. Mr. Kane stated the cost of living increase is generally 3% or more a year. Mr. Kane asked if there was a legal way to offer his salary to offset the employees increases. The Mayor talked about a salary ordinance with ranges. The Auditor explained how they work. It was decided to give to all employees/departments a 2% increase across the board with the exception of Mayor and Council.
- Carl Road (K-9 Unit) is in a trust fund in the amount of \$31,416.
- **Summary:** all line items and other expenses were adjusted one by one according to past year spending. This budget has been cut by \$11,000 not counting grants. There will be a tax increase of .8 cents that includes the employee 2% salary increases with the exception of Mayor and Council.
- The introduction of this budget will be held on March 9th and the adoption will be on April 13th.

Privileges of the floor:

Open: Motioned by: Mrs. Kirn and seconded by: Mr. Surran

Public Comments: hearing none

Close: Motioned by: Mrs. Kirn and seconded by: Mr. Surran

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Surran and seconded by Mrs. Kirn at 6:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Siedlecki, RMC, CMR
City Clerk

Robert Schulte, Mayor