

**SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES  
OF THE BOROUGH OF OGDENSBURG  
14 HIGHLAND AVE, OGDENSBURG AT 7:00pm  
January 30, 2023**

Mayor Hutnick called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Mayor Hutnick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** Alvarez, Ciasullo, Cowdrick, Poyer, Ruitenberg

Absent: Alvarez, DeMeo [arrived approximately 7:07pm]

Also present: Mike Marceau, CFO

**STATEMENT BY MAYOR:** “Notice requirements of P.L. 1975, Open Public Meeting Act, NJSA10:4- et.seq. have been satisfied with a schedule of all meetings, together with the time, location and agenda of same being sent to the NEW JERSEY HERALD and NEW JERSEY SUNDAY HERALD and posted on the bulletin board in the Borough Hall on Tuesday, January 10, 2023.”

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**2023 Budget Workshop**

Mr. Marceau, CFO began by explaining the issues/challenges the Borough is facing this year; 22.21% increase in health insurance, 22.04% increase in Police and Fire Pension, 4.95% increase in PERS and 23.77% increase in solid waste and recycling.

Councilman DeMeo arrived at this time approximately 7:07pm.

Mr. Marceau explained this year there is an exception to the levy cap for insurance and pension increases but not for the solid waste and recycling increase. Mr. Marceau explained certain items in the budget the Borough does not have figures for; those items include delinquent taxes which is in the Annual Finance Statement which is done next month, added assessment figures we won't have to another few weeks, the auction sale of Borough owned properties is scheduled for March so we won't have those figures until after the auction and we don't know when the DPW supervisor will be retiring.

Mr. Marceau referred to the draft of the budget hand out explaining he keep every department flat. At this point we should wait until we get figures for some of the unknowns he explained. Mr. Marceau suggested we can go through the budget hand out line by line or you can review and ask questions.

There was a discussion to save money in the budget to illuminate the funds aside for Ogdensburg Day and possible cut the parks and recreation line item by not opening the pond for one season but still maintain the cleaning of the pond.

The Council and CFO then went line by line through the budget. There was a discussion on 911 with Sparta vs. possibly using the County, insurance and a lengthy discussion on the issue the Borough is facing this year with the cost of solid waste and recycling. They discussed different scenarios to help solve this issue. The possibility of have a sanitation department or a solid waste utility, buying a truck, hiring additional employees and what would be involved in the process.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

Councilman DeMeo made a motion to open the meeting to the public. Seconded by Councilman Poyer. All were in favor.

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Fred Rowett, Clark Street, Ogdensburg asked about buying a garbage truck available to purchase.

Mr. Marceau explained the financial process for Municipalities and if the truck was on a Coop.

There was a discussion on what would need to be done, the lengthy process for the Borough to do their own solid waste and recycling pickup, civil service and the cost of hiring additional employees.

Dave Cowdrick, Main Street, Ogdensburg suggested hiring part time employees for picking up the solid waste and recycling.

Councilman DeMeo made a motion to close the meeting to the public. Seconded by Councilman Poyer. All were in favor.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Councilman DeMeo moved, Councilwoman Ruitenberg seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm.

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Robin Hough, Borough Clerk

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George P. Hutnick, Mayor