

Meeting of the Municipal Council

of 29 November 2023 | Convocation and announcement of 21 November 2023

Present

Mayor

ZOVILE-BRAQUET Marion (CSV)

Aldermen

ANSAY Stéphanie (LSAP),
SCHMITZ Jean-Pierre (CSV)

Councillors

DI GENOVA Jean-Pierre (CSV), LOOSE Yves (CSV),
ENTRINGER Marc (CSV), EIFES Eric (DP),
ZHU Dali (DP), AXMANN Robert (DP),

ARRENSDORF Jean-Jacques (Déi Gréng),
THOMÉ Pol (LSAP)

Municipal Secretary, f. f.

TAZIAUX Tim

Editor

GASPAR Alix

Excused

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1. Declaration of Intent from the College of Mayor and Aldermen

MZB presents the declaration of intent from the College of Mayor and Aldermen for 2023-2029. The key points promise to continue the implementation of already initiated projects and to launch new initiatives in the interest of the municipality and its residents.

The quality of life, safety and harmonious coexistence in the four villages of the municipality are particularly important to the College of Aldermen. The well-being of children, youth, seniors, and families is paramount. Each citizen should be able to freely choose their lifestyle. A priority for the municipality is a diverse and multigenerational offer. Other topics addressed include sustainable mobility and public transport, healthcare, sports, culture, and leisure. Additionally, democracy, citizen participation, information policy, as well as community living and equal opportunities are discussed.

As a partner of the Climate Pact, the municipality of Contern is committed to increasing and promoting the use of renewable energies within its territory. MZB goes into detail on environmental matters, nature conservation, and agriculture. The aspects of finance and the economy, as well as urban planning, infrastructure, and housing, are also addressed.

The College of Mayor and Aldermen is committed to planning with foresight and common sense, in collaboration with citizens and based on a long-term development concept.

2. Introduction of PPF and Financial Analysis

Andy Anen and Frank Leuschen from the consulting firm MC Luxembourg present the multi-year financial plan of the municipality. The financial and budgetary planning of the municipality is discussed, and the future projects and their costs are analyzed. Emphasis is placed on economic and financial optimization. The municipality is facing financial and structural challenges. Although the budget is not in deficit, the situation can be improved by considering a few points. There is an urgent need to increase fees for “Wastewater” and “Drinking Water Supply,” as well as for “Water Consumption in Livestock Parks” to avoid a deficit of nearly €2,000,000 per year. The municipality could consider introducing a “collective facilities tax.” This is a straightforward way to generate more revenue that can be well justified. For construction projects and related loans, the municipality could opt for pre-financing by extending state grants and subsidies, thus keeping the debt at a lower level. The “Global Endowment Fund” represents the majority (~75%) of the municipality’s income, with a lower percentage coming from the “Commercial Tax” (~30%). The Ministry Home Affairs predicts growth for the years 2024, 2025, and 2026, but in reality, the current inflation is more likely to lead to stagnation. The overall economy is affected by this stagnation, but the municipality of Contern appears well-positioned, and the planned projects and expenditures are well thought out and essential for its development.

3. Approval of ASTA 2024 Cost Estimates – Rural Road Program

TMZB presents the estimate for the reprofiling and

coating of rural roads “am Grond” and “iwwert der Suelwiss” in Contern, as well as the estimate for the reprofiling, asphalt implementation, and reconstruction of a water crossing at the location “Müllensbach” in Milbech. The municipal council unanimously approves the estimates for the maintenance of rural roads during the 2024 fiscal year.

Vote in favour:

MZB, JPS, SA, JJA, RA, JPDG, EE, ME, YL, PT, DZ

4. Approval of an act - sale of land in Contern

The notarial deed concerning the sale of a plot of land located in Contern, registered under cadastral number 349/5825, is approved

Vote in favour:

MZB, JPS, SA, JJA, RA, JPDG, EE, ME, YL, PT, DZ

5. Association Subsidies for the Year 2023

The municipal council is in favour of granting a subsidy to the association “Frënn vun der 9ter Konscht asbl” for the year 2023.

Vote in favour:

MZB, JPS, SA, JJA, RA, JPDG, EE, ME, YL, PT, DZ

6. Subside extraordinaire - Walburga

The municipal council is in favour of an extraordinary subsidy to be granted to the “Walburga” association.

Vote in favour:

MZB, JPS, SA, JJA, RA, JPDG, EE, ME, YL, PT, DZ

7. Confirmation of changes to the traffic regulations for the municipality of Contern - temporary changes

Temporary traffic regulations concerning « rue de Moutfort » / « rue de Luxembourg » in Contern, « rue de la Gare » in Oetrange and “an der Haangels / op der Syrener Heed” in Contern.

Vote in favour:

MZB, JPS, SA, JJA, RA, JPDG, EE, ME, YL, PT, DZ

8. Presentation of the 2024 municipal budget

The Financial Alderman, JS, presents the municipal budget for 2024. He expresses gratitude to all employees who contributed to the budget development, noting that for some present members, it was their first participation in such a project.

The current economic environment is challenging. Inflation, the Covid crisis, and the war in Ukraine have led to rising prices, a rapid increase in energy costs, and delays in ongoing projects. The 2024 budget must now absorb these costs.

The municipal council has done its homework and focused on the most critical areas. This includes education, youth, and the elderly, as well as road safety and mobility. Changes are also noted in drinking water and wastewater prices, as well as in energy costs. Cultural, sports, and social projects are not overlooked.

Several major projects initiated in the previous term will now be continued and completed. These include the expansion of the primary school building and the Maison Relais, the sports hall, and new districts with affordable housing. Similarly, village centers

are gradually being renovated, and traffic in the municipality is being calmed. Bus stops and the “Milbech” spring will be brought into compliance. The “Conter Stuff” is undergoing renovation, as is the Moutfort nursery.

In terms of ordinary revenues, commercial tax remains the most significant portion at €1,100,000, along with the state’s global endowment increased by €2,000,000 for the year 2024. By increasing rates for drinking water and wastewater, which have not been adjusted since 2010, the municipality will avoid an annual deficit of about €2,000,000. Additionally, approximately €535,000 in property tax will be collected.

Regarding ordinary expenses, loan interests and maintenance costs for infrastructure represent the most significant portion. The increase in energy and supply costs is reflected in the cleaning and heating of community buildings. Furthermore, 1500 units of drinking water have been reserved for now but may no longer be necessary once the “Milbech” spring water is treated.

For extraordinary revenues, several grants are still pending, representing about €1,000,000 for the sports hall. Additionally, not all loans and credits are fully utilized, allowing the municipality to start 2024 with some reserves. The sale of building land in Contern and the rental of affordable apartments will further increase the municipality’s income.

Extraordinary expenses reflect the major projects mentioned above by the municipal council:

The restructuring of the village center in Contern is budgeted at €965,000, the renovation of the “Conter Stuff” is budgeted at €600,000, with approximately €2,800,000 in grants, and €680,000 will be invested in the construction of a new Town Hall.

Refurbishment of the sewer network must be carried out, with €630,000 reserved for this project, and our contribution to Sidest amounts to €1,000,000.

€1,200,000 have been allocated to create affordable housing and approximately €210,000 to expand the cycling network. Estimated costs for repairing the “Milbech” spring and treating spring water are €840,000 and €750,000, respectively.

Next, €7,500,000 have been set aside for the new sports hall, €5,800,000 for the expansion of the primary school and the Maison Relais, and €600,000 for land acquisition.

Given the increasing demand for photovoltaic installations in private households, support measures cost around €150,000.

In conclusion, JS explains that the 2024 budget is characterized by numerous projects in their early stages, which will have a financial impact on municipal finances in the coming years. The municipi-

pality's financial situation is sound, and the planned expenses are necessary to ensure the refurbishment of various infrastructures and meet the needs of citizens, national policy, and the environment.

9. Approval of income

The dates of forthcoming events are announced:

Adventsmaart Walburga 2.12 + 3.12 in Contern

Chreschtmaart Gemeng Conter 8.12 + 9.12 + 10.12 in

Moutfort

Municipal staff Christmas party: on 15 December

JPDG announces that new committee members Régis Moes, René Lauer, Silvette Schmit Weigel and Netty Simon-Kill were elected at the Syrdall Heem general meeting. The Senior Club has also been renamed Club Aktiv+.