

## **Public Hearing on the Amendment to the 2003 Municipal Budget**

Council President Goldberg stated at this time we would have the public hearing on the 2003 Municipal Budget Amendment.

Council President Goldberg opened the meeting to the public. He stated if anyone desired to be heard, please raise your hand to be recognized, come forward to the microphone and state your name and address.

John Bertollo, 162 Washington Avenue asked what the dollar amount of the amendment comes out to.

Auditor Kelly responded the amount cut was \$331,350.

Mr. Bertollo asked if money was taken from surplus and applied to the budget.

Council President Goldberg replied that \$92,000 came from cuts of expense from the budget and the balance from revenue enhancements/additional surplus.

Mr. Bertollo asked what the surplus figure was that remains.

Auditor Kelly replied approximately \$1,100,000 was left in surplus.

Mr. Bertollo asked if the sale of assets had anything to do with the Westervelt Avenue site.

Attorney Pasquale replied the money was from one piece of property already sold and another being sold tomorrow. Neither one was the Westervelt Avenue property.

Mr. Bertollo questioned the Mayor and Council salaries.

Council President Goldberg assured Mr. Bertollo there were no increases for any member of Council or the Mayor for this year.

Mr. Bertollo questioned a \$5,000 reduction for the Board of Recreation.

Council President Goldberg explained the reduction was from the JD Umpires who previously were paid as employees of the borough; now they are paid as an outside service.

Mr. Bertollo questioned some changes in regards to the public events budget, the \$150,000 from Merck to improve our water system, the fire hydrant service, the public works salary increase, the borough nurse, telephones and library expenses.

Council President Goldberg and CFO Hewitt answered all Mr. Bertollo's questions to his satisfaction.

Mr. Bertollo questioned the capital debt program for this year.

Auditor Kelly explained the figure was \$1,481,000.

CFO Hewitt explained some of it was from notes and some was for bonding.

Council President Goldberg entertained a motion to close the public hearing on the 2003 Amended Municipal Budget, moved by Councilman Van Ry, seconded by Councilman Sinning.

On roll call all voted yes.

Copy of the Amendment to the 2003 Municipal Budget and the Original Proposed Budget attached as Addendums No. 1 and 2.

Council President Goldberg entertained a motion to adopt R-A-1 the 2003 Amended Municipal Budget, moved by Councilman Sinning, seconded by Councilman Van Ry.

Councilman Metzler questioned the Group Insurance Coverage provided.

Council President Goldberg replied that ways to help cut/limit the costs of coverage are being looked into.

Councilman Metzler asked if a hiring freeze was being looked into for the Borough of Hawthorne.

Council President Goldberg replied there were no hires to be made for the year other than summer help and leaf help.

Only the police department is hiring per diem dispatchers to cover when our dispatchers are sick or on maternity leave.

Councilman Metzler asked if the DPW was hiring secretarial help.

CFO Hewitt replied that a part-time worker has already been hired for that position with no benefits.

#### **Resolution for R-A-1**

Be It Resolved by the Governing Body of the Borough of Hawthorne, County of Passaic that the budget hereinbefore set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purposes stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations, and authorization of the amount of \$9,009,655.

On roll call Councilpersons Bennett, Sinning, Van Ry and Goldberg voted yes, Councilpersons Cuccinello and Metzler voter no.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA**

Mayor Criscitelli announced a plan for a preferred prescription savings card program for seniors and disableds on social security. Dave Vozza of The Vozza Agency and Tom Viola of Garden State Pharmacy Providers Owners Services (GSPOPS) explained the features of the plan.

Mr. Vozza explained the card is a discount card for prescriptions for those who qualify. To qualify you must be a resident of the Borough of Hawthorne, be fifty-five years of age or disabled and on social security.

Mr. Viola went on to explain his company manages prescription benefits. The entire organization is made up of pharmacists. Seniors make up the largest group of prescriptions users and are usually the ones who can least afford them. Many times a senior is faced with the decision of filling their prescription and doing without food or not filling the prescription they need. That's where our card comes in to offer them a discount savings.