

**EASTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES
June 18, 2007
7:30 p.m.**

Call to Order

Mayor Nagler called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Pledge to the Flag

Opening Statement

Notice of this meeting was published in the Burlington County Times on June 15, 2007. Notice was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board, Municipal website and sent to the Courier Post for information.

Roll Call

_____PRESENT: Mr. Maroccia, Mr. Renzulli, Mr. Hartman, Mr. Tafe and Mr. Nagler_____

_____ALSO PRESENT: Township Manager Scott Carew, Township Clerk Linda Lovins and CFO Gerald Mingin

Public Hearing on Budget Amendment

Mayor Nagler opened to the public. There was no public in attendance. Mayor Nagler closed to the public.

Motion by Councilman Hartman, seconded by Councilman Renzulli to adopt the budget amendment All voted in the affirmative with Mr. Tafe voting no.

Continuation Public Hearing on 2007 Municipal Budget

Mayor Nagler opened to the public. There was no public in attendance. Mayor Nagler closed to the public.

Motion by Councilman Hartman, seconded by Councilman Renzulli to adopt the 2007 Municipal Budget.

Mayor Nagler asked for comments. Councilman Tafe stated that it has been an emotional and heart-wrenching process. He thanked Mayor Nagler and Chief Mingin for their assistance throughout the process. Councilman Tafe stated that his vote tonight is not reflective of council's decision as much it is of the process that is used. He needs a line item type review. Department Heads should be under close scrutiny under which they submit a budget and be able defend it and the Township Manager should then be under scrutiny of council.

Councilman Tafe believes that the budget could have been cut as we cut the fire department budget and would have the school budget should it have failed. He believes if it went to a public vote it would have failed. He believes that department heads should submit data to back up their budgets that are submitted. Councilman Tafe stated that we are at 1/2 cent increase this year where will we be next year or the year after. He thinks that the township needs to put more efforts towards joint services. He spoke of a grant that was used by some municipalities to explore the possibilities. Councilman Tafe is concerned with the process and realizes it is developed at the State level. He believes it is cumbersome to vote 1/2 way through the year.

Councilman Renzulli believes Councilman Tafe has realized how tough it is to sit on council. Councilman Renzulli stated that this is the first time he is hearing that Councilman Tafe doesn't like the process. Having a budget adopted by June is a heck of a job. Councilman Renzulli also believes shared services is something that has to be looked at. Councilman Renzulli stated that government moves very slowly. He offered words of wisdom and said get used to it and learn to plan ahead. Councilman Renzulli stated that the township doesn't get the numbers until late in the year from the state.

Councilman Hartman thanked Chief Mingin and stated that he appreciated all of the hard work and is pleased with the results of the budget this year. Councilman Hartman also believes that the time frame was good as well.

Councilman Maroccia thinks the process is a beautiful thing and thanked everyone.

Mayor Nagler stated that this budget is offering a best-case scenario for the residents with all the guesses. Going forward it is only a few months away before we start planning the budget for 2008. Mayor Nagler thinks next year with anticipated income levels being lower than anticipated, council is going to have a much tougher job to move forward.

All voted in the affirmative with Councilman Tafe and Councilman Maroccia voting no.

Adjournment

Motion by Councilman Hartman, seconded by Councilman Renzulli to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. All voted in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Lovins, RMC
Township Clerk