

CALL TO ORDER

Special Meeting of the Mayor and Borough Council held on May 26, 2026 was called to order by Mayor O'Brien at 6:01 P.M. followed by a salute to the flag.

STATEMENT OF NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Municipal Clerk Morelos announced that this Budget Workshop has been advertised and posted in accordance with Open Public Meetings Act Chapter 231, P.L. 2025.

ROLL CALL

- Roll Call: Councilpersons Blemur, Colaci (arrived at 6:04pm), Novak, Rios, Synarski, Zebrowski

- Absent: None

- Others Present: Mayor Kennedy O'Brien
Jessica Morelos, Municipal Clerk
Business Admin. Glenn Skarzynski
C.F.O./Treasurer Danielle Maiorana

- Others Absent: Borough Engineer (not required to be in attendance)
Borough Attorney Joseph Sordillo (not required to be in attendance)

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Councilwoman Novak stated that the budget started out at \$.252. She stated that the CFO and Business Administrator worked very hard to get it down to \$.163 and then there was no second on the motion. Councilwoman Novak stated she sent an email to each Councilperson asking for some ideas. She stated if we took everything off the capital it would only be about \$.02 taken off. CFO Maiorana stated that a tax point is \$237,000. She stated that Councilman Synarski stated that they should go to each department for them to remove things. Councilwoman Novak stated that Danielle and Glenn had already done that. She stated that salaries and wages can't be cut, but can do layoffs. Councilwoman Novak stated she is looking for direction. She questioned where they are at with the increase for sewer fees.

Business Administrator Skarzynski responded that they should be done by the end of the week.

Discussion ensued on why the sewer fees need to be increased.

Councilwoman Novak questioned if the sewer connector fees are also being increased. Business Administrator Skarzynski responded that they have to research that.

Councilwoman Novak questioned if an increase in construction fees would help. Business Administrator Skarzynski responded that it falls under the Uniform Construction Code but would check on it.

Councilwoman Novak questioned if anyone would want to do layoffs in order to get the budget down. Business Administrator Skarzynski explained the layoff procedure.

Councilman Zebrowski questioned if the auditor was able to find additional revenue. CFO Maiorano responded that they are still looking at it but the issue is that if we anticipate more revenue then we may start off next year off in a worse spot.

Councilwoman Novak stated that the price of fuel has gone up and that will affect the budget. Discussion ensued on fuel contracts.

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BUDGET WORKSHOP

Councilman Blemur stated healthcare costs are a big part of the increase. He questioned if the Borough and Board of Education can combine to get a better rate.

CFO Maiorana responded that we are already in a health insurance fund.

Councilman Synarski questioned if the employees can contribute more.

Business Administrator Skarzynski stated that it is contractual and they pay 30%.

Councilman Synarski questioned if there is any pilot money that could be used.

Councilwoman Novak responded that pilot money is listed as anticipated revenue in the budget.

Councilwoman Novak asked if there is number that they want to be at.

Business Administrator Skarzynski stated that the Borough is under state review and at some point will notice that we are not in compliance.

Councilwoman Novak stated that a lot of the departments didn't have an increase this year or cut things. She stated if we started to cut services that it wouldn't help this year's budget.

Councilman Rios stated that most of the ideas would help future budgets.

Councilman Zebrowski suggested the department heads look at their budgets again to see if there are things to cut.

Councilwoman Novak stated payroll is the biggest part of the budget.

Councilman Synarski suggested cutting overtime.

Councilman Rios suggested cutting hours on seasonal/summer employees.

Councilwoman Novak questioned which department has the most overtime.

CFO Maiorana responded the Police Department.

Councilman Blemur questioned besides police which other departments have overtime.

CFO Maiorana responded sewer and public works.

Discussion ensued on cutting Fort Grumpy hours.

Councilwoman Novak questioned if there was anything to do to cut utilities.

Business Administrator Skarzynski responded that we did go to motion censored lights.

Councilwoman Novak stated besides overtime is there anything else for them to look at and get back to us.

Councilman Zebrowski requested each department look over their budget again to see if there are additional cuts that can be made.

Councilman Synarski questioned how much the department budgets increased over the last couple of years.

CFO Maiorana responded it depends on the year and the economy. She stated it also is hard to look back over the recent years due to covid.

Councilman Synarski questioned if we could use funds from the snow account.

CFO Maiorana responded that those funds are used for snow or any emergency declared in the Borough.

CFO Maiorana stated they will look at the overtime and department budgets to see what can be done to get it down.

Councilwoman Novak questioned if they were onboard with getting the budget down by doing layoffs.

They responded no.

Councilwoman Novak stated if maybe they can give an estimate on the what the Borough would receive in the third quarter on the increase of sewer fees.

Councilman Rios questioned if there any grants to explore.

Business Administrator Skarzynski responded that there are no grants for maintaining basic operations and some grants require a match.

Councilwoman Novak questioned if there any big projects that can be put off. Business Administrator Skarzynski responded no because it was going to be a tough year. He stated that they are meeting with the healthcare provider to see if there are policy options that will lower the cost for the employee and the Borough.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mayor O'Brien opened the meeting to the public.

Those commenting were:

- Gisela Schiavone, 1 Ridge Avenue

Ms. Schiavone stated that Fort Grumpy can be opened Tuesday thru Saturday.

Business Administrator Skarzynski responded that Saturday is overtime per the union contract.

Ms. Schiavone questioned if the pilot contracts are locked.

Business Administrator Skarzynski responded that pilot revenue is holding the Borough together or we would be in a worse situation.

Ms. Schiavone questioned the equipment that the Borough no longer uses.

Borough Clerk Morelos responded that the Borough gets money from scrapping.

Ms. Schiavone suggested not buying new vehicles.

Business Administrator Skarzynski explained that the Borough gets the most out of all vehicles.

Ms. Schiavone questioned going out to bid for contracts.

Business Administrator Skarzynski stated the state negotiate contracts for goods and services. He stated these contracts are usually 20% less.

Councilman Zebrowski stated that the Borough has strict procurement laws that have to be followed.

CFO Maiorana explained non-fair and open contracts.

No further comments.

Councilwoman Novak made a motion to close the public portion. Seconded by Councilman Rios.

Roll Call: Voice Vote, all Ayes.

No Further business. Councilwoman Novak made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Councilman Blemur.

Roll Call: Voice Vote, all Ayes. Carried.

Time 6:43 PM

SIGNED:

Jessica Morelos, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Date Approved