

Council President Noble convened the meeting of Hanover Borough Council on Tuesday Evening, January 12, 2016 7:30 PM, in the Hanover Municipal Building, 44 Frederick Street, Hanover, Pennsylvania as advertised.

On roll call the following answered as present: Council Members Mr. Angel, Mr. Baumgardner, Mr. Funke, Ms. Libertini, Mr. Marcoccio, Mr. Noble, Mr. McLin, Mr. Reichart, Mr. Roth and Mr. Shea; Solicitor Yingst; Mayor Adams; Manager Ford and Secretary Neiderer.

CITIZENS WITH ITEMS OF BUSINESS TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE COUNCIL

None was presented.

Reopening of 2016 Budget - Discussion

President Noble began the discussion with a few comments to Council, Staff & Citizens present:

"The economy is not good. Twenty (20%) percent of our citizens are over sixty-five (65) years of age. Some living on social security, and had no increase for 2016. The number of jobs in the Hanover area has gone down by six point nine (6.9%) percent. Local inflation has been two (2%) percent per year for the last five (5) years. The budget has increased by two (2) to four (4) times the inflation rate each year for the past five (5) years. The Borough debt has gone from twenty-five point six (25.6) million dollars in 2009 to fifty-three point six (53.6) million today. That is a twenty-eight (28) million dollar increase. Based on the above it cannot be business as usual in the future. We are on a path that is unsustainable. The Council and staff and all employees must begin to think "outside the box." We must develop plans to improve services in much more efficient ways. We must justify all capital expenditures by asking ourselves: 'What are the alternatives?' 'What are other municipalities doing?' Don't ever say 'We have always done it this way.'"

In summary, Mr. Noble stated that we must develop plans to improve and be more cost effective.

Mr. Marcoccio commented that legal advertisements should not be placed in the *Merchandiser*, and should not appear in the classified section because they are not easily accessible.

Mr. Scott Roland, 307 Primrose Lane, offered a round of applause for newly elected President Noble's comments.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance & Personnel Committee – Mr. McLin

Finance & Personnel Committee Chairman McLin explained that the Hanover Borough Council had previously approved the 2016 tax increase amounting to approximately \$83,000.00 on December 23, 2015. On January 4, 2016 Hanover Borough Council voted to reopen the budget and evaluate expenses. Mr. McLin asked Council to consider holding the budgeted tax amount to the 2015 rate.

Mr. McLin asked Police Chief Chad Martin to speak on behalf of the Police Department. Chief Martin stated one (1) officer is eligible to retire in 2016. It takes approximately eighteen (18) months for an officer to be properly trained to begin working on the street. Our Police Department utilizes the York County Consortium to assist in hiring candidates which saves on costs. A three (3) to five (5) month background check is completed on each candidate, and they are on one (1) year probation after completing the police academy. In summary it is a very lengthy process and on occasion an officer does not complete the probationary period and the process would begin all over again for another candidate. It is therefore prudent to prepare for the hiring of a new officer in anticipation of the officer's retirement. Mr. Noble asked how many individuals were on the police force? Chief Martin replied there are twenty (26) total. Mr. Noble stated he believes the guideline is approximately one (1) officer for each 1,000 population. Chief Martin stated the FBI guideline is approximately one point five per 1,000 population and this equates to our current twenty-two point five (22.5) officers on the street with our current population.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance & Personnel Committee – Mr. McLin

Mr. McLin thanked Police Chief Martin for his information on the police department.

Mr. McLin asked Chief Cromer to come forward to speak on behalf of the Fire Department. Chief Cromer distributed information packets to Council for their review regarding the operations management and the budget. The Fire Department is not asking for any new hires; the hiring of one firefighter is to replace an open position on one of the platoons. There are three (3) platoons with four (4) firefighters and one (1) captain on two (2) of them; and the third platoon has only a total of four (4) at this time including the captain, so the new hire would be positioned on that platoon. The Firefighter contract states that there must be a minimum manning of four (4) per platoon. Without the proper manning of all shifts, overtime becomes extremely costly. In addition, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard is four (4) personnel per piece of apparatus responding. Most incidents require two (2) pieces of fire apparatus responding, and even when the department is at full staff of five (5), it is still below the minimum standards required. The Insurance Services Office (ISO) rates each municipality, and this rating directly impacts the cost of fire insurance for citizens. This rating is primarily based on number of personnel and apparatus. Decreasing personnel will therefore increase cost of insurance for citizens. Chief Cromer emphasized that the most important reason for five (5) firefighters on a platoon is for safety of our personnel, as at a working fire one (1) firefighter must stay with each piece of apparatus. Chief Cromer noted the Fire Budget is approximately \$57,000 lower than last year. There are three (3) firefighters ready for retirement. Background checks are in the process of being completed on the top three (3) candidates. The Steering Committee for the Joint Hanover Borough – Penn Township Fire Department continues to meet regarding the merging of the two (2) departments.

It was moved by Mr. McLin, seconded by Mr. Marcoccio that the purchase of any fixed assets or capital projects will be addressed by Finance Director Miller, Borough Manager Ford, Finance Chairman McLin and Council Member Baumgardner and further discussion may occur at the meetings of the Finance & Personnel Committee or the appropriate committee prior to Council approval. On roll call, the following voted in favor of the motion: Mr. Angel, Mr. Baumgardner, Mr. Funke, Ms. Libertini, Mr. Marcoccio, Mr. Noble, Mr. McLin, Mr. Reichart, Mr. Roth and Mr. Shea. There were no votes in opposition to the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. McLin explained that the reason Council approved the plan to increase taxes by .08 mills or a total of \$83,000.00 was to build a reserve cushion for future years in order to prevent a large increase as has happened in the past. Mr. McLin proposed "*better fiscal austerity*" through delay of capital purchases, etc. instead of a tax increase this year.

It was moved by Mr. McLin, seconded by Mr. Shea to maintain the same tax rate in 2015 of 5.65 mills in the current budget for 2016 with no increase.

Mr. Reichart asked for clarification on "*better fiscal austerity*". Mr. McLin explained the meaning refers to the need to examine capital costs, etc.

Mr. Marcoccio noted that keeping taxes and sewer rates down would help small business owners and help increase the tax base.

Mr. Shea thanked Finance Director Miller and Manager Ford for their quick response to Council's request for information for this evening's meeting.

On roll call, the following voted in favor of the motion: Mr. Angel, Mr. Baumgardner, Ms. Libertini, Mr. Marcoccio, Mr. Noble, Mr. McLin, Mr. Reichart, and Mr. Shea. Mr. Funke and Mr. Roth voted in opposition to the motion. There were eight (8) voting in favor of and two (2) voting in opposition to the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. McLin, seconded by Mr. Marcoccio to delay the increase of sewer rates and to review expenses for possible savings on costs.

Mr. Roth stated that the increase was designed for future reserves, and asked what kind of impact this will have on the sewer department.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance & Personnel Committee – Mr. McLin

Water & Wastewater Supt. Mayers stated that current sewer system infrastructure is aging and there are many lines in need of repair and at some point these repairs will need to be addressed. Additional problems are apparent during heavy rains.

Mr. Baumgardner asked if the sewer budget was earmarked to build reserves.

Finance Director Miller responded that a cushion helps to ease the burden of increasing maintenance expenditures, but there are no specific funds earmarked for this purpose. He further explained that through discussions the Finance & Personnel Committee had an opportunity to review various recommendations for both the tax rate increase and the sewer rate increase.

On roll call, the following voted in favor of the motion: Mr. Angel, Mr. Baumgardner, Ms. Libertini, Mr. Marcoccio, Mr. Noble, Mr. McLin, and Mr. Shea. Mr. Funke, Mr. Reichart and Mr. Roth voted in opposition to the motion. The was seven (7) voting in favor of and three (3) voting in opposition to the motion. Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. McLin, seconded by Mr. Shea to direct the advertisement for the proposed 2016 Budgets to be opened for public inspection Friday January 15, 2016 through Tuesday, January 26, 2016 in the Office of the Borough Secretary, 44 Frederick Street, Hanover, Pennsylvania, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. On roll call, the following voted in favor of the motion: Mr. Angel, Mr. Baumgardner, Mr. Funke, Ms. Libertini, Mr. Marcoccio, Mr. Noble, Mr. McLin, Mr. Reichart, Mr. Roth and Mr. Shea. Motion carried.

OTHER MATTERS

Communications

Mr. Shea thanked Secretary Neiderer and Manager Ford for the addition of the “announcements” tab on the navigation bar of the Borough’s Website to post current notices and agendas which helped to declutter the home page.

Manager Ford thanked Ms. Justine Trucksess and Gary Laird - Main Street Hanover for their support and assistance with the cooperative effort to collaborate with Columbia Gas in regard to their proposed street construction work.

Unfinished Business

President Noble appointed the following Council Members to respective Committees:

- Henry McLin was appointed as the Finance & Personnel Committee Chairman at the January 4, 2016 reorganization meeting. This Committee is comprised of all Council members.
- Gerry Funke shall be appointed Chairman of the Public Safety Committee. Members shall be Robert Marcoccio, Marjorie Libertini, Bill Reichart and Henry McLin.
- The Hanover Borough Council Planning & Traffic Committee was eliminated, and Gerry Funke shall be appointed to serve as representative of Council to attend Planning Commission meetings on Council’s behalf.
- Jim Baumgardner shall be appointed Chairman of the Engineering Compliance Office and Facilities Committee. Members shall be Gerry Funke, Dan Noble and Brian Shea.
- Brian Shea was appointed Chairman of the Public Service & Communications Committee at the January 4, 2016 reorganization meeting. Members shall be Jim Roth, Henry McLin, Marjorie Libertini and Robert Marcoccio.
- Dan Noble shall be appointed Chairman of the Public Works Committee. Members shall be James Roth, Henry McLin, Brian Shea and Scott Angel. *(This Committee will also absorb the role of the former Street Committee.)*

OTHER MATTERS

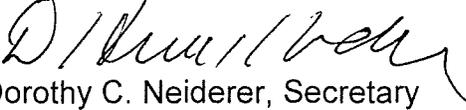
Unfinished Business

- Bill Reichart shall be appointed Chairman of the Sewer & Water Committee. Members shall be Jim Baumgardner, Robert Marcoccio, Scott Angel and Jim Roth.
- Jim Baumgardner shall be appointed Chairman of the Borough Negotiation Team. Members shall be Bill Reichart, Dan Noble and Marjorie Libertini.

ADJOURMENT

As there were no other comments or concerns from staff, citizens or Council members, it was moved by Mr. Funke, seconded by Mr. Reichart to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Dorothy C. Neiderer, Secretary