

The Smithfield Town Council met in special session on Tuesday, April 8, 2014, at 6:00 pm. 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  
Emery D. Ashley, At-Large  
Charles A. Williams, At-Large

Councilmen Absent

Roger A. Wood, District 4

Administrative Staff Present

Paul Sabiston, Town Manager  
Greg Siler, Finance Director  
Patrick Harris, Fire Chief  
Mike Scott, Police Chief  
Shannan Williams, Town Clerk

## **FY 2014 – 2015 BUDGET DISCUSSION**

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Police Chief Mike Scott reviewed the Police Department's budget proposal for FY 2014-2015. Chief Scott explained that the budget is maintaining the status quo. Chief Scott further explained that the only capital items proposed in this budget are the cost associated with upgrading radios to be compatible with the P25 changes and five new patrol cars.

Councilman Ashley inquired as to the life of an average patrol vehicle. Chief Scott responded that a car that is shared by two officers has a four year projected life; while a car that is not shared has an eight year projected life.

Councilman Ashley further inquired as to the amount of cars currently in the patrol fleet. Chief Scott responded that there are sixteen marked patrol vehicles.

Councilman Charles A. Williams questioned why the police radios were being upgraded instead of being replaced. Chief Scott responded that it was less expensive to upgrade the radios.

Councilman Charles A. Williams stated that he would like to see the Police Department obtain a grant for the new propane powered vehicle. Chief Scott responded that the grant funding can be explored when the grant becomes available.

Mayor Lampe questioned if there were any new positions proposed in this budget. Chief Scott responded that there were not.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Fire Chief Patrick Harris reviewed the Fire Department's budget proposal for FY 2014-2015.

Mayor Pro-Tem Moore questioned if additional positions were proposed in this budget. Chief Harris responded that no new positions were proposed, but they were needed.

Councilman Charles A. Williams questioned if part-time employees were an option for the Fire Department. Chief Harris responded that part-time employees are utilized as replacements when full-time employees have a scheduled leave. The Fire Department relies heavily on mutual aid from other Fire Departments and some volunteers.

### **DEBT SERVICE**

Town Manager Paul Sabiston reviewed the Debt Service budget proposal for FY 2014-2015.

## **FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

Town Manager Paul Sabiston reviewed the Finance Department's budget proposal for FY 2014-2015. Mr. Sabiston explained that the major expense for the Finance Department is an estimated \$10,000 - \$12,000 for a server back-up.

## **PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

Town Manager Paul Sabiston reviewed the Planning Department's budget proposal for FY 2014-2015. Mr. Sabiston explained that a part-time housing inspector was proposed in this budget.

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Councilman Harris made a motion, seconded by Councilman Ashley, to reduce the transfer of funds from the Electric Fund to the General Fund by half in FY 2014-2015 and to completely eliminate the transfer in FY 2015-2016.

Mayor Pro-Tem Moore stated that he would like to know the impact on the budget if the Council agreed to reduce and then eliminate the Electric Fund transfer to the General Fund before a decision was reached concerning this issue.

Mayor Lampe questioned if the Town would have to add revenues or cut expenses in order to reduce and eliminate the Electric Fund transfers. Councilman Harris responded that it could be a combination of both.

Mayor Lampe explained that the only source of additional revenue would be to raise property taxes.

After general discussion on the motion, a vote was called. Councilman Harris and Councilman Ashley voted in favor of the motion. Mayor Pro-Tem Moore, Councilman Lee, Councilman Scott and Councilman Charles A. Williams voted against the motion. Motion failed 4-2.

## **CLOSED SESSION:**

Mayor Pro-Tem Moore made a motion, seconded by Councilman Williams, to go into Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6) at approximately 7:55 pm. Unanimously approved.

## **RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION:**

Councilman Harris made a motion, seconded by Councilman Charles A. Williams, to reconvene in open session at approximately 8:09 pm. Unanimously approved.

## **ADJOURN:**

There being no further business, Councilman Scott, made a motion, seconded by Councilman Charles A. Williams, to adjourn. Unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:09 pm.

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John H. Lampe, II , Mayor

ATTEST:

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Shannan L. Williams, Town Clerk