

Special Meeting- Budget Building

The Town of Chester Council held a Special Council meeting on July 18, 2023, at 4:00 pm to build the preliminary budget.

Members Present: Council persons Sonja Dahlen, Scott Ross, Garrett Graff, and Tina Neer (Arrived late) Mayor James Dahlen, Rachel Ghekiere

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Terry Tyler (PWD)
Ashley Wickum (Clerk/Treasurer)

Guests:

1 Meeting was called to order by Sonja Dahlen at 4:09 pm

2 Public Comment: None

3 New Business:

- Discussion of wages: Council members discussed wages. Sonja Dahlen suggested a \$.75 raise for employees. Scott Ross suggested that an even amount be used on odd years and a % be used on even years to keep the longevity in play for employees. Sonja Dahlen agreed that using a flat rate this year is good as the past few years have been significant % raises. She brought up the practice of using performance evaluations to base raises on. Currently the town must increase rates, and has several large projects to finish, once these are completed then can look at a % raise. Garrett Graff asked about new hires and retention of staff based on rates. Other council members updated him on the pay scale changes made during the transition to PWD. Tina Neer agreed that she likes getting into a routine of set amount and % on alternating years. The Council agreed to use a \$.75 increase for wages to build the budget.
- Budget discussion and projects were discussed and entered into the budget. The council members reviewed the committees, and the Water/Sewer/Garbage committee will meet to start working on a sewer policy and to discuss rate increases. The CIP fund was discussed and the need for a chip seal project. The gas tax fund will now include the BaRRSA funds that previously had to be requested, as well as two one-time payments. These funds will be left in the Gas Tax fund for a chip seal project next summer/fall. Mayor James Dahlen & council person Rachel Ghekiere joined the meeting at 5:00 pm. Discussion of needing to update the BWS with a credit card machine, and to start saving for this. Also, discussion about garbage truck repairs and maintenance as well as purchasing of a CAT for the landfill.

4 Sonja Dahlen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Scott Ross seconded. The Budget Building Meeting was adjourned at 5:56 pm.

Submitted by _____ Approved by _____
Clerk Mayor

Special Meeting- Preliminary Budget Meeting

The Town of Chester Council held a Special Council Meeting on July 18, 2023, at 6:00 pm.

Members Present: Mayor James Dahlen, Council persons Garrett Graff, Sonja Dahlen, Rachel Ghekiere, Scott Ross, and Tina Neer

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Terry Tyler (PWD)

Ashley Wickum (Clerk/Treasurer)

Guests:

1 Mayor Dahlen called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

2 Public Comment: None

3 New Business:

- Wages/Budget: Scott Ross made a motion to approve a raise of \$.75 for each full-time employee beginning July 1, 2023. Sonja Dahlen seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.
- Sonja Dahlen made a motion to accept the preliminary budget as presented, with the above \$.75/hour wage increase for all full-time employees. Tina Neer seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.

4 Rachel Ghekiere made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tina Neer seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 pm.

Submitted by _____ Approved by _____
Clerk Mayor