

*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, posted on the bulletin board at City Hall and posted on the City's website.*
**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.**

CONFERENCE CALL-Roll Call:

Conference call meeting attendance:

Matte Kane, LaVerne Kirn, Kristofer Surran, Richard Russell, Harvey Coccozza (City Auditor), Al Stanley (CFO), Carol Foster, Bill Collins, Tom Bennis, Robert Schulte and Fred Constantino.

All stood for the Flag Salute.

Mr. Kane called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Members present: Mayor Schulte and Mr. Kane

Privileges of the floor: for agenda items and other issues.

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

Public Comments:

1. Bill Collins asked about Meskers lien, EMS charges and salary increases.
2. Carol Foster has concerns about the budget, collecting taxes, K-9 Training, and employee increases.
3. Tom Bennis has concerns with giving the employees salary increases at this time.

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

New Business:

Levy Cap summary calculations as of April 9, 2020.

Harvey Coccozza (Auditor) commented the budget appropriation numbers (sheets 12 to 29) have stayed the same but the revenue from the Garden Stated Trust of \$25,526. Last year we received \$47,046 and this year we will be receiving \$72,572. With the additional revenues we need to do something with that amount of money. Surplus anticipated will go down from \$120,000 to \$94,474.

Al (CFO) stated the funds are frozen at this time due to the health crisis. They are guaranteed funds it's just a matter of when we see them. Normally those funds are received starting August 1st and ending on December 1st. There will be estimated tax bills due to no county tax rate for the August payment.

The present tax levy is \$174,966 which amounts to 8/10 of a cent that would be approximately \$20.50 on the annual municipal tax rate.

Council comments:

1. Mrs. Kirn suggested removing the salary and tax increases and get the surplus down to \$90,000.
2. Mr. Kane questioned the amount of funds in the technology line item (sheet 17) with \$7,000 in the line. Al commented we have used about \$4,000 to date.
3. Mayor Schulte feels with the financial setbacks, national health issues and additional costs with sanitation pickup, the EMS issues; now is not a good time for salary increases.
4. Mr. Kane asked the Auditor what is impact on the 2% salary increase budget to budget. Harvey replied \$1,200. (sheet 17a) There is a reserve of \$12,000; which is additional funds to cover the Deputy Clerks hours, Planning Board meetings and Flood Administrator if needed but may or may not use in any given year. The Mayor asked about this year he was looking at \$3,359? Harvey stated we are actually down \$700 in the Clerk's office because the extra time is not in there for the Deputy Clerk from last year, which is not needed for this year. Mr. Kane reiterated the 2% salary increase (\$1,200) for salary increases from budget to budget. Harvey agreed. The Mayor asked if the State Health Benefits have increased this year? Al stated they have actually gone down.
5. Mrs. Kirn stated over the last 10 years salary increases totaled \$45,000. The percent of the budget going back to 2011 was 17% and now we are at 26% over all in the last 10 years salaries have been increased by 47%. She stated we can't keep compiling this and have the residents pay for this; salaries are at a max.
6. Mr. Surran commented in any line of work if you stay with an employer long enough and you continue to get raises until the employer feels as though you made enough, then you can no longer get a raise; that is not how it works. He stated if we cannot afford to give raises there is an engineering line item with \$17,000 for reconstruction road project and \$8,000 of that will be used for the boat ramp making it ADA compliant. We can afford to fix the boat ramp but not give our employees a 2% salary increase that works out to less than \$3,000 a year? Once the boat ramp is fixed it will draw outsiders, who don't pay taxes here to use it and our taxpayers will feel the wrath of that.
7. Mayor Schulte replied initially the boat ramp repair was to fix the concrete; the walkways are dilapidated and the Engineer said we would get more grant money if we included the boat ramp restoration making it ADA compliant; it would be a one-time engineering cost. At this time the project is on the back burner. The other issue is the DOT grant for the Atlantic Gardens off of Route 50 reconstruction road project in the amount of \$152,000 with a cap of \$15,000 of engineering costs. There is DOT reimbursement on specific things like inspection costs.
8. Mr. Kane asked the auditor the impact of the \$1,200 salary increase? Harvey replied 1/4 of a cent (.0025). Mr. Kane clarified that this budget does include the deferred payments to the Fire company (sheet 15) \$9,000. Mr. Kane stated we were looking at a 2-cent increase and Harvey confirmed we are now under .8 cents. Harvey stated we could go up another \$23,700 according to the revised levy cap (as of April 9th). Mrs. Kirn said during this time we should not be raising taxes. She asked how many residents are out of work? We should look as this next year when things are better. Mr. Kane suggested taking the \$1,200 out of there and then we still have to come up with .7 cents to not raise taxes. He asked where does that come from? Mrs. Kirn replied surplus. Mr. Kane stated the whole discussion was not to tap into surplus because of the uncertain times ahead. The Mayor commented we will not have the School Board money from this point forward. Pulling from the surplus every year is not an option in about 5 years. He thinks reducing the amount of surplus we carry over would benefit the town over time.
9. Mrs. Kirn asked if we remove the tax increase to residents where are we? Mr. Kane stated we

would be in the hole right now and we would have to tap into the reserves. Harvey made a suggestion of spreading the Fire Company money over 2 years then the \$3,000 in the line item could be moved out. The Mayor replied the First Aid contributions of \$3,300 is incorporated into the yearly billing. That would be a line item that we could utilize.

10. Mr. Surran commented the contract from Upper Township EMS says it's \$25,000 a year plus the \$3,300 in donation. Mr. Kane agreed that is part of the stipulation of the contract. Mrs. Kirn stated it is built into the contract. The Mayor asked Harvey when we paid the bill for EMS it was \$36,000, Harvey stated it was \$35,962. Mrs. Kirn said on that invoice it shows its added in there and not a separate donation. Mr. Surran does not agree. Mr. Kane did some calculations and the average homeowner would be paying 5 cents a day increase to leave the budget as it stands right now.

Re-opened Privileges of the Floor:

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

1. Fred Constantino commented the employees should not expect a raise with the national crisis and be thankful they have a job. He said we are all suffering and it's not responsible.
2. Carol Foster stated reduce the First Aid Contribution of \$3,300 down to \$300 to leave the line item open. Then pay the Fire Company \$6,000 this year and \$6,000 next year that would give us another \$3,000. That would be \$6,000 we can take out of the budget.
3. Mrs. Kirn asked Harvey what is the dollar amount we need to reduce taxes? He replied \$4,100 to reduce the taxes; which will change a little for reserve for uncollected taxes. She thinks we should remove the EMS donation and salary increases that will take it down to a flat zero rate. She asked Al's opinion he commented it depends on what rate we want.

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

Mr. Kane suggested taking the First Aid Contribution of \$3,300 (sheet 15) down to \$1.00 if all we need is to keep that line in the budget. Harvey asked if we want the levy to be a zero or the rate to be a zero? If we want the rate to be a zero, we have to decrease the tax levy because there was some constriction in the net valuation. We are looking for a flat dollar levy, last year \$170,850 and want the same this year. To do this Harvey needs to cut \$817.00 and suggested adding a little more (\$800.00) to the surplus.

Mrs. Kirn asked if we removed the salary increases? Mr. Kane replied; no. He questioned there is nowhere in this budget we can find \$817.00? Harvey replied we are currently using \$94,474 the extra \$800 will take us to \$95,291 in surplus.

The new State Aid numbers (\$85,000) will build over the next 3 years; outside of school contributions, regenerated miscellaneous revenues we don't budget and cancelation of 2018 reserve from budget not spent.

Mr. Kane stated; should we move forward the residents will realize a zero percent rate increase which is a zero-tax increase. With the exact same rate of tax levy \$170,850.

There will be no tax increase. Harvey changed the budget to \$170,850 for the tax levy, we are using \$95,291 of surplus as opposed to the \$135,000, the salary line items remain intact. He commented the salary ordinance will actually drive what is paid.

Corbin City
Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2020

A roll call vote was taken to move forward with the introduction of the municipal budget for 2020:
Mr. Kane-yes Mrs. Kirn-no Mr. Surran-yes
Motion carried.

Old Business:

- JIF Training to be completed by May 1, 2020. All employees will have to do this at home and Mrs. Kirn will forward the links to complete.

A motion to adjourn the workshop meeting was made by Mrs. Kirn and seconded by Mr. Surran at 7:06pm. RCV: all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Siedlecki, RMC, CMR
City Clerk

Robert Schulte, Mayor