

ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THIS MEETING HAS BEEN PROVIDED AS IS REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 231, PUBLIC LAW 1975 AND BY RESOLUTION 2009-6 WITH THE REQUEST OF THE HOME NEWS TRIBUNE AND THE SENTINEL NEWSPAPERS TO PUBLISH SAME AND THIS ANNOUNCEMENT MUST BE ENTERED INTO THE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING

A Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South River, in the County of Middlesex and the State of New Jersey was held March 18, 2009 and was called to order by Mayor Raymond T. Eppinger at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Criminal Justice Building at 61 Main Street in South River, New Jersey with the following Councilmembers in attendance:

Councilmembers Almeida, Guindi, Hutchison, Razzano, Trenga, and Trzeciak

Also attending this meeting were Andrew J. Salerno, Borough Administrator and Gary M. Schwartz, Esq., Borough Attorney.

Andrew Salerno, Borough Administrator, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2009 Municipal Budget.

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING BY TITLE ONLY

ORD 2009-6

ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET
APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP
BANK FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2009

Councilman Trzeciak moved that the Council pass the said Ordinance on its First Reading by Title Only and that the Clerk be authorized to publish same as is required by Law with the Second Reading and Public Hearing to be held on April 13, 2009 at 8:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Criminal Justice Building at 61 Main Street in South River, New Jersey. Councilman Guindi seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE

YEAS: Almeida, Guindi, Hutchison, Razzano, Trenga, Trzeciak
NAYS: None

ORD: 2009-7

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH
OF SOUTH RIVER, CHAPTER 155 ENTITLED "FEES" BY
AMENDING SECTION 155-30. "CHAPTER 30, WATER"

Councilman Trzeciak moved that the Council pass the said Ordinance on its First Reading by Title Only and that the Clerk be authorized to publish same as is required by Law with the Second Reading and Public Hearing to be held on April 13, 2009 at 8:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Criminal Justice Building at 61 Main Street in South River, New Jersey Councilman Guindi seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE

YEAS: Almeida, Guindi, Hutchison, Razzano, Trenga, Trzeciak

NAYS: None

Introduction of 2009 Municipal Budget

MUNICIPAL BUDGET OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH RIVER, COUNTY OF
MIDDLESEX FOR THE YEAR 2009

BE IT RESOLVED that the following statements of revenues and appropriations shall constitute the Municipal Budget for the year 2009;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said Budget be published in the Home News Tribune in the issue of April 30, 2009.

The Governing Body of the Borough of South River does hereby approve the following as the Budget for the year 2009:

Revenue and Appropriation Summaries

Summary of Revenues	Anticipated	
	2009	2008
1. Surplus	646,000.00	1,225,000.00
2. Total Miscellaneous Revenues	5,684,298.23	4,779,119.10
3. Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	500,000.00	350,000.00
4. a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes	8,288,486.32	8,297,872.95
b) Addition to Local District School Tax		
Total Amount to be Raised by Taxes for		
Support of Municipal Budget	8,288,486.32	8,297,872.95
Total General Revenues	15,118,784.55	14,651,992.05

Summary of Appropriations

	2009 Budget	Final 2008 Budget
1. Operating Expenses: Salaries and Wages	5,931,650.00	5,915,700.00
Other Expenses	6,005,856.77	5,457,619.98
2. Deferred Charges and Other Appropriations	868,158.41	975,515.57
3. Capital Improvements	112,000.00	224,787.68
4. Debt Service (Include for School Purposes)	1,461,686.00	1,412,797.00
5. Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	739,433.37	655,571.82
Total General Appropriations	15,118,784.55	14,651,992.05
Total Number of Employees	80	80

2009 Dedicated Water Utility Budget

Summary of Revenues

	Anticipated	
	2009	2008
1. Surplus	168,000.00	392,562.00
2. Miscellaneous Revenues	3,028,357.00	2,800,000.00
3. Deficit(General Budget)		
Total Revenues	3,196,357.00	3,192,562.00

Summary of Appropriations

	2009 Budget	Final 2008 Budget
1. Operating Expenses: Salaries and Wages	518,500.00	515,000.00
Other Expenses	1,810,000.00	1,893,509.00
2. Capital Improvements	115,000.00	116,000.00
3. Debt Service	615,473.00	560,330.00
4. Deferred Charges and Other Appropriations	137,384.00	107,723.00
5. Surplus (General Budget)		
Total Appropriations	3,196,357.00	3,192,562.00
Total Number of Employees	6	6

2009 Dedicated Electric Utility Budget

Summary of Revenues

	Anticipated	
	2009	2008
1. Surplus		
2. Miscellaneous Revenues	13,028,653.00	12,271,618.00
3. Deficit (General Budget)		
Total Revenues	13,028,653.00	12,271,618.00

Summary of Appropriations

	2009 Budget	Final 2008 Budget
1. Operating Expenses: Salaries and Wages	1,108,500.00	1,020,000.00

Other Expenses	10,238,800.00	10,198,000.00
2. Capital Improvements	100,000.00	239,500.00
3. Debt Service	942,402.00	644,503.00
4. Deferred Charges and Other Appropriations	195,951.00	169,615.00
5. Surplus (General Budget)	443,000.00	
Total Appropriations	13,028,653.00	12,271,618.00
Total Number of Employees	14	12

Balance of Outstanding Budget

	General	Water Utility	Electric Utility
Interest	3,668,943.25	781,470.99	2,018,142.07
Principal	12,062,776.16	3,690,765.69	5,985,000.00
Outstanding Balance	15,731,719.41	4,472,236.68	8,003,142.07

Notice is hereby given that the budget and tax resolution were approved by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of South River, County of Middlesex on March 18, 2009.

A hearing on the budget and tax resolution will be held at the South River Criminal Justice Building, Council Chambers, 61 Main Street, South River, NJ on May 11, 2009 at 8:00 P.M. at which time and place objections to the Budget and Tax Resolution for the year 2009 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.

Councilman Trzeciak moved the Introduction of the 2009 Municipal Budget and noted the public hearing would be held on May 11, 2009 at 8:00 p.m. Councilman Guindi seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE

YEAS: Almeida, Guindi, Hutchison, Razzano, Trenga, Trzeciak

NAYS: None

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Almeida

- Thanked everyone for their efforts on the budget.
- Has a continued concern with budget.
- Looks forward to debating issues before adoption of the budget.

Councilman Guindi

- Thanked everyone.
- Finance Committee will be meeting more to tweak out budget.

Councilman Hutchison

- Thanked Mr. Salerno for an excellent presentation of the budget.
- 2008 took a big hit.

Councilman Razzano

- Thanked Mr. Salerno, Mr. Sivananthan, Councilmen Almeida, Guindi and Trzeciak on their work on the budget.
- Voted for introduction so people can view the budget.
- Perhaps can roll back electric rates.

Councilman Trenga

- Thanked Mr. Salerno, the professionals and Finance Committee for their work on the budget.
- Proud to introduce a budget that has no property tax increase and no cut in service.
- Borough runs like a business. Doing an outstanding job under this Mayor's leadership.

Councilman Trzeciak

- Congratulations to all for introducing the budget.
- No tax increase which is good because we are in the middle of a recession.
- Mr. Salerno did a great job. He served on the Finance Committee along with Councilmen Almeida and Guindi. Wants to move in a direction that this committee wants to go.
- Electric Utility helps out the town. Expects cost of electric will go down 5%.
- There are no one-shot deals in the budget.
- We do not have to appear before the Local Finance Board.

Mayor's Comments

- No tax increase.
- Budget process started in the fall of 2007.
- 67% rate increase was voted on because it had to happen, had to right the ship.
- We all voted to accept the budget.
- No cut in service.
- No electric rate increase until 2012.
- Water increase of 15% is needed.
- Cannot raise taxes to cover services.
- There are no one-shot deals in the budget.
- Councilman Razzano recommended increase in Rescue Squad budget to cover the paid EMS service.
- Will be forming a long range planning committee consisting of council members, seniors, young people, and businesses. Tough decisions have to be made by 2012.

- Starting in April, business meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. to take questions on the budget.
- Budget documents will be available at the borough hall, library and on the website.
- Auditor will be at the 5/11/09 meeting to answer any questions.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (agenda items only)

John Krenzel, 42 Wilson Ave.

- Commented on no tax increase. Asked about the Board of Education and county tax increase. Mayor Eppinger stated that there would be no tax increase for South River, but the Board of Education may have a 1 point increase and the County possibly a 1.5% increase.
- Thanked the Borough Council for a 0% increase.

Suzanne Buffalino, Morningside Ave.

- Thanked all for their hard work on the budget.
- Welcomed a 0% increase.
- Asked what the Budget Committee does before the budget is introduced. Mayor Eppinger said that it is charged with reviewing the information provided by the professionals. Now that the budget is introduced, the committee will meet again and any questions that arise will be reviewed and answers will be brought back to the Borough Council. The committee is charged with reviewing the budget up until adoption.
- Asked Councilman Almeida to share ideas on budget. Councilman Almeida said he thinks there can be a zero increase without using additional \$400,000 of electric surplus to help fund budget.
- Asked Councilman Guindi if he had any ideas to share on budget. Councilman Guindi said he would still like to see the electric rates reduced and will speak to Mr. Salerno and the auditor about it.

Marilyn Meloni, 53 Kamm Ave.

- Thanked all involved for putting the budget together.
- Glad to see Rescue Squad paid EMS

No further comments were made. Councilman Razzano closed the public portion. Councilman Guindi seconded the motion. So carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Razzano moved that this meeting be adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Councilman Guindi seconded the motion. So carried.

SPECIAL MEETING
MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING NO. 8
PAGE NO. 7

MARCH 18, 2009

Respectfully submitted on
April 9, 2009.

Patricia O'Connor, RMC
Borough Clerk

Approved at the regular meeting
held on April 13, 2009