

**Columbia Borough Council - Budget Meeting
October 20, 2015
Paul W. Myers Council Chambers**

Councilman Murphy, Chairman of Finance, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Councilpersons present: Barninger, Beury, Ford, Murphy, Smith, Weisser, and Welsh.

Pamela Williams, Movies Under the Stars, talked to Council about her request for an appropriation for 2016 to provide a 4 part movie series next year. Councilman Smith informed her that Parks and Recreation had planned on partnering with them on this project.

Beth Troxell, SCCA, talked to Council about her request for an appropriation for 2016 to provide art classes for children at the arts center. The funding would be used to offset the cost of teachers and supplies and would be free to children residing in Columbia. Councilman Smith informed her that Parks and Recreation could also partner with that project.

Councilman Smith stated he would get together with Pamela Williams and Beth Troxell for the November Parks and Recreation meeting to discuss these projects and get back to Council.

Councilman Murphy reviewed the proposed General Fund Budget and explained how a line item budget works.

Mary Wickenheiser asked about the decrease in taxes and what criteria was used. Councilman Murphy explained there has been some growth over the last few years and that the proposed budget does meet the needs of the Borough.

REVENUE

Councilman Ford suggested that the fee for Certificate of Occupancy and Rental Fee charges be increased.

Georgianna Schreck, Finance Manager, stated the budget number for Earned Income Tax was less aggressive than what was suggested to her by the County.

There was a discussion about the percentage of fees to be paid by LCSWMA. It was decided the contract with LCSWMA should be reviewed.

Councilman Murphy stated Councilmembers did meet with the department managers and staff regarding the budget and staff would be available for Monday night's meeting to be held on October 26, 2016, to answer any questions.

EXPENSE - ADMINISTRATION

Councilman Ford asked about the bank service fees that have increased due to the change from Susquehanna Bank to BB&T. Georgianna Schreck talked about the fees and the possibility of using another bank, but there were also issues with a bank change. Ron Miller,

Interim Borough Manager, also talked about Borough funds in the bank that could incur fees to obtain those funds. Georgianna added that Bill Kloidt might not be able to work with the Borough on fees charged by BB&T. Councilman Smith asked that Bill Kloidt be given a chance to work on the bank fees.

Councilman Murphy asked if there should be an increase in the line item for Conference and Training for the administrative staff. Georgianna stated she didn't have anything planned but expressed concerns about the reporting for the health insurance. She explained every employee would be given a form at the end of the year, with their W-2, detailing their health insurance. Georgianna stated there was a company, suggested by Benecon, that would be helping with this, which would be an expense. Councilwoman Barninger stated that the Borough's payroll company should be providing this service. Ron suggested the line item be doubled.

Councilwoman Welsh asked if there could be a decrease in Printing and Advertising by using technology. Georgianna explained most of the money would be used for advertising public meetings.

EXPENSE – PROPERTY

Councilman Ford asked about the Maintenance and Repairs to Building and if that included new front doors for the Borough office and would those be automatic doors. Georgianna stated the new front doors would have to conform with HARB. Councilwoman Barninger asked about other repairs to the building. Ron stated he did not know of anything else. Councilwoman Barninger suggested an assessment of the building and a plan for maintenance. Ron stated he would do that and also look at the Maintenance of Equipment line item.

EXPENSE – POLICE/SAFETY

There was discussion on the police pension.

Ron Miller talked about Chief Brommer's request for administrative assistant help for the police department. Councilman Murphy added Chief Brommer did discuss that and would be providing additional information.

Councilman Murphy explained there was nothing discussed on an additional officer for the school district. Ron stated that would have to be a joint conversation with school district officials and he would follow-up on that issue.

There was discussion about the budget with regards to police costs.

Councilwoman Barninger asked if there was a need to pay a fire chief and if the fire chief vehicle could be transferred to another organization. Ron Miller stated he would investigate those issues.

There was discussion about the sale of the Columbia Number One Fire Company building. Georgianna stated that, per the Borough Solicitor, the building could not be sold by the fire company because the building sits on land owned by the Borough.

Councilman Murphy changed the line item for the Fire Company appropriation to \$85,000.00, the same amount as 2015, per a request received before tonight's meeting.

EXPENSE – CODE ENFORCEMENT

Councilman Murphy talked about the code supervisor. Councilwoman Barninger added a title could be discussed later but that the line item needed to remain in the budget. Councilman Smith talked about code enforcement in Elizabethtown Borough. Councilman Ford asked about contracting out some of this work. Ron Miller stated he had some proposals and would get back to Council with that information.

EXPENSE - HIGHWAY

Councilman Murphy stated there was an additional highway worker budgeted. Councilman Smith reminded everyone that half of the salary paid by Wastewater for the Director of Public Works would eventually be eliminated. Ron Miller asked for an increase in Conference and Training to \$3,000.00. Councilman Smith asked about Engineering Fees. Ron explained that would be for presentations for grants and road projects.

EXPENSE – COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Councilman Murphy reviewed the appropriations. Mary Wickenheiser asked about the increase in the line item for Community Reinvestment. Councilman Murphy explained the line item was simply to put money back into the community. Sharon Lintner asked about the request from the Columbia Historical Society and stated she supported that request. Councilman Murphy stated that request was still being discussed. Councilman Ford added he was not in favor of providing an appropriation for an organization's entire budget. He added that he was in favor of increasing the line item for the CBAA. There was discussion about the request from the CEDC for an appropriation with Councilman Murphy asking that the CEDC define their roll within the Borough of Columbia. There was discussion on a possible Main Street program.

CAPITAL PLAN

Councilman Murphy briefly reviewed the Capital Plan by stating there were two items included for the Police Department. There was a discussion about the town security cameras.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Motion: Ford

2nd: Weisser

Voice Vote: All Favored

MOTIONED AND APPROVED this 26th day of October 2015, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Columbia, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in lawful session duly assembled.

BOROUGH OF COLUMBIA, LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.

BY: Michael L. Beury
Michael Beury, Council President

ATTEST: Ronald L. Miller
Ronald L. Miller, Interim Secretary/Treasurer

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LANCASTER COUNTY, PA
OCT 26 2015