

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 21, 2024
7:00 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Sandra Magiera
Council Members: John Hill, Michael Reed, Janet Koch
City Clerk: Tracy Chamberlain
ABSENT: Council Member: Kylee Johnson, Barry Smith

Mayor Magiera called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Magiera asked for a moment of silence.

At 7:00 PM the Public Hearing was opened regarding the Tentative Budget for the City of Salamanca to raise the amount of \$954,609.00 by taxes at a rate of \$64.4227662 per one thousand of assessed valuation which was duly adopted during a regular meeting held on February 14, 2024.

City Clerk Chamberlain noted that there were changes made since the tentative budget was adopted. This was an increase to the health insurance expense lines.

Salamanca Press Writer Kellen Quigley asked why this budget is a good thing for the people of Salamanca.

- Council Member Reed stated there is no tax increase partly due to the investments that were made with favorable interest rates.
- Council Member Koch stated she feels the budget is good because there is no tax increase which helps the people that would have to pay taxes.
- Council Member Hill also stated he is glad they held it to no tax increase.
- Council Member Koch noted that the increase would have been approximately \$9,000 or \$19,000 at 1% or 2%, on the taxable properties. She feels on the \$14 million-dollar budget it would not affect the final outcome and why put the small amount on people that pay taxes. Council Member Hill agrees 100%. His fear is that the City will use all the surplus. Unless the City gets help from New York State or the Federal Government, the City is in trouble. Council Member Reed stated however it may have helped with the increase in the health insurance.
- Council Member Hill stated he does not know how the City can keep increasing wages. However, the cost of everything is higher. He does not feel the City is getting anywhere with the governments for support. Mayor Magiera noted that it seemed like the City was getting somewhere. However, now she feels like the governments were telling the City what they wanted to hear. She does contact them often.
- Council Member Koch noted that with the increase she does not know how the City is going survive.
- Mayor Magiera noted the City of Olean went over the tax cap to cover their cost of contract wages. Council Member Hill noted that they are lucky they have a tax base. Council Member Reed noted that Rochester is advertising for Police officers in the Buffalo area. Council Member Hill noted that the conclusion is there is no way the

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City of Salamanca can match what those departments can pay. If the officers want to go where the high wages are, he would hate to see them go, but they will go where the money is.

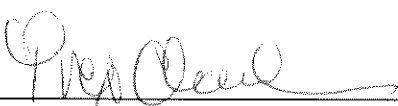
Salamanca Press Writer Kellen Quigley asked if there are any projects such as cultural or recreation that are new or different.

- Mayor Magiera noted that they will continue with the Falling Leaves Festival and hope to have a summer festival, the Easter Egg Hunt and Trunk-or Treat. Hope to work on the records room. They are still working on the State Park Avenue property.
- Council Member Hill noted West State Street, East State Street, Front Avenue and Sycamore Avenue will be repaved this year.
- Mayor Magiera noted sidewalk replacement will continue this year as well as blight removal.
- Council Member Koch stated there is tree removal and blight removal to demo houses rather than offer them to sell and not be repaired.
- Mayor Magiera noted they have not taken any services away.
- Council Member Hill noted there is still the Senior Center and Historical Society.
- Council Member Reed the Veteran's Park archway entrance is to repaired this spring.
- Council Member Koch noted that the personnel services for the Police Dept. is \$1.7 million and Fire Dept. is over \$1.3 million, which is a huge cost to the City.
- Council Member Koch felt in putting the budget together they worked as a great group together and had department heads let them know what they could do without to bring down the costs. She appreciates that the department heads for doing this.

Council Member Hill feels that the City has done very well for the last few years. They have put a lot of money into City Hall and it looks really nice. The City Clerk and staff painted their office and new carpet was installed by a local business. The Comptroller's Office will have new carpet and be painted at the end of March. New window blinds where also done by the local business. The Court Clerk will be working on replacing the damaged tables.

With no others wishing to be heard, the public hearing was closed at 7:19 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM



Tracy Chamberlain, City Clerk

Dated: March 15, 2024