

**COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 2, 2015**

In attendance:

Council

Mark McCouch
Tom Johnson
Gregory S. Nesbitt
Deborah Tustin
W. William Whiteside

Staff

William T. Walker - Township Manager

Absent:

Richard Sabol-Dir. of Finance; Erik Garton, PE-Eng; Mary Eberle, Esq-Solicitor

Mr. McCouch called the Council Meeting to order at 7:07 PM, and led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. McCouch asked for questions or comments from the public. Mr. Ed Trumble, 607 McKean Road, explained about a neighboring property that he believed was in violation of Township Codes. Mr. Walker stated that he would have the Code Enforcement Department inspect the property and provide Mr. Rumble with an update.

Mr. McCouch asked for the will of Council concerning the List of Checks. It was moved by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Nesbitt, to approve the list of checks in all funds in the amount of \$91, 753.16 and further moved to authorize payment of same. It was moved by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Whiteside, to ratify the List of Checks in the General Fund in the amount of \$356,926.17 and further move to authorize payment of same.

Mr. Walker then provided the 2016 Manager's Budget Message for the proposed 2016 Budget and Tax levy. He highlighted important components of the proposed budget, and these included the following: the real estate tax rates remain the same and total 1.0 mill (.47 Library, .31 Fire, and .22 Park & Recreation); special assessments remain the same and are comprised of the hydrant tax rate (.03 mills) and the street light assessment at \$.59 per foot; and the earned income tax remains at 1%. He also reviewed the following: the average home in the municipality is assessed at \$179,625 - equating to a real estate tax bill of \$179.62, the millage rates for the time period 1991-2015, and how the millage rate compares to other nearby communities.

The 2016 Budget provides for various purchases and the completion of a number of projects. Those highlighted in the Township manager's presentation included the following: replace the Saw Mill Lane playground, complete the connector trail through the Siez property on Witmer Rd., replace a one-ton dump truck and mower in the Parks Dept., replace 79 ADA ramps, replace 128 old streetlights with LED lights, replace 19 lights in the Public Works garage with LED lights, replace three police vehicles, replace all police portable and mobile radios, repair the Community Center entrance canopy roofs, preliminary engineering for the Horsham Rd. and Limekiln Pike intersection and Blair Mill Rd. widening, a feasibility study for the Township Building and a Branding/Marketing Plan. He stated the highlight of the proposed budget is the doubling of the paving budget and paving 60% more in 2016. Mr. Walker then summarized his presentation by stating that Budget 2016 will not include a tax increase, is balanced, uses a conservative budgeting approach, and maintains the municipality's infrastructure and high level of quality services.

It was announced that a detailed budget is available for public inspection at the front desk.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40 p.m.

William T. Walker