

The Smithfield Town Council reconvened the May 19<sup>th</sup> Budget Work Session on Tuesday, May 27, 2015, at approximately 7:41pm. in the Council Chambers of the Smithfield Town Hall. Mayor John H. Lampe II presided.

Councilmen Present:

M. Andy Moore, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Marlon Lee, District 1  
J. Perry Harris, District 2  
Travis Scott, District 3  
Roger A. Wood, District 4  
Emery D. Ashley, At-Large  
Charles A. Williams, At-Large

Councilmen Absent

Administrative Staff Present

Paul Sabiston, Town Manager  
Patrick Harris, Emergency Services  
Gary Johnson, Parks and Rec Director  
Tim Kerigan, HR Director/ PIO  
Michael Scott, Chief of Police  
Greg Siler, Finance Director  
Shannan Williams, Town Clerk

**Reconvene Recessed Budget Meeting held on May 19, 2015**

**Business Items:**

**1. General Discussion regarding FY 2015-2016 Draft Budget**

**a. General Government**

Town Manager Paul Sabiston informed the Council that there are a few small capital items in the General Government. Mr. Sabiston also informed the Council that the contingency line item would be utilized for merit/ COLA based employee increases.

Councilman Harris suggested that the Council consider that Council salaries be increased whenever employee salaries are increased.

Councilman Scott questioned the PEG Channel revenue. Mr. Scott stated that the Town should utilize the PEG Channel as much as possible.

**b. Non Departmental**

Mr. Sabiston explained that the Non Departmental is relatively a static budget. Mayor Pro-Tem Moore questioned if the Town could approach the Board of Elections about the fees they charge for Municipal Elections. Mr. Sabiston responded that the Board of Elections charges the Municipalities for conducting the election and he doesn't believe that could be renegotiated.

Councilman Ashley stated that he would like the \$20,000 that is appropriated for Economic Development to be preserved.

**c. Debt Service**

Councilman Scott questioned if the Town was able to refinance any of the loans. Mr. Siler explained that he is in the process of looking at other debts that can be refinanced.

**d. Finance**

Finance Director Greg Siler explained that the Finance Department is basically status quo. Councilman Williams questioned about the software upgrades. Mr. Sabiston responded that those funds were budgeted in the General Government Capital Improvements Line Item.

**e. Police**

Mr. Sabiston explained the proposed capital items for the Police Department. Chief of Police Michael Scott discussed with the Council the purchase of body cameras. It was the recommendation of Chief Scott to delay the purchase of body cameras.

Councilman Harris questioned the need for a District 1 substation. Chief Scott stated that he would like to see the substation be placed in an area where it is most needed. This would help improve the neighborhood and relations with the Police Department.

Councilman Harris questioned the upkeep and maintenance of uniforms. Chief Scott stated that several years the Council decided not to fund dry cleaning for the Police Department. The uniform is extremely important to the officers and their presence in the community. Mayor Pro-Tem Moore stated that the night shift uniforms do not look professional at all.

Councilman Scott suggested that \$10,000 of the funds budgeted for the body cameras are used for dry cleaning since body cameras will be taken out of the budget.

Councilman Williams questioned the need for SUV for the K-9 officers. Chief Scott stated that the SUVs would be better for the officer and the canine.

**f. Fire**

Mr. Sabiston explained that the Fire Department Budget is mainly static. There are some large capital items that are needed. Mr. Sabiston explained that it was the thought process to go ahead and budget the engine in FY 2015-2016 and then go ahead and spec out and bid out the ladder truck for FY 2016-2017 since it takes so long to manufacture a ladder truck.

Chief Harris requested that the Fire Department also be allocated funds for dry cleaning.

**g. Parks and Recreation**

Town Manager Paul Sabiston stated that the Parks and Recreation Department's overall budget had decreased due in part to a reduction in the salary line item. Also, Mr. Sabiston explained that in the contract services line item, there was an increase due to the lawn maintenance agreement being fully funded in this fiscal year. Parks and Recreation Director Gary Johnson stated that it is being requested that Community Park be added to the lawn contract.

Councilman Ashley stated that he would like to see something resolution to the Ennis Pool situation. Councilman Williams suggested that the \$4,000 proposed for the demolition of the Ennis Pool be removed from the budget.

Mayor Lampe explained the Family Life Center and its current financial situation to the Council.

Councilman Harris requested that the supplies and operation line item (10-6200-3300) be more itemized in the description.

Councilman Wood questioned the Johnson Park improvements in the amount of \$12,000. Mr. Johnson responded that the intent is to put a fence on the back of the property and do upgrades to the playground. Mr. Wood stated that he is not in favor of making any improvements to Johnson Park if the family did not intent to extend the lease with the Town.

Councilman Williams suggested that the Council discuss with the community the possibility of demolishing the pool.

Mayor Pro-Tem Moore suggested that the proposed capital items remain in the budget as submitted. It was the consensus of the Council to leave the capital items as proposed,

**h. SRAC**

Mr. Sabiston informed the Council that the SRAC budget is status quo.

Councilman Scott questioned if an Assistance Aquatics Supervisor was needed. Mr. Johnson responded stated that it is a necessary position because of the need to have a supervisor at the pool at all time. Councilman Ashley stated that the SRAC's budget is relatively flat and the capital improvements were minimal.

Mayor Lampe informed the Council that the Budget Hearing has been set for June 9, 2015.

Mayor Lampe asked the Council if they would like to proceed with the school system resolution. It was the consensus of the Council not to proceed with the proposed school system resolution.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, Councilman Harris made a motion, seconded by Councilman Ashley to adjourn. Unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:18 pm.

ATTEST:

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John H. Lampe II, Mayor

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Shannan L. Williams, Town Clerk