

**NEWPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL
MID-MONTH MEETING DECEMBER 19, 2023
MEETING MINUTES**

President Frownfelter called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with Borough Council Members Chrisitan Fickes, Greg Shope, Mary Bucher, Jacob Zentichko, Tami Halstead, and Mayor Tice present. Billie Dudley attended virtually.

Christian Fickes led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA: Cl'm Halstead moved seconded by Cl'm Fickes to amend the agenda by correcting Resolution No. 18-23 listed on the agenda, to Resolution No. 21-23 in regard to no tax change in the 2024 Tax Rate. Motion carried unanimously.

GUESTS: No guests present.

OLD BUSINESS:

Adoption of the 2024 General Fund Budget-The 2024 General Fund Budget has been properly advertised and is ready for final approval. No changes have been requested or changes made. This budget included a three percent pay increase for borough employees. Cl'm Halstead moved seconded by Cl'm Shope to approve the 2024 General Fund Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of the 2024 Liquid Fuels Budget-The 2024 Liquid Fuels Budget has been properly advertised and is ready for final approval. No changes have been requested or changes made. Cl'm Fickes moved seconded by Cl'm Bucher to approve the 2024 Liquid Fuels Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution #21-23 No Change in the 2024 Tax Rate-There will be no tax increase in 2024. The rate for real estate is the sum of 4.341 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation. This rate will be broken down on the tax bills as 3.98 mills for real estate and .0361 mills for fire protection to make a total of 4.341 mills. The rate for occupation is the sum of 153 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation. The rate for per capita is \$10.00 for each taxpayer. Cl'm Fickes moved seconded by Cl'm Bucher to approve Resolution No. 21-23 that states that the tax rates will remain the same for the 2024 tax rate. Motion carried unanimously.

Pay off the General Obligation Note on the Tractor-Cl'm Halstead stated that the tractor loan can be paid off. She will notify USDA of the council's decision and they can process the payoff. The funds to pay off the tractor will come from the Liquid Fuels Account from the equipment allocations. Cl'm Shope moved seconded by Cl'm Fickes to pay off the USDA tractor loan for the new Kioti tractor up to \$28,800. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Bills-Mid-month bills were present for payment in the amount of \$3,229.16. Cl'm Bucher moved seconded by Cl'm Zentichko to approve payment of the bills presented. Motion carried unanimously.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Borough Council Reorganization and Regular Meeting January 2, 2024, at 7:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT: Cl'm Fickes moved seconded by Cl'm Shope to adjourn at 6:06 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tami Halstead,
Assistant Secretary