

**Town Council
Council Chambers
Windsor Town Hall
APRIL 2, 2018
PUBLIC HEARING**

APPROVED MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER

The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:02 P.M. by Mayor Trinks.

Present were: Mayor Donald Trinks, Councilor James Govoni, Councilor Donald Jepsen, Councilor Jill Jenkins, Councilor Joseph McAuliffe, Councilor Richard O'Reilly, Deputy Mayor Jody Terranova, Councilor Michael Tustin and Councilor Kenneth Wilkos

Mayor Trinks read aloud the notice of the public hearing to hear public comment on the 2018-2019 budget as proposed by the Town Manager.

Town Manager Souza gave an overview of the budget. He stated that the overall goal of the budget is to provide for public health, safety and welfare; to provide quality education to our young citizens; to provide safe usable infrastructure; and to facilitate "quality of life" opportunities.

This budget is based on a solid foundation of a diverse tax base, AAA credit rating, strong and stable General Fund balance, available commercial and industrial land to grow tax base, and is positioned well to manage debt and allow for ongoing capital reinvestments.

The proposed budget preserves and addresses key service demands and needs. It also increases "pay-as-you-go" capital funding for pavement management, fleet replacement, sidewalk repair, and public safety equipment. It continues to set aside funds to meet long-term liabilities such as retiree healthcare costs, and includes a large increase in MDC sewer assessment.

There is positive grand list growth of 2.5%, which assumes level-funded state aid, a slight increase in non-taxable revenue, and as proposed, the mill rate will be set at 32.96; an increase of just under 1.6%.

Town Manager Souza then expressed his appreciation to all of the department directors and the finance team for all of their hard work over the past several months to prepare the proposal.

2) PUBLIC COMMENT

John Cassarino, 48 Arrowbrook Road, challenged the Council to come up with better solutions for the budget. He suggested increasing fee-based revenue, such as library fees, in order to prevent an increase in taxes and suggested lowering town spending.

Karen Pestana, 20 Hickory Drive, thanked Town Manager Souza for his work on the budget. She had two children go through Windsor public schools and supports the Board of Education budget increases and not delaying the Capital Improvement projects any more.

3) ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trinks declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erin Rand
Clerk of the Town Council