

**MOUNT POCONO BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2019  
6:00 P.M.**

President C. Williams opened the Public Hearing at 6:00 P.M. with the following members present: Vice-President F. O'Boyle; Councilmembers: D. Casole; T. Ford; A. Montanez; and, S. Stewart-Keeler. Mayor M. Penn; Solicitor J. Fareri; and, Borough Secretary/ Treasurer L. Noonan were also present.

Councilmember M. Hensel arrived at 6:05 p.m.

Junior Councilmember K. Crosby was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

President C. Williams explained the purpose of tonight's public hearing was in regard to the proposed 2020 Budget.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Mike Oser, 39 Fairview Avenue**, discussed the proposed Council Salary Increase and the proposed healthcare benefits for Councilmembers and the difference of \$41,642 between the revenues and expenditures in the proposed budget.

Mayor M. Penn presented the budget reviewing details and differences between this year and last year's budgets. Mayor M. Penn explained that taxes are being increased by 10% over last year, however, the commercial properties will be taking the brunt and referred to the conversation County Commissioner Christy had over the summer discussing the re-assessment of the County.

Councilmember A. Montanez stated that the proposed Ordinance providing Healthcare benefits for the Councilmembers was tabled at the last meeting. Since that meeting it was decided that it is not feasible to provide healthcare benefits for the elected officials.

President C. Williams discussed the proposed council pay increase noting that the councilmembers spend a great deal of time on Borough related matters and the elected officials have not had a salary increase in 30 years. She also noted that the First Friday's are an expense that the Borough Officials pay for and money does not come out of the borough's budget for these events.

**Debra Fulton, 65 Reeder Street**, discussed the Council salary increase and was opposed to the increase in pay for the elected officials.

Councilmember T. Ford discussed other borough's in the Commonwealth that are roughly the same size as Mount Pocono and most of the elected officials receive no pay and the ones that do make less than the current council salary of \$900 per year. None of these borough's receive healthcare benefits.

**Steven McClary, Devonshire Lane**, questioned the elected official's salary increase and the out of pocket expenses. He was not in favor of the salary increase for public officials.

**Jim Trombetta, Borough Road Foreman**, asked if there was surplus money and would there be a raise for his guys?

President C. Williams stated that Council isn't discussing pay raises at this time.

**MOUNT POCONO BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2019  
6:00 P.M.**

**Debbie Rath, 6 Heath Lane**, questioned the increase in taxes and advised borough council that they were the only municipality in the County raising taxes this year.

**Ron Kollmer, 12 Hemlock Road**, questioned as a borough employee, would he be seeing a cut in healthcare benefits and would there be a raise this year for the employees.

President C. Williams stated that the healthcare benefits for the borough employees will remain the same.

**Jodi Bohdal, Owner Pocono Rocks**, questioned how she will be affected if the commercial properties are taking the brunt of the tax increase.

**Raissa Simchak, Winona Road**, questioned why the borough council deserves a raise and the borough employees do not.

**Tom Neville, 209 Knob Road**, stated he will be on Council on January 6, 2020 and as an elected official he will be looking for ways to cut the expenses, looking for other avenues for revenues and will be reassessing the way the borough is run from top to bottom. He further noted that the Borough Council gets abuse and he proposed to Council to find a way that works best for everyone.

**Robin LaForge, 63 Reeder Street**, asked where and who someone would work for that your salary would be doubled.

**Darren Dailey, 8 Brunswick Drive**, discussed the elected official's salary increase and questioned if Council would consider a lower amount in the salary increase.

Councilmember M. Hensel questioned when Council decided they could not afford health insurance for the councilmembers.

There being no further Council or Public Comment, the Public Hearing closed at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lori Noonan, Borough Secretary

2019-112