

Minutes Budget Workshop Tuesday, March 3, 2015

A budget workshop was held Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 5:00 P.M. in the Raymond Pridgen Auditorium. The following were notified of the time, date, and place of the meeting: Mayor and City Council, City Staff, and the press. Present at the meeting were the following: Mayor William L. McMillan, Mayor Pro Tem Patricia Phillips, Council Members George Hardwick, Jo Sanders, Carolyn Wilson, Linda Schiavo, Terry Davis, City Administrator David Hudspeth, Fire Chief Robert Stetson, Police Chief Michael Bethea, and Street Supervisor Tarus Gilchrist.

1. Call Meeting To Order & Welcome: Mayor McMillan called the meeting to order and welcomed all present.

Carolyn Wilson gave the invocation.

2. Disclosure that local media has been informed of meeting pursuant to South Carolina Freedom of Information Act: Mayor McMillan stated the local media had been contacted regarding the time, date, and place of the Budget Workshop scheduled for March 3, 2015.

3. Re: Budget Discussion

Mayor McMillan recognized City Administrator David Hudspeth. Hudspeth noted there are no requests being made tonight, just discussion for the upcoming budget. Some of the FY 2016 issues are as follows:

- Police – Vehicles, Body Cameras, Exterior Cameras

Council Member Hardwick asked if the department could purchase some vehicles from NC Hwy Patrol. Chief Bethea stated the cars from NC have a lot of miles on them.

Hudspeth stated many departments use body cameras and exterior cameras.

- Fire – New Truck, New Equipment, Staffing of New Station

Hudspeth stated the department needs more than one fire truck and the payments would cost around \$50,000.00 per year.

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- Administration – Greene Finney Horton costs vs. Finance Officer Auditing and Financial Reports

Hudspeth stated all of the audits are complete and up to date. The quality and cost of the financial work has improved. 2012 was the last time the City had a Treasurer on staff and the cost for financial services including the Treasurers salary was \$98,000.00. In 2013 the cost was \$67,165.00 for accounts payable and financial reports. The cost for 2014 was \$67,125.00. Hudspeth stated by using Greene, Finney, Horton the City saves around \$31,319.00

- Street – Street Sweeper: Cost for new is \$125,000-\$150,000 – Debt around \$30,000
Cemetery Maintenance

Hudspeth stated the Disabilities and Special Needs board has showed some interest in helping the City maintain certain areas.

- Recreation – Additional personnel, Maintenance Costs
- Capital Projects – African American Museum

Hudspeth stated Council should discuss the future of the African American Museum. Mayor McMillan stated Mrs. Fannie Simmons wanted the City to take over the responsibilities of the African American Museum. Council Member Sanders stated there was money in the account and the City could apply for grants for the Museum. Sanders asked why the City couldn't use the old County building for the Museum. Hudspeth stated there was a lot of work that would need to be done to get the building functional. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips stated Council should go ahead and accept the building from the County. Council Member Wilson stated the Historical Foundation should be contacted because they could possibly help with the renovation of the building. Wilson also noted Council should make sure the building is worth renovating before we accept it from the County.

Council Member Schiavo asked where the City stands with the depot. Mayor McMillan stated the railroad is in negotiations with a company that would be taking over the properties and they would negotiate with the City pertaining

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to the building. Mayor McMillan stated the Tobacco Musuem could be changed into a Multi-cultural Museum. McMillan also noted the need of finding someone to train with Reggie at the Museum.

- Hospitality Fund – Debt: Ranges from \$75,718-\$78,180 over 12 years, Museum: Future of lease, Billboard \$14,400.00, Other allocations: Chamber/Wildlife Action/Channel 8 Advertising
- Salaries – Cost of Living: Annual Payroll is \$1.5 million, 2% increase is \$30,000, 3% increase is \$45,000

Hudspeth stated the following are priorities for the upcoming budget year:

- Fire Department / Equipment & Staffing
- Police / Vehicle & Cameras
- Lot Maintenance – Building Demolition
Each lot cut costs an average of \$75.00 per lot. Annual unreimbursed costs could be \$10,000.00. Home demolition could cost \$2,000-\$5,000 each or as much as \$50,000 annually.
- Resolving City's participation in African American Museum

Council Member Davis stated the City should have a cleanup day once a month.

Council Member Sanders asked what it would take to get rid of the Belk building on Main Street. Fire Chief Robert Stetson stated Eddie Joe Altman with the County had called him about water going in the building beside it. Street Supervisor Tarus Gilchrist stated the water has been up to three feet high in the Belk building. Gilchrist stated the building has mold and asbestos.

Hudspeth stated he would meet with the department heads several times before the budget is presented.

Council Member Wilson noted the need for a street sweeper. Mayor McMillan stated Anderson Brothers Bank would pay for someone to come in and sweep the streets.

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Mayor Pro Tem Phillips stated she had contacted other Cities concerning the Clerk's salary. The current Clerk holds dual positions and her pay should be increased. Mayor Pro Tem noted that she asked about the Mayor and Councils pay and those salaries are not comparable to other municipalities. Hudspeth stated he used the information that MASC posts on their website. Hudspeth stated there are Cities that pay more and some pay less. Mayor Pro Tem stated those comparisons should have been done locally. Phillips stated the Marion Mayor gets paid \$10,000.00 a year and mileage if it is out of town for City business.

4. Adjournment: Council Member Sanders made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Davis seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned.

William L. McMillan, Mayor

Attest:

Felicia S. Turner, Clerk