

COUNCIL DISCUSSION
NOVEMBER 16, 2023

At the conclusion of the Water Department Budget meeting, Council continued discussions on what was presented by the Department Heads and what they could do to further cut back on expenditures in order to keep the tax rate as low as possible. A summary of the decisions made are listed below, and listed separately as an attachment, is the spreadsheet containing the figures of all changes made.

- The General Fund Budget was brought down to a 2.9% tax increase from the proposed 7% tax increase.
- \$576,613 of the Fund Balance will be utilized to balance the Budget
- This leaves 21.53% of the Fund Balance as a percentage of the Budget
- Regarding requested changes to or increases in any additional positions, Council agreed to leave what the Mayor proposed.
- The Comptroller advised that Council did not need to approve the adoption of a Local Law to override the Tax Levy limit scheduled for the next Council meeting, as they are already below the limit.
- As all Union employees received a 3% salary increase, Council agreed to give the same to Management Confidential employees, with the exception of those who have been in their new position for less than one year. They agreed that as Management Confidential, if the person received the position this year, then that was their raise. There was discussion over the percentage initially and whether or not all would be treated the same; however, it was suggested that as Council does not work with the individuals on a daily basis, they have to be consistent and rely on what the Mayor recommended (with the exception of those stated above).
- With regard to stipends, they remained the same. There was discussion pertaining to Civil Service and Human Resources, which is currently being done by the Finance Department and whether or not someone should be hired to do this. Comptroller Wells advised that they are continuing to learn Civil Service Law and practices on a daily basis and will continue to do the best they can.
- The Water and Sewer rates were set at a 15% increase to both budgets.

Council concluded with appreciation for all involved and felt confident in their decisions and proud of what they were able to accomplish.

Motion to adjourn the Special Budget meeting by Deputy Mayor Kinville and Seconded by Councilor Simchik.

The Special Meeting is hereby adjourned at 8:40p.m.
Sandra LaPera, City Clerk