

MINUTES - TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING
TOWN OF BELVIDERE
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
691 Water Street
MARCH 12, 2022

Mayor Kennedy opened the budget workshop meeting of the Belvidere Town Council with the Pledge of Allegiance and Teresa Yeisley read the following notice in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act: In accordance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975, notice of this meeting was given by way of notice filed with the Express Times Warren County NJ Zone and/or the Express-Times or Newark Star Ledger, filed in the Municipal Clerk's Office and posted in the Belvidere Town Hall, 691 Water Street, Belvidere NJ.

Roll Call:

Present - Mayor Kennedy, Councilwoman Miers, Councilman Mitchell, Councilwoman Napolitani, Councilman Roth, Councilman Zmigrodski
Absent - Councilman Matlock

2022 Municipal Budget Discussion:

Councilwoman Miers stated that the current budget worksheets propose a \$102 increase per year on an average assessment of \$122,000.

John Mooney reviewed the budget worksheets and explained that the new BAN payment of \$110,000 begins in 2023. He cautioned that an excessive tax increase may see the tax collection rate come down.

Councilwoman Napolitani reviewed the court revenue and budget. The Councilwoman indicated her concern with the drop in S/W for the PD. Discussion ensued regarding the PD budget and court revenue.

Councilman Mitchell stated that the Governor's proposed budget has a \$336,000 decrease in aid to Belvidere schools.

John Mooney stated that the additions discussed at this budget meeting would see a 12.7 cent increase to the tax rate.

Mayor Kennedy reminded the Council that the BAN payment beginning in 2023 and additional court expenditures could raise the tax rate to over 25 cents in two years. There was discussion about the Council's desire to see a \$50, \$75 or \$100 increase and the reductions each would entail. A final budget meeting will be scheduled for March 22nd at 6:00 PM. Mayor Kennedy requested that any reductions be sent to Councilwoman Miers prior to the March 22nd budget meeting. The budget will be introduced at the March 28th Council meeting.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Napolitani to adjourn the budget workshop meeting of the Belvidere Town Council at 11:54 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa A. Yeisley, RMC/CPM
Municipal Clerk/Administrator