

**MINUTES OF PERKASIE BOROUGH
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 13, 2008**

620 West Chestnut Street
Perkasie, Pennsylvania

ATTENDANCE:

Council Member:

Martin Gahman
Eadie Burke (absent)
Ray Conville
Bill Delaney
Richard Hendricks
Harry McGonigal (absent)
Chris Nicolosi
Jim Purcell (absent)
Maria Slowik
J. Robert Hunsicker
Daniel P. Olpere
Joe Gura
Andrea Coaxum
Josh Aniskevich
Heather Van Horn
Dan Gilbert
Harold Stone
News Herald
Daily Intelligencer
Morning Call
Bucks County Herald

Mayor:

Borough Manager:

Police Chief:

Assistant Borough Manager:

Park and Recreation Director:

Finance Director:

Public Works Director:

Electric Superintendent:

Press Representatives:

President Gahman convened the meeting at 7:00PM.

PUBLIC FORUM

Present was Luther Chontofalsky of 270 Parkridge Drive who voiced his opinion on the proposed electric rate increase and problems with people not adhering to trash regulations

Adam Krisko, President and CEO of Perkasie Industries on Constitution Avenue was present. He asked Council to not pass the electric rate increase all at one time.

Kevin Lotsis of 142 North Main Street accused the Borough of “falling asleep at the wheel” and stated that someone needs to be held accountable for the proposed electric rate increase.

Present was Tom Skiffington, owner of REMAX 440 at 701 West Market Street who stated that the proposed electric rate increase could possibly close up or relocate businesses in the community.

Barbara Klinger of 1322 W. Park Avenue suggested the Borough look at more ways to conserve electric to alleviate the proposed electric rate increase.

Present was Jim Felicione of 120 Stonycrest Drive who questioned when the electric bid process occurred and can the Borough negotiate a contract.

Present was Bob Tate of 119 Strassburger Road stated the electric rate increase could have a detrimental affect on earned income tax. He asked if there were other options to bring down the cost of the increase.

Ed Davis of 210 East Walnut Street asked Council to consider cutbacks in the budget to alleviate an electric rate increase.

Charles Schmell, President of Labelcraft Press on 304 South 4th Street was present. Mr. Schmell stated previous Council's have used electric funds for subsequent budget and eventually the money will run out. He asked how businesses rates are determined.

Wendy Davis of 210 East Walnut Street suggested purchasing stickers for trash pick up instead of using Borough bags.

INTRODUCTION OF 2009 PROPOSED BUDGET

Manager Olpere presented a draft 2009 budget to Council showing a 59 percent electric rate increase for electric customers.

Councilmembers commenced a page by page review of the 2009 proposed budget.

These are the items that were identified by Borough Council as possible areas that could be eliminated in the 2009 budget.

The recommended revisions are as follows:

GL#	GL Name	Original Budget	Possible Proposed Budget	Possible Savings
01.342.530	Cell Tower Revenue	\$24,800	\$36,800	+\$12,000
01.392.070	Transfer from Electric Fund	\$1,735,052	\$1,635,052	+\$100,000
01.405.310	Consultants	\$33,000	\$0.00	+\$33,000
01.408.310	Engineering	\$25,000	\$15,000	+\$10,000
01.410.373	Building Repairs & Maint.	\$7,000	\$2,000	+\$5,000
01.414.451	Contracted Services	\$52,500	\$12,500	+\$40,000
30.408.310	Engineering Road Projects	\$58,920	\$32,063	+\$26,857
30.409.700	Building Capital Construction	\$25,000	\$10,000	+\$15,000
30.440.702	Public Works Equipment	\$111,802	\$50,780	+\$61,022
30.440.704	Curb & Sidewalk	\$41,040	\$22,800	+\$18,240
30.440.705	Road Project Allocation	\$215,286	\$36,236	+\$179,050
30.442.704	Electric Vehicles	\$150,000	\$31,125	+\$118,875
30.442.706	Electric Building Maintenance	\$39,000	\$7,000	+\$32,000
30.451.701	Park Capital Improvements	\$55,000	\$10,000	+\$45,000

If all changes proposed above are approved, the result would be a decrease in the 2009 budget of \$696.044.

Councilman Delaney also suggested looking at the expense of Appreciation Night and re-examing the proposed wage increases.

PUBLIC FORUM

Bob Tate of 119 Strassburger Road asked Council if the Borough receives a credit dividend from its insurance carrier Delaware Valley Insurance Trust.

Bill Searight of 312 East Walnut Street suggested starting the electric rate increase early could cut the percentage down over time.

Kevin Lotsis of 142 North Main Street made several suggestions for cutbacks in the budget that included hiring an outside vendor to run the snack bar at the pool, do not outfit the second and third floors of the Borough Hall building to make it more attractive to potential tenants, and increase non-residents pool fees.

Ed Davis of 210 East Walnut spoke again asking if there was grant money available from the state.

Jim Felicione of 120 Stonycrest Drive asked if the general and capital fund could be consolidated.

Luther Chontofalsky of 270 Parkridge Drive thanked the public for coming to the meeting and for Council having one.

PRESS FORUM

Questions from the press were asked and answered.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 pm.

Daniel Olpere
Borough Manager/Secretary