

**Minutes**  
**Budget Workshop**  
**Tuesday, June 9, 2015**

A budget workshop was held Tuesday, June 9, 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, Carolyn Wilson, Linda Schiavo, Terry Davis, City Administrator David Hudspeth, Fire Chief Robert Stetson, Police Chief Michael Bethea, Captain Joe Graham, Captain Phil Mostowski, Street Supervisor Tarus Gilchrist.

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

**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 June 9, 2015.

**3. Re: Budget Discussion** Mayor McMillan recognized City Administrator David Hudspeth. Hudspeth stated he has met with Department Heads to make some cuts to the budget. \$140,000.00 has been cut from the \$210,000.00 that is needed. Some of the items cut from General Fund include attorney fees, rotary dues, travel, uniforms and donations to various organizations.

The Police Department budget has been reduced from \$1,491,431 to \$1,436,862. Items cut include holiday pay, part time employees, uniforms, training, supplies and minor equipment, and tasers. Officers would not be paid for holidays; instead they would receive comp time. Mayor McMillan asked why the Police Department needed new handguns. Captain Mostowski stated it is recommended that guns be replaced every 5-8 years.

The Fire Department budget has been reduced from \$554,809 to \$528,526.00. Items included are holiday pay, supplies and minor equipment, maintenance to equipment, and maintenance to building.

Beautification has been reduced from \$48,911.00 to \$46,411.00. Supplies and minor equipment, uniforms, and tree removal have been adjusted to the budget.

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Hudspeth stated there have been no changes made to the Street Department budget.

Hudspeth stated the Maintenance budget changed from \$46,390.00 to \$43,640.00. Those items are supplies and minor equipment, and uniforms.

Hudspeth stated the Recreation budget has been adjusted from \$265,931.00 to \$252,731.00. There will be no seasonal employees, and travel has been reduced.

Hudspeth stated \$20,000.00 has been removed from the Capital Fund.

Hudspeth stated expenses have been reduced by \$140,000.00.

Hudspeth stated another \$70,000.00 needs to be cut from the budget. Mayor McMillan stated there are many items at the armory that could be sold. McMillan also stated the admission charge at the Museum should be changed from \$1.00 to \$2.50.

Recreation Director Allen Floyd stated the fees for rental and registration should be raised. Floyd also stated the City receives \$200.00 per month from Council on Aging. The City furnishes the building as well as the phone and electrical bills.

Mayor McMillan stated if the sale goes through with the railroad the rental fee for the depot could possibly go down significantly.

Mayor Pro Tem Phillips stated employees should go to training to keep up with all the current changes. Phillips also stated if meetings do not benefit the City then they should not be attended.

Council Member Schiavo stated she has had several complaints about business license rates. Schiavo stated the City should think about pro rating licenses. Schiavo stated many people that come to town to do work charge very little and the license cost more than what they get paid. Hudspeth stated he would compare licenses to other Cities.

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Council Member Davis asked what the outcome was of the grant for the clock. Mayor McMillan stated the City was denied the grant. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips stated Council did not vote for the clock. Davis mentioned the Mayor's mileage and asked if he could set hours to come to City Hall. Mayor McMillan stated the amount of mileage he has is more than offset by the number of police cars that are washed by his car wash. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips stated no police cars should be taken to the car wash. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips also stated all decisions should be made by Council as a whole.

Hudspeth stated the budget is \$70,000.00 short and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading is tonight. The budget can be passed with use of the reserved fund or additional cuts can be made.

Davis also noted Council should work together before any major decisions are made. Wilson stated the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading should be tabled and priority needs for each department should be discussed. Hudspeth stated if they go back to reevaluate the budget the next step would be cutting personnel. Wilson stated she wasn't talking about cutting employees she wanted department heads to work together and see what could be taken out of this year's budget. Phillips asked if the capital sales tax money could be used for the 2<sup>nd</sup> department. Hudspeth stated they will be purchasing a fire truck but firefighters will be split between the new fire station. Hudspeth stated the capital sales tax money may be used for trucks. Hudspeth stated the budget would need to be adopted by the end of the month.

**4. Adjournment:** Mayor McMillan adjourned the meeting

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William L. McMillan  
Mayor

Attest:

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Felicia S. Turner  
City Clerk