

November 28, 2011

## POTTSTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Special Budget meeting of the Pottstown Borough Council was called to order on Monday, November 28, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Meeting Room, Pottstown Borough Hall, 100 East High Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania, with President Toroney in the Chair.

### INVOCATION

President Toroney requested a moment of silence.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### ROLL CALL

Councilors present were Mark Gibson, Jeff Chomnuk, Stephen Toroney, Dan Weand, Jody Rhoads and Joseph Kirkland. Also present were Solicitor Charles Garner, Borough Manager Jason Bobst, Mayor Bonnie Heath and Borough Secretary Virginia Takach.

### COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

- a. Sam Augustine, J. P. Mascaro – was present to answer any questions regarding the proposed trash bids under consideration.
- b. Katy & David Jackson, 441 King Street – presented a few ideas for the budget, such as increased codes violations and enforcement against rental priorities and charges place on landlords for additional police services. Mr. Jackson added that they are available to assist as requested.
- c. Newstell Marable, President NAACP – reiterated his request to rename Armand Hammer Boulevard to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. He also commented that the Ricketts Community Center should be a center for the entire community and requested no change to the funding to the Center.

### 2012 BUDGET

Mr. Bobst reported that a meeting was held for the public on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. He added that certain suggestions from that meeting are under review. He advised that the proposed budget stands at a 3.6% tax increase with a recommendation of using Option #4 to combine a transfer from reserves, a tax increase and deferring capital items for borrowing under the Borough garage project. Mr. Bobst also explained to Council that outstanding issues remain and are under review regarding the Police Health Care package, the PCTV fund and the trash fund. Mr. Bobst assured Council that Staff would be reviewing the PCTV fund each month. He also advised that the Authority will not raise water rates and is recommending no sewer rate increase.

Ms. Lee and Mr. Bobst answered several questions and concerns from Councilors regarding specific line items in the budget such as overtime, the Animal Control Officer, IT services and building maintenance.

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Councilor Weand recommended taking the \$587,000 from the General fund, subject to review by March 2012.

Councilor Gibson commented that compared to previous years, he is quite satisfied with a 3.6% tax increase and not willing to cut police services.

Chief Flanders requested Council's suggestions as to how and where to reduce the Police Department budget.

### TRASH BIDS

Mr. Bobst explained the recommendation of the EAC and ad hoc Trash Committee from the four options for trash bids that opened on November 14<sup>th</sup>. He advised that the three bidders were Waste Management, J. P. Mascaro and A. J. Blosenski. Mr. Bobst noted that the Committee's recommendation is to award the bid to the apparent low bidder for Option #1 for once per week pick up with the new 96-gallon trash bin at a cost of \$304 per household. This is a \$10 reduction in the current trash fee.

Jim Derr, EAC Chairman, was present and explained the committee's recommendation to use the new 96-gallon toter, adding that they will be red and only six inches higher and four inches wider than the blue recycling totes.

Sam Augustine, J. P. Mascaro, explained the benefits of once per week pick up, which encourages recycling and advised that a similar system is working well in West Chester. He also noted that the Company would be providing an educational pamphlet for residents. He suggested putting old plastic trash cans in the new trash toter during the February time frame.

### BUDGET

Councilor Chomnuk moved to advertise the proposed budget using Option #4 combining the use of reserves, tax increase and borrowing resulting in a tax increase of 3.6%. Councilor Gibson seconded the motion.

Councilor Rhoads reiterated his comments regarding the loss of jobs and unemployment in the area.

President Toroney requested a roll-call vote.

Chomnuk	yes	Rhoads	no
Gibson	yes	Weand	no
Kirkland	yes	Toroney	yes

Motion carried: 4 ayes, 2 nays

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### TRASH BID

Councilor Weand moved to award a three-year contract for trash and recycling collection and disposal to J. P. Mascaro & Sons, Audubon, PA, accepting Option #1, Once Per week with Totes, in the amount of \$3,640,896, subject to review of the Public Works Department, the Borough Manager and the Borough Solicitor and as recommended by the EAC/Trash Committee. Councilor Gibson seconded the motion.

Councilor Gibson commented that although he disagrees with the once per week pick up, he would vote in favor on the recommendation of the Trash Committee.

Councilor Rhoads commented on the numerous times he has called to complain about missed pick-ups.

Mr. Augustine assured that the flippers would be used with the new totes. He added that within the first three months, new trucks would be used throughout the Borough.

Motion carried: 5 ayes, 1 nay.

Councilor Rhoads cast the negative vote.

### REVIEW PROPOSALS FOR FORMER HESS LOT

President Toroney requested Council's input and direction for the Borough Manager to move forward with the two proposals for the former Hess Lot.

Mr. Bobst added that presentations were made by Gary Silvi, Vesper Properties and also the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation. He explained that in order to work with the Redevelopment Authority in transferring the property, he would prefer to initially obtain an appraisal of the property.

It was the consensus of Council to allow Mr. Bobst to move forward with obtaining a land appraisal and establish a value to the property.

President Toroney added that after the appraisal, the Redevelopment Authority and the Economic Development Authority would be engaged to review the pros and cons from each option for the site.

Solicitor Garner advised that no motion is necessary and if timing is an issue to Council, the proposal and development of the Health and Wellness would move more quickly than a private developer due to it being more market driven.

### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m. on motion by Councilor Weand.

Submitted by,

Jason M. Bobst, Borough Manager