

**REGULAR MEETING
MAY 18, 2015
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
www.lackawannany.gov**

Regular session of the Lackawanna City Council met in the Council Chambers, Council President Henry Pirowski presiding. The meeting was preceded by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Council President Pirowski.

**Meeting called to order
NB: Meeting being recorded**

**Roll Call: Council: Present: Noman, Iafallo, Jerge, Lewis, Pirowski
Dept. Heads: Present: Law, Public Works, Comptroller, Public Safety,
Recreation
Excused: Development**

Approval of Minutes: of regular meeting of Monday, May 4, 2015

Moved by Pirowski seconded by Jerge to adopt minutes as written
Yeas: Noman, Iafallo, Jerge Lewis, Pirowski

Carried 5-0

Departmental Reports:

1. City Clerk-Monthly report of April 2015
2. City Treasurer-Total receipts deposited into General Fund, April 2015
3. City Comptroller-Statement of Condition of Appropriations as of March 31, 2015
4. City Comptroller-A/P Check Listing #43, April 30, 2015
5. City Comptroller-A/P Check Listing #44, May 7, 2015

Moved by Pirowski seconded by Jerge to receive and file departmental reports one thru five
Yeas: Noman, Iafallo, Jerge, Lewis, Pirowski

Carried 5-0

Communications from the Mayor:

Mayor's Proposed Budget

6. To: City Council

Pursuant to Chapter 12, Section 12.3 and 12.4 of the City Charter, I submit herewith my proposed budget for the City of Lackawanna for fiscal year August 1, 2015 through July 31, 2016.

The proposed budget figure of \$24,297,058 reflects an increase from the 2014-2015 operating budget. The tax levy of \$10,110,727 reflects an increase of \$604,237 from last year's budget.

My proposed budget with a zero percent shift reflects a tax rate of \$14.35 for the Homestead properties and \$37.27 for the Non-Homestead class. The Homestead decrease is -3.05% or \$0.45 per thousand and the Non-Homestead increase is 14.90% or \$4.83 per thousand. However the City Council, may adjust the shift between the classes. A 10% shift would increase the Homestead rate to \$15.04 and decrease the Non-Homestead rate to \$35.66. A 20% shift would increase the Homestead rate to \$15.72 and decrease the Non-Homestead rate to \$34.06. The unified rate to combine classes is \$21.21.

The most significant reasons for the tax increase are as follows, an increase of \$670,000 in salaries and corresponding payroll taxes, a \$976,000 increase in the anticipated retirement cost, and an increase of \$118,000 in anticipated health insurance costs. Currently, there is \$1,647,000 in unpaid City taxes. The payment of these taxes would cover the tax increase. However, with these taxes still outstanding, I have had to make the difficult decision of proposing that the City overrides the Property Tax Cap this year, which is \$9,771,701. I feel that reducing the staffing of our police and fire department, would cause a drop to unsafe levels, as we are currently staffed at the lowest level in years, and would also increase the overtime and workers compensation costs to the City.

I have budgeted for two new police vehicles as the age of our fleet is and will be causing additional expenditures in repairs.

I reduced the number of requested police vehicles by one, as the police chief recommended three as well as an assistance to our purchasing director, which was recommended by the State Comptroller's office. Initially, I returned the two police officer positions that were deleted from last year's budget, but upon further review, it is my opinion that we cannot afford to return these positions this year. We will continue to fill the police positions upon retirements. It is still my belief that we are operating our police department at a dangerously low staffing number. We also have a police force in which forty percent of our officers, including "top brass", can retire all at once.

As a way to reduce the tax burden on our citizens while still remaining fiscally responsible, I am proposing utilizing \$500,000 of the Worker's Compensation Reserve Fund that has remained untouched for approximately a decade. This reduces the amount that needs to be budgeted for Workers Compensation for this current fiscal year. After reviewing the City's insurance deductibles, I also would propose that the balance in the Liability Insurance Reserve be reduced to \$200,000 and the \$385,090 remainder be transferred into Workers Compensation Reserve Fund which would result in the balance for the Worker's Compensation Reserve Fund then being \$501,160. These Reserve Funds would enable the City to pay for allowable expenditures not covered by insurance or the currently available expenditure budget lines without utilizing the Fund Balance to the extent of the balance in the Reserve.

As for the Special revenue Fund-Garbage and Refuse, there is a slight increase in the user fee to \$176.89 from \$155.00. This primarily is due to an increase of \$155,000 in salaries and corresponding payroll taxes, a \$55,000 increase in retirement costs, and an increase of \$12,000 in health insurance. I am proposing to again transfer \$500,000 from the General Fund to the Special Revenue Fund.

Please find attached for your review and consideration, my proposed 2015-2016 Budget for the City. I am at your disposal and am available in my office to discuss any concerns you may have regarding the proposed 2015-2016 budget.

MAYOR GEOFFREY SZYMANSKI

Moved by Iafallo seconded by Jerge to receive and file Mayor's proposed budget

Yeas: Noman, Iafallo, Jerge, Lewis

Abstained: Pirowski

Carried 4-0

Communications from the Council:

City Hall Parking Lot Lighting

7. To: City Council

This is a follow up to, our conversation at the previous Council Meeting of May 4, 2015, regarding the lighting for the City hall parking lot.

I am asking for your support to repair lights in the back section of the City Hall parking lot, leading to Nason Parkway, and including the steps. The total quote received from CIR Electrical, a Lackawanna Company, was \$2,986.00.

As per my conversation with the City Comptroller, the monies can be taken from the Contingent Account, Code A.1900.1990 and added to Buildings-Repair & Replacement, Code A.1620.443.

I thank you in advance.

ANNETTE IAFALLO-2ND WARD COUNCILWOMAN

Moved by Iafallo seconded by Jerge to receive and file, act on ordinance

Yeas: Noman, Iafallo, Jerge, Lewis, Pirowski

Carried 5-0

Communications from Department/Division Heads:

Sale of Property-80 Caldwell

8. I have received a purchase offer from Michael Sobaszek for a total price of \$500 for the purchase of 80 Caldwell, a 34x120 vacant parcel of land. The property would be to extend his current property.

It is my recommendation that the City Council sell the parcel to Michael Sobaszek

FRANK E KRAKOWSKI-CITY ASSESSOR

Moved by Pirowski seconded by Iafallo to receive and file, act on ordinance

Yeas: Noman, Iafallo, Jerge, Lewis, Pirowski

Carried 5-0

Advertise for Bids-Accountability System Grant Funds

9. To: City Council

The fire department has received an Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$11,905. This money is earmarked to purchase an electronic accountability system. This system would allow us to accurately keep track of firefighters which enter a burning building and find such firefighters if they become incapacitated.

I ask your Honorable Body to please direct the City Clerk to advertise for bids. Specifications have been prepared and are ready for bid.

If you have any questions feel free to call me.

RALPH GALANTI-FIRE CHIEF

Moved by Pirowski seconded by Jerge to approve request, City Clerk to advertise for bids

Yeas: Noman, Iafallo, Jerge, Lewis, Pirowski

Carried 5-0

Ordinances:

(1) City Hall Parking Lot Lighting Repair Ordinance

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2014-2015 BUDGET ORDINANCE ADOPTED JULY 14, 2014

BE IT ENACTED by the City Council of the City of Lackawanna, New York as follows:

SECTION 1. That the 2014-2015 Budget Ordinance adopted July 14, 2014 is hereby amended to transfer appropriations for lighting behind City Hall

SECTION 2. That the 2014-2015 Budget Ordinance is hereby amended to transfer \$3,000.00 to budget code A.1620.443 Buildings, Repair & Replacements

SECTION 3. That the 2014-2015 Budget Ordinance is hereby amended to transfer \$3,000 from Budget code A.1900.1990 Contingent Account

THIS ORDINANCE SHALL TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY

Moved by Iafallo seconded by Pirowski to adopt ordinance as written

Yeas: Noman, Iafallo, Jerge, Lewis, Pirowski

Carried 5-0

(2) An ordinance approving the sale of 80 Caldwell

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE/TRANSFER OF PROPERTY PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 107

BE IT ENACTED by the City Council of the City of Lackawanna, New York as follows:

SECTION 1. That the City Council hereby approves of the transfer part of property known as SBL 142.37-4-27 (80 Caldwell) a parcel approximately 34x120, to Michael Sobaszek

SECTION 2. That transfer is made for the sum of \$500 in cash to the City of Lackawanna

SECTION 3. That the purchaser/transferee shall be responsible for expenses related to the transfer other than those specifically belonging to the City of Lackawanna

SECTION 4. That the Law Department shall prepare documents to be executed for the transfer of the property

THIS ORDINANCE SHALL TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY

Moved by Iafallo seconded by Noman to adopt ordinance as written

Yeas: Noman, Iafallo, Jerge, Lewis, Pirowski

Carried 5-0

Waive Rules:

Moved by Lewis seconded by Jerge to waive rules regarding changing meeting dates of Council meetings

Yeas: Noman, Iafallo, Jerge, Lewis, Pirowski

Carried 5-0

Council Meeting Date Changes

Moved by Lewis seconded by Iafallo to change the Council meeting dates as follows:

Meeting of Monday, June 1, 2015 is changed to Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Meeting of Monday, June 15, 2015 is changed to Tuesday, June 16, 2015

Yeas: Noman, Iafallo, Jerge, Lewis, Pirowski

Carried 5-0

Moved by Pirowski seconded by Lewis to move into executive session at 7:36 pm

Yeas: Noman, Iafallo, Jerge, Lewis, Pirowski

Carried 5-0

Meeting reconvened at 8:06 pm

Roll Call: Present: Noman, Iafallo, Jerge, Lewis, Pirowski

Adjournment:

Moved by Pirowski seconded by Iafallo, meeting is adjourned

Yeas: Noman, Iafallo, Jerge, Lewis, Pirowski

Carried 5-0

Henry R. Pirowski, Council President

Jacqueline A Caferro, City Clerk