

MAYOR'S MONTHLY UPDATE

September 2017

BUDGET

Bond Ordinance # 1631-17

This ordinance was introduced at the September 7th regular council meeting. The council motion to accept carried on first reading and passed again unanimously on final reading at the October 3rd regular council meeting. This ordinance authorizes making various public improvements in, by and for the township to appropriate \$310,000 to pay for the cost thereof. This bond will be used for the purchase of two DPW trucks, road curbing and improvement to building and grounds, including Veterans Field.

As we approach the end of the year, Business Administrator Peter Lo Dico and I will begin working on next year's budget. We will schedule budget hearings with department heads to determine their projected fiscal requirements for 2018. Each department will be asked not to exceed the state required spending cap for budget appropriations.

GRANTS UPDATES

Announcements

Notification was received that the following grants that were submitted by the township were not approved: Assistance to Firefighters Grant, Staffing for Adequate Emergency Response (SAFER) and Firehouse Subs. These are some of the most competitive and sought after grants offered to municipalities. We will reapply when applications become available.

Pending Grants

State Body Armor Grant Program

The 2017 State Body Armor grant application was submitted by Police Chief Robert Kugler. The Police Department qualifies for and receives funds annually from this program.

Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring

Our grant writer, with assistance of our Police Chief Robert Kugler, submitted a COPS Office grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice. A funding program is available, which provides for \$125,000 per newly hired police officer over a three year period. The COPS hiring application through grants.gov was submitted on July 7th for one new officer. Announcement of awards are pending.

Recreation Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities (ROID)

Funding for the Saddle Brook Angels with a ROID application for \$10,000 is still pending. The Angels is a program to help enrich and promote an active lifestyle for children with special needs by providing an opportunity for them to partake in a safe, noncompetitive organized environment

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Mayor's Youth Group Meeting – Saturday, September 23rd

The Group met at 11AM at town hall to discuss the following upcoming events, which members will be participating in, including the Senior Halloween Party on Tuesday, October 24th (6-9PM at VFW). Members interested in volunteering can email Christine Genuario at cgenuario@saddlebrooknj.gov.

The Group is also participating in the Halloween Decorating Contest on October 26th and the Trunk or Treat on October 28th. Members who wish to take part in the Halloween Decorating Contest judging should email Christine Genuario at cgenuario@saddlebrooknj.gov. Members will meet at the Senior Center at 6PM and depart around 6:15PM. Please note there is limited seating (12 members). Names will be added on a first come first serve basis.

Trunk or Treat is taking place in the parking lot of the SB High / Middle School from 12-2PM. Members interested in helping should arrive at 11:30AM. Christine Genuario will have a vehicle at the event and youth group members are encouraged to join us and participate by helping hand out candy. There will be other areas at the event where helpers will be needed.

Lastly, the First Reformed Church of Saddle Brook will be hosting their 18th annual Operation Christmas Child shoe box packing party. The packing party is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, November 12th at 3PM. More information will be provided at our next meeting, which will be announced at a later date. As always the help and continued support of Group members is much appreciated.

Community Partnership Committee (CPC) Meeting - Tuesday, September 26th

CPC Coordinator Howard Weinberg is working with the students of the Saddle Brook High / Middle School Community Partnership Club to create a video infomercial. The purpose of the video will be to educate the public about the function of the Partnership. The plan is to broadcast the video on Our Town TV, Ch. 77 – Cablevision, Ch. 38 – Verizon Fios and the township website and Facebook page. The video will be produced by the Club members and other students at the Saddle Brook High School taking video editing, advertising and marketing classes.

The CPC is also continuing with the Food Drive for the Food Pantry at the First Reformed Church and will have a collection at the upcoming township Trunk or Treat and Holiday Party. We also discussed the need for the CPC to take a more active role in coordinating the township's response and efforts when outside requests are made for disaster relief. The next meeting is Monday, October 23rd, 7PM at the Senior Center.

Access for All Committee Meeting – Wednesday September 6th

The Committee was pleased to announce that a resolution was passed by the township council, naming Saddle Brook Stigma Free. We are excited to participate in this program, which is dedicated to raising awareness of the disease of mental illness and create a culture wherein residents who have the disease feel supported by their community. The Committee had literature (handouts) and other displays at the township table during the UNICO Street Fair on Sunday, October 1st.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

9-1-1 Ceremony Saddle Brook Board of Education

On Wednesday, September 11th at 7PM, prior to the regular Board of Education meeting, the school district conducted a 9-11 ceremony. I attended and spoke along with Interim Superintendent Anthony Riscica. It was a nice tribute in honor of the victims who perished at the World Trade Center, Pentagon and aboard Flight 93 that crashed in a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Unico Street Fair – Sunday, October 1st

I want to thank the Saddle Brook Unico for putting on another great Street Fair this year and helping bring our town together for a day of entertainment and socializing with friends and neighbors. The street fair took place on Market Street between Westminster Place and Mayhill Street. There was food and merchandise vendors, local businesses and civic organizations providing information, and amusements and rides for children. Photos and a video of the Fair were posted on the township's Facebook page as well as the township's website. A video was also produced and is showing on Our Town Cable TV, Ch. 77 – Cablevision, Ch. 38 – Verizon Fios.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Halloween Decorating Contest

Registration for the contest will begin on Monday, October 2nd with the deadline for filing on Monday, October 23rd. The judging will take place on Thursday, October 26th. To register, residents must email their name, address and telephone number to cgenuario@saddlebrooknj.gov or call (201) 587-2903. Participants are asked to leave their lights on from 6-10PM the evening of the judging. Winners will be announced at the November 2nd regular council meeting.

Senior Halloween Party – Tuesday, October 24th

The costume party will take place at the Saddle Brook VFW, 44 Market Street from 6-9PM. There will be dinner, dessert and entertainment by Peter Lieberman. Transportation to and from the event will be available upon request.

Trunk or Treat – Saturday, October 28th

Trunk or Treat will take place in the parking lot of Saddle Brook High / Middle School from 12- 2PM. This year you will need to register your children (12 & under) and return completed registration forms to town hall, 93 Market Street by Monday, October 23rd. There will be a DJ, plenty of treats and contests for best costumes by age group and best decorated trunk.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

N.J. Department of Transportation (NJDOT) FY 2018 Municipal Aid Application

The Council authorized the township engineer to prepare the application for Fairlawn Parkway from Cambridge Ave to township line at the Fair Lawn border. The application was completed and sent in by the October 6th deadline for completion.

Resurfacing of Streets

Kenny Place

This project was awarded to JA Alexander, Inc. Contracts have been sent to the contractor. Kenny Place will be paved before the winter this year.

President Street

This was awarded to AA Berms, LLC and contracts were sent to them as well. President Street will be paved before the winter this year.

Claremont Ave

The township engineer has finishing up the design, however this project will probably be pushed back to March 2018.

Fifth Street

Authorization has been given to prepare the milling and paving of Fifth Street, which is a NJDOT Municipal Aid Project for years 2014, 2015 and 2017. This project was placed on a fast track design. The township engineer advertised the project and bids were received on October 5th. Every attempt will be made to have this work completed this year, however there is a possibility that it may have to be postponed to the first thing next year.

Community Development Block Grant Drainage Improvements – Liberty Street

The contractor began his work on Monday, August 21st and completed the job on Friday, August 25th. During construction it was discovered that one drainage pipe was severely back-pitched and had to be replaced, which added to the cost of the project.

Veterans Field Concession Building

The contractor is working and making significant progress.

Municipal Building Generator

The generator has been ordered and permits were obtained. Construction has begun and all the underground work has been completed. Construction Code Official Anthony Ambrogio has requested bollards around the generator, which were included as a change order.

OTHER

Saddle Brook Ranked # 24 in Money Magazine's Top 100 Places to Live

In the Real Estate section of Money Magazine's September 2017 issue, Saddle Brook was ranked among the top 100 places to live in the United States. We came out number 24. They described Saddle Brook as tiny hamlet that is less than three square miles with easy access to Manhattan, but has a distinctly small-town feel.

"Saddle Brook's location, eight miles west of New York City, is a key advantage—average commute time is just 23 minutes. The town also boasts low crime and gets high marks for education, with a 92% high school graduation rate." This ranking was a pleasant surprise and gives residents something more to be proud of.

Leaf bags

Leaf bags are now available for residents at town hall Monday – Friday from 8:30AM – 4PM. The bags are free with a limit of 10 per household. Bags will be available until 8PM on Tuesday, September 17th which is the last day to register to vote in the November 7, 2017 general election.