

The Smithfield Town Council met in special session on Monday, June 9, 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
Roger A. Wood, District 4
Emery D. Ashley, At-Large
Charles A. Williams, At-Large

Councilmen Absent

Administrative Staff Present

Paul Sabiston, Town Manager
Greg Siler, Finance Director
Shannan Williams, Town Clerk

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Lampe called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Councilman Scott made a motion, seconded by Councilman Williams to approve the agenda as submitted Unanimously approved.

BUSINESS ITEM:

1. DISCUSSION OF FY 2014-2015 PROPOSED BUDGET

Mayor Lampe asked each member of Council to discuss any changes that they would like in regards to the FY 2014-2015 Budget.

Non-Departmental: Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation – Line Item # 10-4110-3501

Councilman Ashley stated that the proposed funding for the Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation (DSDC) was \$39,500, but he would like the funding to be the same as was budgeted in FY 2013-2014 (\$75,000).

Mayor Pro-Tem Moore stated that in the past, the DSDC's budget was increased by \$20,000 for Economic Development services. Interim Executive Director Sarah Edwards stated that she wanted the Town's money to be well spent and at this time, she could not devote enough time to Economic Development efforts for the Town.

Councilman Ashley made a motion, seconded by Councilman Harris, to allocate \$55,500 to the DSDC and earmark \$20,000 to be placed in a separate line item for Economic Development. Unanimously approved.

Non-Departmental: Public Library of Johnston County and Smithfield – Line Item # 10-4110-5711

Councilman Harris stated that in the proposed budget, \$275,000 has been allocated to the Public Library of Johnston County and Smithfield. It was his opinion that the Town should allocate \$250,000 to the library.

Councilman Scott stated that the library is currently implementing new technology and will likely utilize funds for continued improvements.

Councilman Harris made a motion, seconded by Councilman Wood, to reduce the requested amount of \$275,000 to \$250,000 to the Public Library. Unanimously approved.

Debt Service – New Vehicles and Equipment 2014 – Line Item # 10-4120-9538

Councilman Williams explained that staff is proposing to purchase 5 police cars, 2 pick-up trucks and a 1 ton flatbed dump truck in FY 2014-2015. He recommended that 3 police cars, 1 pick-up truck and a 1 ton flatbed dump truck be purchased. Mayor Lampe stated that if additional vehicles are needed during the fiscal year then Council could reconsider those purchases at a later date.

Councilman Williams made a motion, seconded by Councilman Harris, to purchase 3 police cars, 1 pick-up truck and a 1 ton flatbed dump truck be purchased. Unanimously approved.

Employee Merit Increases

Councilman Scott made a motion, seconded by Councilman Harris, to approve an average of 2.5% merit increase for all non-exempt employees and offer a one-time bonus of up to \$1,000 for all exempt employees. All merit increases are based on evaluations. Councilman Scott, Councilman Harris, Councilman Ashley, Councilman Lee and Councilman Williams voted in favor of the motion. Mayor Pro-Tem Moore and Councilman Wood voted against the motion. Motion carried 5 to 2.

Mayor Pro-Tem Moore questioned why exempt employees were being treated differently than non-exempt and stated that employees should be treated the same.

Councilman Wood stated that this was unfair to exempt employees.

Councilman Ashley asked Mr. Sabiston to address his recommendation for a 2.5% merit increase. Mr. Sabiston responded that the proposed increase is merit based and not a cost of living adjustment. The increases are based on the performance and evaluation of each employee and each department should average no more than a 2.5% increase for all its employees. Mr. Sabiston further explained that this is something the Town can afford to do in the upcoming budget year.

Fire Department: Capital Outlay – Line Item # 10-5300-7400

Councilman Harris questioned the purchase of a used SUV in the amount of \$25,000. Mr. Sabiston responded that a new vehicle in the amount of \$35,000 was requested, but other capital items were also needed.

Councilman Scott stated that the SUV that needs to be replaced answers 65% of all fire calls and it should be replaced with a new vehicle. Mr. Scott suggested that the \$10,000 proposed for 5" large diameter hose to be eliminated and those funds be used to purchase a new SUV.

Councilman Harris questioned if the \$10,000 for fire hose could be eliminated. Mr. Scott responded that the need for a new SUV was more important and the fire department's hoses are currently in working order.

Councilman Scott made a motion, seconded by Councilman Harris, to allocate \$35,000 for the purchase of a new SUV to be utilized as a squad vehicle, retire the current SUV and remove \$10,000 proposed for 5" large diameter hose. Councilman Scott, Mayor Pro-Tem Moore, Councilman Ashley, Councilman Lee and Councilman Williams voted in favor of the motion. Councilman Harris and Councilman Wood voted against the motion. Motion carried 5 to 2.

Fire Department and Police Department: Dry Cleaning – Line Items # 10-5400-3600 and 10-5100-3600

Councilman Williams made a motion, seconded by Councilman Ashley, to eliminate dry cleaning expenses for the Fire Department and the Police Department. Unanimously approved.

Mayor and Councilmembers' Salaries: Line Item # 10-4100-0210

Councilman Williams stated that in a previous budget meeting, the Council discussed increasing the salaries for the Mayor and members of Council.

Councilman Ashley stated that he could not support the proposed increase.

Councilman Harris suggested that the Mayor and Council be compensated for additional meetings.

Councilman Wood made a motion, seconded by Councilman Williams, to increase the annual salary of the Mayor to \$6000 and increase the annual salary of the members of Council to \$4,000. Councilman Wood, Councilman Williams, Mayor Pro-Tem Moore, Councilman Harris, Councilman Lee and Councilman Scott voted in favor of the motion. Councilman Ashley voted against the motion. Motion carried 6 to 1.

Cell Phone Policy

Councilman Scott recommended that the maximum amount for cell phone reimbursement to be \$600.00 annually. He asked that the current policy be amended and be submitted to the Council for consideration at the July meeting.

Compensation for Human Resources Director/ Public Information Officer

Councilman Wood suggested that the Council consider compensating the current Human Resources Director/Public Information Officer for serving in dual roles. Mr. Wood stated that Mr. Kerigan should be compensated because he is essentially functioning as two full time employees.

ADJOURN:

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:34 pm.

John H. Lampe, II , Mayor

ATTEST:

Shannan L. Williams, Town Clerk