

The Smithfield Town Council reconvened its April 27, 2021 meeting on Monday, May 3, 2021 at 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers of the Smithfield Town Hall, Mayor M. Andy Moore presided.

Councilmen Present:

Marlon Lee, District 1  
David Stevens, District 2  
Travis Scott, District 3  
Dr. David Barbour, District 4  
Stephen Rabil, At-Large  
Roger Wood, At-Large

Councilmen Absent

John Dunn, Mayor Pro-Tem

Administrative Staff Present

Michael Scott, Town Manager  
John Blanton, Fire Chief  
Ted Credle, Public Utilities Director  
Lawrence Davis, Public Works Superintendent  
Gary Johnson, Parks & Rec Director  
Tim Kerigan, Human Resources/PIO  
Shannan Parrish, Town Clerk  
R. Keith Powell, Chief of Police  
Greg Siler, Finance Director  
Stephen Wensman, Planning Director

**Reconvene: April 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

Mayor Moore reconvened the meeting at 6:30 pm

**1. General Fund**

**a. Pedestrian Planning Committee**

Planning Director Stephen Wensman explained the PED plan had been accepted and a committee was being formed. Staff needed Council representation on this board. Councilman Barbour agreed to serve on this committee.

Staff received a call from Mike Brown about an NCDOT Study on how to deal with congested main streets.

**b. Police**

Chief of Police R. Keith Powell highlighted the Police Department's FY 2021-2022 budget which included the following:

- Training and Education – 36% increase in this line due to CALEA reaccreditation travel
- Utilities – 13% increase in this line due to the expansion of the Police Department
- Service Contracts – 38% increase in this line due to using TJCOG for assistance with officer recruitment.
- Capital Outlay
  - 5 patrol vehicles and equipment
  - In car camera system
  - 5 additional radars for new cars
- Not included in this budget
  - 3 additional vehicles
  - body cameras

There was some general discussion about the need for and the cost of body cameras. It was the consensus of the Council that body cameras are not needed at this time, but staff should begin planning for it in the future.

Councilman Scott questioned if officers were taking advantage of the take home car program. Chief Powell responded that 5 officers are currently a part of the take home car program as they reside within the Town limits.

Councilman Lee questioned when the Community Police Officer would be hired. Chief Powell responded that he would fill that position once more officers are hired.

**c. Fire Department**

Fire Chief John Blanton highlighted the Fire Department's FY 2021-2022 budget which included the following:

- Salaries - 2% reduction in this line due to retirements and resignation. He explained that it was a struggle to find qualified firefighters.
- Volunteer Firemen – Councilman Barbour questioned if the policy had been changed to allow people from outside of Town to be volunteers. Chief Blanton responded that with the change in policy, it allows the Department to use firefighters throughout the County. Out of sixteen volunteers, eleven are from outside the district.

- EMS/Medical Service calls – Councilman Barbour stated that the County was responsible for EMS calls, but Smithfield’s first responder also respond to those calls. He suggested using part-time employees and SUVs to answer those calls. By doing this, it would free up fire personnel to respond to calls other than medical calls and it would reduce the cost of running an engine to an EMS call.
- Not included in this budget
  - Rescue truck
  - 6 additional firefighters
  - Part-time equivalent firefighter positions working at a total of 6240 hours annually.

**d. Public Works**

**a. General Maintenance**

Public Works Superintendent Lawrence Davis explained that most of the General Maintenance’s budget was basically status quo from last year.

- Capital Outlay
  - New HVAC unit for the Public Works Building
  - Utility trailer
  - Compact tractor for cemetery use
  - Replacement of a dump truck

**b. Streets**

Public Works Superintendent Lawrence Davis highlighted the Street Department’s FY 2021-2022 budget which included the following:

- Equipment Maintenance and Repairs – 43% increase in line due to maintenance of aging equipment
- Vehicle Supplies and Maintenance – 87% increase in this line due to maintenance of aging vehicles.
- Capital Outlay
  - Tractor Mower with enclosed cab
  - Utility Trailer

**c. Garage**

Public Works Superintendent Lawrence Davis highlighted the Garage’s FY 2021-2022 budget which included the following:

- Salaries – 51% increase in this line for the hiring of a part-time employee. Mr. Davis explained he had originally requested one additional full-time employee. Councilman Wood stated he was unsure if a part-time mechanic could be hired. He suggested hiring another full-time employee.
- Capital Outlay
  - Front Garage door replacement
  - 2 chain hook lifts
  - Hot pressure washer

**d. Powell Bill**

Public Works Superintendent Lawrence Davis explained that the Powell Bill budget was based on an estimate of Powell Bill funds received from the State.

**Recess**

Councilman Barbour made a motion, seconded by Councilman Stevens, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:56 pm.

ATTEST:

  
Shannan L. Parrish, Town Clerk



  
M. Andy Moore, Mayor