

**TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY
2023 BUDGET HEARING MINUTES
MARCH 4, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President called the meeting to order at 12:00PM

COUNCIL PRESIDENT TO LEAD THOSE PRESENT IN THE SALUTE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Council President Kritz requested a moment of silence to remember the service and sacrifices of the armed service members who protect our nation and the first responders who protect our neighborhoods

ROLL CALL

Present were Councilman Friedlander, Councilwoman Noon, Councilman Brookes, Councilman Sackett, Councilwoman Brookes, Councilman Salberg, Councilman Wojtowicz, Vice President Quinn, and President Kritz

Also present were Mayor Joe Jackson, Township Clerk, Everett Falt, Administrator Pat Seger, the Chief Financial Officer, Lisa Palmeri, and the Purchasing Agent, Bryan Coward. Several of the department/division heads were present for the Budget Hearing.

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

Council President Kritz read the following statement into the record: "Notice of this meeting was sent to the Star ledger and the Daily Record in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA). Additionally, notice was posted on the official bulletin boards, the township website: www.rockawaytownship.org, and notice was filed in the office of the Township Clerk."

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Council President Kritz opened the meeting to the public. No one came forward.

PRESENTATION BY THE TOWNSHIP'S AUDITOR, RAY SARINELLI, JR. FROM NISIVOCCIA

Council President Kritz offered the floor to the Township Auditor, Ray Sarinelli, Jr. Mr. Sarinelli presented to the Governing Body on the state of the Township finances.

DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED 2023 BUDGET

Council President Kritz informed the Council that the Budget Sections 4, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, and 22 were required expenditures as they were mandated by statute or they were contractual obligations that we could not make any changes to. That said, President Kritz offered a motion to adopt the aforementioned sections as drafted, with Councilman Salberg offering a second.

Roll Call Vote AYE FRIEDLANDER, NOON, D. BROOKES, SACKETT, R.
BROOKES, SALBERG, WOJTOWICZ, QUINN, AND PRESIDENT KRITZ.

NAY NONE

With all ayes and no nays, the motion carried.

Council President Kritz opened discussion on Section 1 – Administration, of the Budget Book. Councilman Sackett offered a motion to eliminate all salary adjustments and overtime, with Councilman Friedlander offering the second. The Council discussed. President Kritz requested roll call.

Roll Call Vote AYE FRIEDLANDER, NOON, D. BROOKES, SACKETT, R.
BROOKES, SALBERG, WOJTOWICZ, QUINN,

NAY PRESIDENT KRITZ

With eight ayes and one nay, the motion carried.

President Kritz asked if there were any other motions on the table. Councilman Brookes offered a motion to eliminated a vacant clerk position within Administration, with Councilman Sackett offering the second. A discussion was had. Council President Kritz requested roll call.

Roll Call Vote AYE FRIEDLANDER, NOON, D. BROOKES, SACKETT, R.
BROOKES, SALBERG, WOJTOWICZ, QUINN

NAY PRESIDENT KRITZ

With eight ayes and one nay, the motion carried.

President Kritz asked if there were any other motions or need for discussion. With no one coming forward, President Kritz offered a motion to adopt Section 1 (Administration) as amended by the two previous motions. Councilman Quinn offered the second. President Kritz requested Roll Call

Roll Call Vote AYE FRIEDLANDER, NOON, D. BROOKES, SACKETT, R.
BROOKES, SALBERG, WOJTOWICZ, QUINN

NAY PRESIDENT KRITZ

With eight ayes and one nay, the motion carried.

President Kritz asked if there was any discussion needed for Section 2 (Land-Use Administration). No discussion was needed. Councilman Quinn offered a motion to adopt as presented, with Councilwoman Brookes, offering the second. President Kritz requested Roll Call.

Roll Call Vote AYE FRIEDLANDER, NOON, D. BROOKES, SACKETT, R.
BROOKES, SALBERG, WOJTOWICZ, QUINN, PRESIDENT KRITZ

NAY NONE

With all ayes and no nays, the motion carried.

President Kritz opened the floor on Section 3 (Code Enforcement). Several questions were asked. President Kritz offered a motion to adopt Section 3 (Code Enforcement) as presented, with Councilman Quinn seconding. President Kritz requested Roll Call.

Roll Call Vote AYE

NAY NONE

With all ayes and no nays, the motion carried.

President Kritz opened discussion on Section 5 (Public Safety). President Kritz offered a motion to amend the budget to re-instate two sergeants to the police department, with Councilman Brookes seconding the motion. President Kritz requested Roll Call.

Roll Call Vote AYE FRIEDLANDER, NOON, D. BROOKES, SACKETT, R. BROOKES, SALBERG, WOJTOWICZ, PRESIDENT KRITZ

NAY NONE

ABST QUINN

With eight ayes, one abstention, and no nays, the motion carried.

President Kritz offered a motion to adopt Section 5 as amend by the prior motion, with Councilwoman Noon offering a second. No additional discussion was had. President Kritz requested Roll Call.

Roll Call Vote AYE FRIEDLANDER, NOON, D. BROOKES, SACKETT, R. BROOKES, SALBERG, WOJTOWICZ, QUINN, PRESIDENT KRITZ

NAY NONE

With eight ayes and no nays, the motion carried.

President Kritz opened discussion on Section 6 (Public Works). The Council Members asked several questions. Councilman Quinn offered a motion to adopt Section (Public Works) as drafted, with Councilwoman Noon offering a second. President Kritz requested Roll Call.

Roll Call Vote AYE FRIEDLANDER, NOON, D. BROOKES, SACKETT, R. BROOKES, SALBERG, WOJTOWICZ, QUINN

NAY NONE

ABST PRESIDENT KRITZ

With eight ayes, no nays, and one abstention, the motion carried.

President Kritz opened discussion on Section 8 (Health Services). No discussion was had on this section. President Kritz offered a motion to adopt Section 9 (Health Services) as presented, with Councilman Salberg seconding. No additional discussion was had. President Kritz requested Roll Call.

Roll Call Vote AYE FRIEDLANDER, NOON, D. BROOKES, SACKETT, R. BROOKES, SALBERG, WOJTOWICZ, QUINN, PRESIDENT KRITZ

NAY NONE

With all ayes and no nays, the motion carried.

President Kritz opened discussion on Section 9 (Parks and Recreation). Councilman Sackett offered a motion to amend Section 9 to reinstate the Community Service Director with a salary up to \$140,000 per annum, with Councilwoman Brookes seconding said motion. The Council discussed the motion. President Kritz called for a Roll Call Vote

Roll Call Vote AYE FRIEDLANDER, NOON, D. BROOKES, SACKETT, R. BROOKES, QUINN

NAY SALBERG, WOJTOWICZ, PRESIDENT KRITZ

With six ayes and three nays, the motion carried.

President Kritz asked if there were any further motions for Section 9 (Parks and Recreation). Councilman Brookes offered a motion to change the budget to the amounts that were requested by the Department Head, with Councilman Quinn offering a second. The Council discussed the subaccount in specificity. President requested a roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote AYE FRIEDLANDER, NOON, D. BROOKES, SACKETT, R. BROOKES, SALBERG, WOJTOWICZ, QUINN, PRESIDENT KRITZ

NAY NONE

With all ayes and no nays, the motion carried.

President again requested if there any additional motions for Section 9 (Parks and Recreation). Councilman Brookes requested to reduce the Budget for Special Events down to \$10,000 for the year, with Councilman Sackett offering a second. Administration indicated this was for various community events like Rockaway Day. President Kritz requested a roll call.

Roll Call Vote AYE FRIEDLANDER, NOON, D. BROOKES, SACKETT

NAY R. BROOKES, SALBERG, WOJTOWICZ, QUINN, PRESIDENT KRITZ

With 5 nays and 4 ayes, the motion failed.

President Kritz offered a motion to adopt Section 9 (Parks and Recreation) as amended by the previous motions, with Councilwoman Brookes offering a second. No additional discussion was had. President Kritz requested a roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote AYE FRIEDLANDER, NOON, D. BROOKES, SACKETT, R. BROOKES, SALBERG, WOJTOWICZ, QUINN, PRESIDENT KRITZ

NAY NONE

With all ayes and no nays, the motion carried.

President Kritz opened discussion on Section 17 (Municipal Court). Councilman Quinn offered a motion to increase the salary of the Deputy Court Administrator, with President Kritz seconding. Administration suggested that the increase may not be necessary as the contractual obligation may have the same affect once the contract was signed. Councilman Quinn withdrew his motion.

President Kritz then offered a motion to adopt Section 17 (Municipal Court) as drafted, with Councilman Salberg offering a second. No additional discussion was had by the Council. President Kritz requested a Roll Call Vote.

Roll Call Vote AYE FRIEDLANDER, NOON, D. BROOKES, SACKETT, R. BROOKES, SALBERG, WOJTOWICZ, QUINN, PRESIDENT KRITZ

NAY NONE

With all ayes and no nays, the motion carried.

President Kritz opened discussion on Section 21 (Water Utility). No further discussion was had. Councilman Quinn offered a motion to adopt Section 21 (Water Utility) as drafted, with Councilwoman Noon seconding said motion. President Kritz requested a roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote AYE FRIEDLANDER, NOON, D. BROOKES, SACKETT, R. BROOKES, SALBERG, WOJTOWICZ, QUINN, PRESIDENT KRITZ

NAY NONE

With all ayes and no nays, the motion carried.

President Kritz opened discussion on the final section of the budget, Section 23 (Capital Improvement Program [2023 -2028]). The President further indicated the expenditures were already approved by their respective ordinances. With that said, President Kritz offered a motion to adopt Section 23 (Capital Improvement Program [2023 -2028]) as drafted, with Councilman Quinn offered a second. Several council people addressed their respective concerns. President Kritz requested a roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote AYE FRIEDLANDER, NOON, D. BROOKES, SACKETT, R. BROOKES, SALBERG, WOJTOWICZ, QUINN, PRESIDENT KRITZ

NAY NONE

With all ayes and no nays, the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

President Kritz thanked the Mayor, the Township Council, Administration and Township Staff for all their hard work on preparing the 2023 Budget. President Kritz adjourned the March 4 Township Council Budget Hearing at 1:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Everett Falt, MPA, RMC, CMC
Township Clerk/Registrar of Vital Statistics